

Scheffey Description of the Vegetation, July 2012

The property is almost completely forested. Overall the forest overstory is dominated by hemlock with occasional hardwoods. At the northwest end there has been fairly recent disturbance and a small opening, so there is dense hardwood regeneration. We saw no other evidence of disturbance within the forest other than very old stumps. Along the edge by Shutesbury Road, the light provided by the road opening has promoted understory growth, including hobble bush (*Viburnum alnifolium*). Within the forest, the hemlock overstory has eliminated most understory vegetation, except for sapling hemlocks particularly on plots 3 and 4. There are scattered large hardwood trees with large crowns, and a few white pines, suggesting the property was once an abandoned pasture.

Most of the property is on the steep north-facing slope of a narrow valley. The western section is northwest-facing. The cool micro-climate has favored the hobble bush, yellow birch and sugar maple associated with the northern hardwood forest.

We found hemlock wooly adelgid at plot 1 and it is probably throughout the forest. If the adelgid eventually kills the hemlocks, which unfortunately seems likely at this time, there will be a major change in forest composition, probably to the hardwood species already present, birch and maple with scattered red oaks.

Table. 1. Data for four 10-factor, variable-radius plots showing (a) the number of trees recorded by species and the mean basal area (ft²/acre) represented by the plots, and (b) the diameter in inches of the largest tree on the plot. Also see photographs and map.

Species	Plot 1	Plot 2	Plot 3	Plot 4		mean BA
Hemlock	4	15	10	15		110.0
Black birch	1		4	2		17.5
Red maple		1	6			17.5
Red oak	2			1		7.5
White pine	2			1		7.5
Yellow birch		2				5.0
Paper birch			1	1		5.0
Sugar maple	2					5.0
Max diameters	25	20	13	11		

Bill Wilson, July 30, 2012

