



Wildlife Management Plan Completed in Prospect

John Farrell, a University of Connecticut Wildlife Management and Techniques student from Naugatuck, has spent countless hours observing wildlife species and noting the types and quantity of vegetation present on one of our watershed properties in Prospect. His work was for a wildlife analysis and management plan he created that is a requirement for a class project.



The work he did not only earned him course credits, but allowed Connecticut Water to put his recommendations to good use. The property, which borders our Moody Reservoir in Prospect, is scheduled for a commercial timber sale in 2010. “We incorporated John’s wildlife management recommendations to enhance wildlife habitat when the trees were marked for the timber sale,” said Cindy Gaudino, manager of Source Protection and Real Estate.

Connecticut Water actively manages its land for forestry and when trees are marked, we work with a forester to incorporate forest management practices that will benefit wildlife. “We leave certain tree species such as white oak and hickory for food sources, pile cut tree tops to create dens for animals and leave dead trees standing for bird nesting dens,” said Gaudino.

Recommendations from the wildlife plan that were done on the Moody Reservoir property included girdling trees to create nesting and food sources for birds, as well as the creation of patch cuts around existing blueberry bushes to provide additional food source for animals. After the timber sale is completed, brush pile will be created to provide food and shelter areas for small animals.

Wild turkeys, deer and a pileated woodpecker – one of the largest of its kind in North America, were among the wildlife that Farrell observed this fall.

“I incorporated ideas in the wildlife management plan that will improve wildlife habitat on the property,” said Farrell. “It’s truly a balancing act to manage the needs of wildlife with the sustainability of the forest for water quality, forest health and wood products.”