



## Piscataquog Land Conservancy

### Policy on Hunting and Use of Tree Stands on PLC-Owned Properties

Adopted by Stewardship Committee: 2/10/21

Amended by Stewardship Committee: 2/21/22

#### **Purpose:**

PLC recognizes that hunting is an important recreational activity and can have numerous wildlife management benefits. Hunting can help to maintain a healthy balance between a game species and the land's ability to support it; this in turn contributes to ecological diversity and helps native plant and animal communities thrive. Hunters can also help monitor the land by spending time in areas infrequently visited.

PLC generally allows hunting on properties it owns in fee title. PLC has a duty to protect the natural resources on its properties and those recreating on its properties. Please be aware that lands on which the PLC holds a conservation easement are private property and PLC does not have the authority to grant permission to hunt on these lands. Please obtain landowner permission before using their property.

#### **Hunting on PLC-owned properties:**

Hunters must possess a valid New Hampshire hunting license and comply with all applicable State and Town hunting regulations.

#### **Tree stands:**

Legal temporary, portable tree stands that do not damage trees are permitted. All stands must be clearly labeled with hunter's name and phone number. Tree stands are only allowed during deer hunting seasons and must be taken down by the close of the season. Any tree stands found outside of deer hunting season, or without labels, will be subject to removal (see below).

Failure to remove a tree stand can cause damage to the tree as it restricts the tree's growth. Additionally, old or unmaintained tree stands can become dangerous for children or others that might attempt to climb the tree stand. Abandoned trees stands become trash on the property that is unsightly for users and damaging to the property.

#### **Removal:**

- If a tree stand is found on PLC property during deer hunting season without a clear label containing the name and phone number of the owner, PLC will attach a letter (see below) asking for the tree stand to be identified or removed within 2 weeks. If the tree stand is not labeled within the time frame, PLC will remove it. First, PLC will remove the tree stand from the tree and leave it at the bottom of the tree for an additional 2 weeks. If the tree stand remains, then PLC will have the option to remove and dispose of it.

- If a tree stand is found on PLC property outside of deer hunting season, PLC will attach a letter, similar to the one below, asking for the tree stand to be removed within 4 weeks. If the tree stand is not removed within the time frame, PLC will remove it. First, PLC will remove the tree stand from the tree and leave it at the bottom of the tree for an additional 4 weeks. If the tree stand remains, then PLC will have the option to remove and dispose of it.

**PLC properties where hunting is prohibited:**

Florence Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary (Goffstown/ Bedford), Marston-Dunlap Wildlife Sanctuary (Goffstown/Bedford)

## PLC LETTER HEAD

Dear Tree Stand Owner:

This tree stand has been placed on property owned by the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC). PLC's properties accommodate a wide variety of public uses including hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and hunting. To maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all visitors, we require hunters to comply with our Tree Stand Policy.

PLC's Tree Stand Policy states:

*Legal temporary, portable tree stands that do not damage trees are permitted. All stands must be clearly labeled with hunter's name and phone number. Tree stands are only allowed during deer hunting seasons and must be taken down by the close of the season. Any tree stands found outside of deer hunting season, or without labels, will be subject to removal.*

*Failure to remove a tree stand can cause damage to the tree as it restricts the tree's growth. Additionally, old or unmaintained tree stands can become dangerous for children or others that might attempt to climb the tree stand. Abandoned trees stands become trash on the property that is unsightly for users and damaging to the property.*

Please note: Per RSA 207:36-a Use of Tree Stands, Observation Blinds, and Pit Blinds – I. No person shall erect, build or use a tree stand or observation blind on land of another person that **damages or destroys a tree by inserting into the tree any metallic, ceramic, or other object used as part of a ladder or observation deck**, without express written permission from the property owner or designee.

We require that you clearly label your tree stand with your name and phone number or remove your tree stand from PLC property. I am posting this letter on \_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_. If you do not label the tree stand within 2 weeks, by \_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_, PLC will have the option to remove the tree stand.

If you have any questions, feel free to call (603) 487-3331 or email me at [dewald@plcnh.org](mailto:dewald@plcnh.org).

Thanks,

Dan Ewald

PLC Stewardship Coordinator