

# Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry

## Draft

### Resource Management Guide

**State Forest:** Morgan-Monroe

**Tract Acreage:** 108

**Forester:** Jones/Ramey

**Management Cycle End Year:** 2030

**Tract:** 6370510(Compartment 5 Tract 10)

**Forest Acreage:** 108

**Date:** September 28, 2015

**Management Cycle Length:** 15

#### Location:

Tract 6370510 is located in Morgan County, Washington Township, Section(s) 32 – T11N – R1E. It is approximately 5 miles south of Martinsville and located south of Gose Creek Rd.

#### General Description:

Most of the tract's 108 acres are covered with hardwood forests, especially oak-hickory timber types. Other type(s) present include mixed hardwood and early successional mixed hardwood. The most recent harvest in this tract occurred in 1992.

This was primarily an improvement cut and light thinning which focused on removal of fire damaged and other lower quality trees. There were also 5 regeneration openings created totaling 4 acres. Pre-harvest or follow up TSI was not performed. As a result, the current overall timber quality within the selectively marked area is good, but many low quality trees not cut during the harvest are still present. Grapevines are present in the old regeneration openings, resulting in many broken tops and limbs, bent and twisted trunks, and uprooted trees.

#### History:

- 1974 Inventory
- 1985 Inventory
- 1986 Three timber sales but logger backed out on all
- 1990 Timber sale but storm blocked roadway
- 1992 Timber sale, timber finally cut. 224,141 bf, \$51,700
- 2014 Inventory
- 2015 Resource Management Guide

#### Landscape Context:

The surrounding landscape near the tract is predominantly Closed-canopy deciduous forest. The primary block of the State Forest lies to the north, east, and west. Private landownerships dominate to the south with a mix of developed areas, forest and agricultural lands.

Other minor cover/habitat types present on the landscape include Early successional forest (< 20 years old), Pine/conifer plantations, Cropland, Open water (lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, etc.), and Grasslands/Hayfields/Pasture.

Landscape level forest threats include parcelization and development of private land tracts, and introduction of invasive plants that are routinely introduced during home landscaping efforts.

## **Topography, Geology, Hydrology:**

The general topography of this region consists of unglaciated, sharply dissected hills, narrow ridges and valleys. The underlying bedrock is Mississippian sandstone, shale, and siltstone.

This tract lies within the Little Indian Creek subwatershed. Water resources within this hydrologic boundary are part of the Butler Creek-White River watershed.

Riparian features (intermittent streams) are present on portions of the tract. General riparian management zone (RMZ) guidelines will be implemented in these areas in accordance with the *Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices Field Guide*.

## **Soils:**

Typical soils in this area are moderately drained to well drained soils that formed in residuum (formed in place on bedrock). A thin layer of loess covers some of these soils. The major soils in this tract are listed below.

### BfG- Berks channery silt loam, 35 to 80 percent slopes

This is a very steep, moderately deep, well drained soil on side slopes and nose slopes of strongly dissected uplands. It is suited to trees. Equipment limitations and erosion hazards are concerns that should be considered during management planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This soil has a site index of 70 for northern red and black oak.

### GpC- Gilpin silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes

This moderately sloping, moderately deep, well drained soil is on highly dissected uplands. It is on narrow ridgetops and shoulder slopes of broader ridgetops. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 73 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

### GpE- Gilpin silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes

This is a moderately steep, moderately deep, well drained soil on highly dissected uplands. It is on very narrow ridgetops and lower shoulder slopes of broader ridgetops and head slopes of drainageways. It is suited to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and plant competition are the main management concerns. These should be considered during management planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

### WmC- Wellston-Gilpin silt loams, 6 to 20 percent slopes

These moderately sloping to moderately steep, well drained soils are on side slopes and ridgetops in the uplands. They are well suited to trees. This complex has a site index for northern red oak of 71 in the Wellston and 80 in the Gilpin.

