NELF Explorer Case Study:
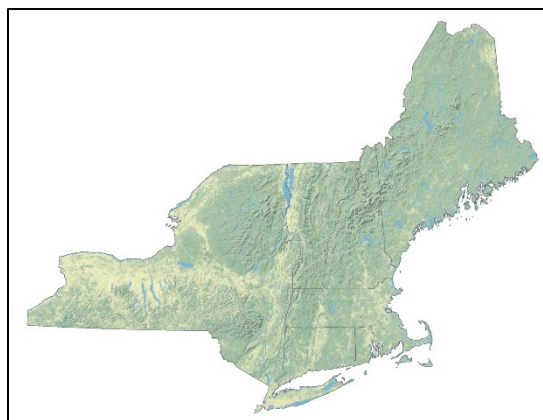# The Nature Conservancy Working Group

Who: The Nature Conservancy
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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global environmental non-profit dedicated to addressing the biodiversity and climate crises.

What: State Policy Recommendations
The TNC working group convened managers from the six New England states and New York to share out science products and research needs for documenting the carbon benefits of avoided deforestation and applying that knowledge to management. NELF Explorer is one of several tools and modeling products they are using in their work.

Why: Forest Loss Major Threat to Regional Climate Goals
The New England and New York states have successful histories of protecting their forests. Motivations for conservation have changed over time, but as climate change has worsened, protecting forests to remove carbon from the atmosphere has gained importance. Despite successful histories of forest conservation, all seven states are losing forest to development. Avoiding deforestation is a critical tool in state policymakers' toolbelt to achieve state climate goals and complements other regional climate efforts such as the Transportation Climate Initiative, in which all seven states participate.

See their Work: State Forest-Climate Policy Recommendation Report
Following the meeting of state officials, the TNC working group created a report documenting the points of consensus among meeting participants related to the importance of avoiding deforestation for reducing and removing carbon emissions and avoiding the most dire scenarios in the NELF analysis.

What's next: Continuing the Conversation
The working group is continuing to build relationships among scientists and managers, to discuss data needs, science outcomes, and applications to management. They have several ongoing research and outreach efforts to document the carbon benefits of avoiding deforestation. One way to make NELF Explorer more useful to this group is to add carbon data.

Related Work: Peer Reviewed Carbon Analyses
The Harvard Forest-based NELF research team recently completed a project modeling the effects of the scenarios on ecosystem carbon:

MacLean, M.G., Duveneck, M.J., Plisinski, J., Morreale, L.L., Laflower, D., and J.R. Thompson. 2021. *Forest Carbon Trajectories: Consequences of alternative land-use scenarios in New England.* Global Environmental Change 69: 102310. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102310.

TNC working group collaborators at Clark University produced a report on climate mitigation via avoided deforestation:

Williams CA, Hasler N, Xi L. 2021. *Avoided Deforestation: A Climate Mitigation Opportunity in New England and New York,* a report prepared for the United States Climate Alliance Natural and Working Lands Research Program, pp. 1 – 42.