

NHE Forest Assessment Lesson Overview

This lesson was held as a webinar on 4/9/25 but is available to anyone wishing to use it.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will enact a model forest assessment session to prepare for a town meeting. Student groups will work with varied groups of people (via role-play identities) with different goals and values. The goal is to agree upon and communicate the best forest management decisions that best represent the town of Granite Cliff, NH.

Webinar Components:

- Forest assessment with inventory
- Impact of forest property threats/vulnerability
- Forest management strategy options with pros and cons
- What policy **procedures** should the town adopt to ensure that the agreed upon choice is carried out?

Webinar Outline

Part One - Welcome and introduction of the activity's main components- (5 minutes)

- Forest assessment with inventory
- Impact of forest property threats and vulnerability
- Forest management strategy options with pros and cons
- Consensus and presentation

Part Two - Breakout Rooms (40 minutes)

- Students will be randomly assigned to break out rooms with the same identity.
- **Goal 1 (10 minutes):**
 - Understand their assigned identity/role as group.
 - Read through the forest parcel information available for the imaginary town of Granite Cliff, NH.
 - Review the fictional parcel information sheet and the fictional parcel map.
 - Students will learn about their identity and review the information given about the forest.
 - Students can ask each other questions about their tasks and roles.
 - Students should discuss their discussion parameters
 - time limit per speaker
 - handling differing opinions
 - reminders if someone strays from their assigned identity.
 - how to ensure everyone who wants to speak can
 - other?

- Work in their group within their assigned identity.
- **Goal 2 - (10 minutes)** – *Discuss the town parcel forest information*
 - Prompt 1: What are the weaknesses and strengths of this forested area?
 - Develop supporting evidence and reasons for claims
- **Goal 3 – (10 minutes):** *Causes and Impacts*
 - *Prompt 2:* What are the causes and impacts of forest property threats and vulnerabilities?
 - Develop supporting evidence and reasons for claims
- **Goal 4 – (10 minutes):** *Forest Management*
 - Prompt 3: What forest management strategy options will address the parcel’s weaknesses and strengths?
 - Discuss the pros and cons of each option.
 - Discuss the impact on significance and worth.

Part Three - Overall group discussion/debate (30 minutes)

- **Goal 5: (15 minutes):** *Consensus*
 - Prompt 4: The overall group should come to a consensus on the main weaknesses and strengths of the town forest lot.
 - Prompt 5: The overall group should come to a consensus on impacts of threats.
 - Prompt 6: The overall group should come to a consensus on the best forest management strategy options for the town of Granite Cliff.
- **Goal 6: (5 minutes):** *Town Policies*
 - **Prompt 7:** Decide on needed town policies to enact the forest management strategies.
- **Goal 7: (10 minutes):** *Town Communication*
 - **Prompt 8:** Decide on steps the committee would carry out to ensure that the process and forest management strategy decisions are understood by the community of Granite Cliffs.
- **Thanks and farewell.**

Part Four - Post Webinar Reflections

*(To be done by each school, **AFTER** the webinar)*

- **Goal 8:** The ultimate lesson goal was to find the best compromise within a variety of groups with diverse opinions, motives, and values.
 - **Reflection prompt 1:** What are some key takeaways from this activity?
 - **Reflection prompt 2:** What was hard to negotiate?
 - What did everyone agree upon? What allowed this to happen?
 - Where was there tension between different groups?
 - How did you personally compromise? How do you feel about compromising?
 - **Reflection prompt 3:** Do you feel that this activity realistically reflects how NH town groups interact and work together?

Role-play Identities *(see separate sheet for details)*

Government worker 1 – Federal

Government worker 2 – State Representative

Government worker 3 - Local/municipal town official

Non-government organization (NGO) worker

Industry Worker - Private Company

Community member 1 – Environmentalist and hiker

Community member 2 - Rural wanting more access

Community member 3 – Rural undecided town member