### ZaB- Zanesville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes

This gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained or well drained soil is on uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

### ZaC- Zanesville silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes

This moderately sloping, well drained soil is moderately deep to a fragipan. It is on side slopes of the loess covered uplands. It is suited to trees. The fragipan can limit rooting depth. This soil has a site index of 68 for northern red oak.

### **Access:**

This tract is accessible via a cable gate on Magoose Firelane. The gate is at the intersection of Rosenbaum Rd and Magoose Firelane. The tract is approximately 1.6 mile west of the cable gate. Access within the tract is good, with no particularly remarkable limitations to resource management.

### **Boundary:**

To the South Privately owned property borders this tract. Private boundaries were last reviewed and marked in 2014.

The majority of the remaining tract boundaries adjoin other State Forest tracts and are generally defined by deep ravines and mapped intermittent streams.

The north boundary is formed by Magoose Firelane. The east boundary is delineated by a mapped intermittent stream. The southwest boundary is also formed by a mapped intermittent stream, but then continues north and then east up a deep ravine. The western intermittent stream turns east around the midway point of the west boundary.

### **Wildlife:**

A prevalence of wildlife resources are found on this tract. This tract contains diverse vegetation conducive to providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Habitat includes:

- contiguous oak-hickory canopy
- scattered mixed hardwood stands
- riparian areas
- old regeneration openings

Hard mast trees such as oaks, hickories, and American beech provide food source to squirrels, turkey, and white-tailed deer. The openings are varied in size but all present similar, dense vegetation that favors wildlife preferring this habitat structure. Such vegetative species include sassafras, grapevine, and other early successional shrubs.

Snags (standing dead or dying trees), are an important wildlife habitat features in Indiana's forests. They are used by a wide range of species as essential habitat features for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting. Additionally, snags are an important contributor to the future pool of downed woody material. Downed woody debris provides habitat and protection for many species and contributes to healthy soils.

Forest wildlife species depend on live trees for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g., mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g., foraging substrate) food resource. The retention of live trees with certain characteristics (legacy trees) is of particular concern to habitat specialists such as species of conservation need like the Indiana bat.

The DoF has developed compartment level guidelines for two important wildlife structural habitat features: **Forest Snag Density, Preferred Live Roost Trees**. Current assessments indicate the abundance of these habitat features meet or exceed recommended base levels in all diameter classes within the snag category, but are slightly deficient in the larger size classes within the live roost tree category. It is important to note that these are compartment level guidelines and that even though the estimated tract data does not quite meet all target levels; it is likely that suitable levels are present for this habitat feature in the surrounding landscape. The prescribed management will maintain or enhance the relative abundance of these features.

## **Communities:**

Listed below are the general community types found in this tract.

### **Dry upland forest**

Dry upland forests occur on steep ridges at the crests of river bluffs and at the edges of escarpments throughout Indiana, but are most common on bedrock outcrops in the Shawnee Hills and Highland Region. The soils are very dry and poorly developed because of steep, exposed slopes or because of bedrock, gravel, or sand at or near the surface. In a dry upland community, trees tend to grow slowly, but contain a well-developed understory and groundlayer.

Dominant trees in this community include chestnut oak, scarlet oak, post oak, black oak, and red maple. Characteristic plants include pignut hickory, broom moss, and pincushion moss. Ground skinks, five-lined skinks, fence lizards, and summer tanager are some of the animals you would find.

### **Dry-mesic upland forest**

Dry-mesic upland forests are one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. This community occupies an intermediate position along a soil moisture gradient. Trees grow well, but the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests.

The dominant trees found are white oak, red oak, and black oak. Other plants and animals characteristic of this community are: shagbark hickory, mockernut hickory, flowering dogwood, hop hornbeam, blackhaw, broad-headed skink, white-footed mouse, eastern chipmunk.

A Natural Heritage Database review was completed for this tract in 9/18/15. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species were identified for this area, the activities prescribed in this guide will be conducted in a manner that will not threaten the viability of those species.

