

Places to Visit at Wells Forest

(The numbers reference the number on the map)

1. **The Old Balsam Stand** – These balsam trees were seedlings in ~1970. Pam cored several trees to determine their age. Amazingly, stand was impacted by the 1970's spruce budworm attack. Spruce budworm attacks fir (balsam) and spruce species causing death of the trees. In addition, balsam does not have a long lifespan. The fact that these trees are over 40 years old is unusual.
2. **LeBallister Shingle Mill** – The rock wall you see was used to operate a shingle mill during the mid-1850's. It was part of a small township that lived on the County Rd. side of our forest. The dam that was built helped to drive logs down Sunkhaze Stream to the Penobscot River and perhaps to drive sawmill power to make the shingles. The remains of this dam are slowing the waterflow from upstream. A future project would be to remove a few of the rocks where the stream flows through the dam remains so that the stream could return to a flow that is closer to its natural state before the dam was built, thus possibly also aiding fish passage to and from the Penobscot River.
3. **Crop Tree Release (wide-spacing)** – This six acre stand of white pine was in need of competing tree removal. There was too much competition for all of the pines to grow with a wider girth. We chose and flagged each tree that would remain, and Madden Timberlands used a small feller-buncher to remove the competitors in 2013. Since that time, the remaining pines have been able to expand their crowns and are growing very well to someday be sawlogs.
4. **The 45th Parallel** – Yup – at this point, you are halfway between the North Pole and the Equator.
5. **Pre-Commercial Thinning** – In 2014, we had pre-commercial thinning on the left side of the trail. On the right, we decided to leave the stand un-thinned. If you look closely, you can see how the trees on the left have grown better since the thinning.
6. **Burnt Hill** – About 20 years ago, a lightning strike struck this part of the forest. It required the Milford Fire Department and the Maine Forest Service to put out the fire. If you look around, you will see the remains of the burned logs and a few trees still standing that were hit by the fire.
7. **The Gorge** – At this spot, the Sunkhaze Stream becomes very rocky and narrow. It looks like a small gorge. There are times of year when the water flows through with amazing speed. While Sunkhaze Meadows, NWR is predominantly a peat bog, this area is between a glacial esker and the Sunkhaze bog.
8. **Burnt Tree** – This tree is a very old white pine. At some point in time, someone made a fire under the tree. The local rumor mill says that a hobo lived under it in the 40's. While we may never know what really happened to the tree, the fact that it is still alive is amazing.

Want more info about our forest? Or have a visit, contact us at:

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