

# Why Enlarge the Exemplary Forest System?

- Spatial pattern type must be considered for adequate protection an ecosystem
- A **matrix forest** requires protection at a larger landscape scale to maintain optimal functioning
- Benefits include:
  - Enhanced biological legacy (genetic variation, seed sources, species diversity, etc.)
  - Integrity of ecological processes & patterns (buffering capacity from natural disturbances at various scales, succession, etc.)
  - Sustaining viable populations of area-dependent plants/animals
  - Forest buffering of the old growth areas, enhancing resiliency
  - Allows mature forest to reach old age
- Meets exemplary criteria, verified by Upland EIA method...

NH Heritage Bureau - Upland Ecological Integrity  
Assessment of the Northern Hardwood - Conifer Forest  
Ecological System at Mt. Sunapee - 2024

