



**Protecting Forested Land & Supporting Rural Communities Through Working Forests**  
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1/23/2025

### **Fisherman's Cove Winter 2024-2025 Harvest Summary**

As you may know, the 207-acre Fisherman's Cove forest (a.k.a. the Kerr Property) was donated to the Foundation for Sustainable Forests in 2023 by the Fisherman's Cove Preservation Foundation. The Foundation for Sustainable Forests (FSF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that conserves and manages working forests, supports the rural economy through active timber management, and provides communities with assets such as recreation, watershed health, and wildlife habitat.

In 2024, FSF began forest management activities on the property by cutting abundant grapevines that were damaging overstory trees and preventing younger trees from reaching the overstory. Following this, FSF started the current timber harvest, which is expected to be complete by late winter / early spring. This harvest uses sustainable forestry practices, such as "worst-first" management. A "worst-first" harvest prioritizes the selection of unhealthy, undesirable, and poorly formed trees for removal, promoting long-term health and vigor in the forest that remains. Healthy, high-quality trees are left to improve the overall health and resilience of the forest ecosystem and encourage sustainable long-term economic return. Additionally, this harvest aims to improve diversity in the forest, creating a mosaic of trees of varying ages and species that support a broad array of wildlife. Due to past disturbances, the forest at Fisherman's Cove has an unnatural prevalence of black birch trees. One goal for the current harvest is to reduce the component of seed-producing birch in the overstory. This will allow more light into the forest, which will spur the regeneration of new birch from the seed bank. With fewer mature birch trees available to replenish the seed bank, the birch regeneration can then be removed in a few years' time, allowing a more diverse mix of tree species to establish.

To minimize impacts to soil and ground features, FSF is using draft horses to skid logs, conducting the harvest while the ground is frozen or snow covered, and utilizing existing skid trails and log landings that were created during prior harvests. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and The Archaeological Conservancy, which both hold a conservation easement on the property, have reviewed and approved these forest management activities.

As of Friday 1/17/2025, the horse logging crews have completed the harvest in the lower sections of the property accessed by Fisherman's Cove Road. In a few weeks, they will resume the harvest in the upper plateau portion of the property accessed by Dennison Run Road.

For any questions about the harvest, please contact Foundation for Sustainable Forests at 814-694-5830 or [info@foundationforsustainableforests.org](mailto:info@foundationforsustainableforests.org). Additional information about FSF is available on our website at [www.foundationforsustainableforests.org](http://www.foundationforsustainableforests.org)