

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

State Forest Morgan Monroe Compartment 06 Tract 10
Forester S. Sheldon Date 10/3/2007

Location

Compartment 06, Tract 10 is located in Sections 3&10, Township 10N, and Range 1E. The tract is located along Low Gap Road southeast of Morgan Monroe State Forest Office and approximately 1 mile south of intersection of Orcutt Road and Low Gap Road. Tract is 106 acres. 91 acres is closed-canopy mixed hardwood forest and 15 acres is previous crop land that was planted with miscellaneous hardwoods in May of 2007.

General Description

This tract contains 106 acres of which 91 acres are commercial forest land.

History

On July 26, 1976, Forester Bill Hahn inventoried this tract. Two years later, on August 7, 1978, Forester Bill Hahn marked and sold 58,190 Bd. Ft. to Crone Lumber Co. Then on May 24, 1996 Forester Bill Hahn inventoried the tract finding 563,528 Bd. Ft. total on tract with 447,637 Bd. Ft. growing stock and 111,808 Bd. Ft. for possible harvest. Due to access issues, no harvest was scheduled. On March 30, 1991 Forester David Vadas completed survey work on tract by replacing survey posts with rebar. During March of 1993, Forester Vadas painted in boundary lines. Later on that year in August, 1993 Surveyor Bob Vollmer re-surveyed property lines on tract. Forester Sean Sheldon completed an inventory on September 29, 2007.

Landscape Context

Land surrounding the tract is primarily forested state forest land. The southern portion of tract is recently acquired (December 2006) forest land that was planted with miscellaneous hardwoods on May 11, 2007. To the east of the tract there are two private residential tracts of land approximately 38 and 42 acres.

Topography, Geology and Hydrology

This tract is bounded to the east by Low Gap Road. The western boundary is an intermittent stream that flows through Draper Hollow. Another intermittent stream flows through the central portion of the tract separating the two primary ridges that run north and south in the tract. Slopes in this tract range from flat to 55-70% grade.

Soils

Berks-Weikert complex in 25-75% slopes. Wellston-Gilpin silt loams in 6-20% slopes. Burnside silt loam in level flood plains. Cuba silt loam in broad flats and narrow stream channels. More detailed information can be found in soil survey of Monroe County of Indiana. A soils map of the tract is stored in the tract file.

Access

Access to this tract will be established via the field in the southern portion of tract that connects the tract to Low Gap Road. One existing skid trail will be rehabilitated. Another skid trail will be established on the western ridge. One yard will be constructed in the northwest corner of the field.

Boundary

The southern and western boundaries of this tract are intermittent streams. The eastern boundary is Low Gap Road and the ownership boundary that has been re-marked within the last six years. The southern boundary of the tract has changed due to the 2006 acquisition of land that encompasses field. Old boundary marking exists north of field and needs to be masked. Additional boundary marking of 2006 land acquisition is required.

Wildlife

The Natural Heritage Database has identified Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) resident in area. Common species present include Pileated woodpecker, white-tailed deer, Eastern wild turkey, various small furbearing animals and a variety of songbirds. Species composition within this tract is diverse ranging from disturbed site species such as sassafras and black walnut on ridgetops to bottomland hardwoods. Shagbark hickory and American elm on site provide potential bat habitat. Oak-Hickory component is widespread. Steep hillsides with large amounts of understory provide browse for ungulates. No harvesting from May 1st through July 10th will reduce impacts to localized forest interior birds. Vines and green briar are thick in areas and provide a variety of fruits.

An official wildlife review has been completed for this tract. This review focuses on wildlife habitat, looking at what is present in the tract and what can be created through management activities. Snags, commonly known as dead, standing trees, were inventoried as well. This snag information was used to complete a bat management guideline form. A live tree form was also completed. In order to provide some specialized habitat, we have decided to do a number of the following management activities.

1. Leave as many snags as possible.
2. Leave as many Shagbark and Shellbark hickories as possible. These hickories provide mast and valuable habitat for several species.
3. Any log landing will be seeded in. This will provide some variety in habitat type for wildlife.

Communities

The Heritage Database Review for this tract has reported Green Adder's Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*) and Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) in surrounding area.

Forest Condition

This tract has been selected as a potential harvest area for 2007/2008 fiscal year. The primary volume comes from BLO (34%), CHO (20%), WHO (16%) and YEP (15%). Sawtimber Leave volume is 2,496 bd ft/acre and Sawtimber Harvest volume is 3,810 bd ft/acre. The volume harvestable was estimated overall as high enough to hold a large sized timber sale. The tract was estimated to be at 108% stocking with an annual growth rate of 198 Bd Ft/Ac/Yr. Given this information, this tract is adequately stocked and could benefit from a selective cut harvest.

Recreation

Draper Cabin is nearby. Draper Cabin is used frequently for camping and hiking.

Cultural

Cultural resources may be present on the tract but their location is protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any management or construction projects

Tract Prescription and Proposed Activities

The current planned harvest is to be concentrated on BLO, CHO, WHO, and YEP. Mature to over-mature yellow poplar trees will be removed to release intermediate and valuable trees such as White oak and Shagbark hickory. Regeneration openings of half to one acre will be installed to provide wildlife habitat and regeneration of surrounding species. Veneer quality white oak is present in moderate amounts across tract. Approximately 50% of the present veneer white oak is in need of harvesting. Overall tree quality is good on all slopes. Smaller, intermediate trees have potential for poor growth due to dominant trees. Harvesting should concentrate on intermediate cutting to remove mature and over mature individuals (Selection thin) as well as lower quality, low vigor, and poorly formed trees (Improvement cutting). Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) is needed in areas where regeneration is extremely dense.

Proposed Activities Listing

Timber Harvest planned in 2008/09 fiscal year.
TSI work during 2008/09 fiscal year.
Stand Re-inventory work 2027.



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