

Title: Forest History group of the dendroecological fieldweek

Participants: (5) Cogbill, Cardamone, Hemmerlein, Malmstrom,
Hammond (part-time)

Project Goals: Determine the forest dynamic events in a well-developed spruce-fir forest and if possible compare with a forest with a known history of cutting. Also supplement tree-ring analyses with compositional and dead wood inventories. Finally to see if a small group could complete appropriate sampling in an field week setting.

Methods: Coring of all (28) red spruce trees on a 20 X 25 m sample plot in Tuckerman Ravine, N.H. Determination of age and major release events of all cores in the laboratory. Also a mapping and inventory of all living, dead standing and downed dead wood on the same plot. These data were brought together in map form to determine the location and date of release/cutting or gap formation events.

Results: We only sampled one plot, but found in this relatively undisturbed location evidence of minor cutting some 70 years previously. The group worked well, and despite limited time and experience completely addressed our original purpose.

Conclusion: just that. Extention of this methodology in any area should be profitable in elucidating its history as well as informative to participants on the use and limitations (can't tell all) of tree-ring analysis. It also used a low-level technical approach (only disceting scopes and tree corers needed) to use tree ring data.