



White Township, Sustainable Forest Management Overview

In October 2018, Millstone Land Management, LLC prepared and submitted a preliminary assessment report proposing a land management plan defining invasive plant treatment, recreation, environmental education and timber management on all White Township properties. The report informed White Township Supervisors of suggested management efforts based on Millstone's findings on all properties. In February 2019, a total timber volume and value report (based on current market value) for the standing timber in Whites Woods was submitted to the Supervisors. In May 2019, Michael Lawer – owner of Millstone, toured Whites Woods with DCNR Forester – Chris Fatzinger to discuss the proposed land management plan and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program. September 2019, the Supervisors executed a profession services contract agreement with Millstone Land Management, LLC as an independent contractor to perform consulting services for the purpose of removal of invasive plant species and enhancing the growth and performance of the timber.

In February 2020, Millstone Land Management LLC was awarded a contract to begin invasive plant treatment on 30 acres at the Township's Rec Complex property. The invasive plants inhibited land use and were considered Phase 1 of the treatment plan. Millstone successfully treated the Rec Complex property and removed the invasive plants which opens the property up to a wide array of multi-use recreation which was previously inaccessible. Millstone also marked, scaled and tallied trees that advert forest health, threaten public safety and degrade aesthetics. Millstone plans to execute a second phase of management on the Rec Complex property developing a series of multi-use recreational trails in the newly treated areas. White

Township was advised by Millstone to purchase a specific seed blend to be over seeded in the newly treated area at the Rec Complex. The seed blends were chosen based on soil type, wildlife habit and flowing ascetics.

Following the completion of the first phase of treatment on the Rec Complex property, in March 2020, Millstone's consulting scope of services were approved for 50 acres of Whites Woods to complete similar objectives that were executed on the Rec Complex property.

Millstone has begun to mark, scale and tally trees that advert forest health, threaten public safety and aesthetics. Trees that are proposed to be removed are intended to improve forest health in a wide array of reasons. The timber report submitted by Millstone to White Township in February, 2019, stated there is zero desirable regeneration and there is little to no sunlight filtering to the forest floor due to the overstocked stand. Trees that are to be marked for removal are intended to promote wildlife habitat, and improve forest health. A new series of trails will be marked out to skid merchantable material to a landing site. The majority of trails that are currently in recreational use at Whites Woods were constructed originally as skid trails of previous timbering efforts.

A newly marked trail, unofficially named The Lucy Loop, has already been preliminarily marked to reroute recreational traffic around the active 50-acre job site in an effort to keep the entirety of Whites Woods open and maintain a safe distance from equipment performing forest management. Millstone plans to use this method of forest management that promotes forest health and land use on additional sections of White Woods after finishing the initial 50 acres.

Upon the completion of treating invasive plants and constructing new recreational trails with mechanized forest mulching equipment, a selective objective timber removal and fresh skid

trail construction, Millstone plans to over-seed these areas with a wildlife blend of seeds to promote aesthetics, wildlife habitat and combat the growth of non-desirable invasive plants.

Millstone will oversee as a consultant and most likely be awarded the contract work for the physical removal of invasive plants. Millstone at a later date will put out a job specific prospectus for the removal of trees selected by Millstone. Select tree crowns will be left in the strategic locations as a cover for desirable tree, woody stem, shrub and herbaceous regeneration as well to protect regeneration from deer browse. Remaining tree crowns will also serve as habitat for a wide array of wildlife species. During the timber removal the majority of the selected tree crowns from the particular trees are to be skid to a landing where they will be utilized as chips and used as biomass. This sustainable method will keep the open forest aesthetic appeal that Whites Woods currently has whilst replacing a barren, compacted soil that presently is a duff layer that is outstanding tick habitat. Mechanized forest mulching efforts performed by a contractor will remove invasive and non-desirable plants and synergistically create an invigorated rich topsoil free of compaction. The newly tilled soil is to be followed up with an overseeing of dominantly native herbaceous seeds that will be utilized by wildlife and create an aesthetic landscape for multi-use recreation throughout the 50 acres of Whites Woods.