**The Cattle Barn Project**

This project was in the project bidding phase when the “pause” was instituted. This stand is heavily infested by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and is in severe decline. The original objectives of this project were to conduct a pre-salvage of the white ash component capturing its current value to reinvest in the project area to treat the dense understory of exotic invasive species. Forest managers felt these invasives would inhibit natural forest regeneration. This forest resiliency approach to the project would assist stabilizing long term carbon sequestration and storage rates while improving biodiversity goals. Carbon would be stored in long-term in durable forest products. Carbon sequestration rates would be improved by regenerating the forest stand to healthy trees.

During the pause, the ash component has declined drastically to the point where further consideration to obtain desired future conditions and climate change goals was necessary.

Further consideration of the project in context with the CFC report is stated below.

DSPR forestry program amended the project to align with the CFC recommendations. The prescription has been amended with the following actions:

* Allow for more **retention** then originally proposed. Holding as many dead trees as possible in the stand will assist with short term carbon storage and habitats improvements.
* Increase the retention of female ash trees which will support **long- term biodiversity** goals for retaining white ash on the landscape.
* Continue to prioritize **exotic invasive control.** During the pause the project manager worked towards creating volunteer opportunities for the public to conduct mechanical invasive plant control work under volunteer service agreements with DCR. The project manager also obtained US Forest Service grant funding to conduct a “Pre-treatment” of invasive plants within project area. Invasive plant control will also be funded as an in-kind service as condition to bid on the sale of forest products.

**How these Practices Align with CFC Recommendations**

The major forestry practice that will be used to accomplish management goals in these projects is summarized and the alignment of those methods with climate-oriented strategies, and the recommendation is as follows:

**1) SALVAGE** operations strive to balance **ecological function**, **public safety** concerns, and **management planning objectives** when deciding whether to salvage damaged, declining, or dead trees. Ecologists note that natural disturbances improve structural complexity in the living stand while adding greatly to the **biologically important dead wood** component often lacking in our region’s second-growth forests. However, large accumulations of dead wood can present **added wildfire risks** which need to be considered when public safety and adjacent property might be threatened. Moreover, large mortality events may interrupt and **interfere with planned stand development.**

The use of limited and targeted salvage harvesting provides an opportunity to:

* Store carbon in long lived wood products
* minimize further pest and pathogen impacts/infestation when possible.
* Create fire breaks and **reduce heavy accumulation of fuels**
* Intervene and **redirect stand response**to better align with management objectives.
* Guide regeneration towards **future climate adapted species**