## **Exotic and Invasive Species:**

Below is a list of invasive species identified during the inventory. If identified, priority control should be given to ailanthus and bush honeysuckle. These would be treated as soon as practical, with individuals and smaller areas being targeted if needed. However, these species are prevalent throughout the county and eradication is not feasible.

A broader and/or situational approach should be taken with the species noted below. Control measures for these species could be warranted for larger scale road & trails side treatment projects, planned regeneration openings, pre or post harvest TSI projects, etc. Post-harvest control of

stiltgrass is most easily accomplished through successful seeding of fescue or other highly competitive non-invasive seeding mixture.

- **Japanese Stiltgrass**
- **Multiflora Rose**

### **Recreation:**

Although no permanently established recreation trails or developments are present in this tract, there are still several recreational opportunities.

Hunting is permitted on State Forest property and this area also offers opportunities for certain types of gathering and wildlife viewing.

### **Cultural:**

This tract was reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory. Cultural resources may be present on this tract but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any management or construction activities.

### **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription:**

The current forest resource inventory was completed on 7/17/14 by Forester McGuckin. A summary of the estimated tract inventory results are located in the table below.

#### **Tract Summary Data**

Total Trees/Ac. = 118 **Trees/Ac.**  
 BA/A = 90 **Ft<sup>2</sup>/Ac.**  
 Present Volume = 6,827 **BF/Ac.**

Overall % Stocking = 75% **Stocking**  
 Sawtimber Trees/Ac. = 37 **Trees/Ac.**  
 Harvest Volume = 1,500-2,000 **Bd. Ft. /Ac.**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b># of Sawtimber Trees</b>	<b>Total Bd. Ft.</b>
Black Oak	1,336	254,900
White Oak	645	137,760
Scarlet Oak	582	84,640
Yellow Poplar	205	65,340
Chestnut Oak	257	57,930
Sugar Maple	325	34,600
Pignut Hickory	259	31,510
Northern Red Oak	88	30,220
White Ash	116	16,540
Shagbark Hickory	119	11,300
American Beech	82	7,110
Largetooth Aspen	34	2,830
Blackgum	29	2,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>737,320</b>

For the purpose of this guide, this tract has only one designated stand based on the dominance of its oak-hickory cover type. Below is a general tract description and silvicultural prescription.

## **Descriptions**

### **Oak-Hickory**

The timber type on the north and east slopes is predominantly mature oak-hickory with mixed hardwoods, such as yellow-poplar, sugar maple, white ash, aspen, and American beech interspersed throughout. A mix of diameters are present, but the timber resource consists of a mostly medium to large sawtimber size class. The understory is dominated by beech and maple.

The characteristically drier south and west slopes are dominated with hickory, chestnut and scarlet oak. The understory is dense with greenbrier, blackgum, sassafras, American beech, and red maple. With the exception of some larger individuals lower on the slopes, the timber resource in these areas consists of a mostly poletimber to medium sawtimber size class. Old fire damage is common throughout this cover type.

Overall, oak and hickory species account for the majority of the total volume in the tract, with black oak and white oak being the most prevalent.

### **Old Regeneration Openings**

Within the stratum there are numerous old regeneration openings dominated with yellow poplar, maples, and sassafras. The majority of yellow-poplar regeneration in these openings were found to have modest decline and mortality due to the yellow poplar scale infestation and severe droughts that occurred in the last 5 years. These are natural occurrences over time, but this recent event was the most severe in some time. The openings are approximately 23 years old and total roughly 5 acres.

## **Prescriptions**

This tract is adequately stocked and a managed timber harvest is prescribed. The following silvicultural prescriptions are recommended.

### **Selection & Improvement/Thinning Cutting**

A combination of selection, improvement and thinning cuttings are prescribed in this tract. The goal is to improve growth and vigor on the highest quality and most vigorous oak, hickory and mixed hardwood stems. This to be accomplished primarily through singletree selection and release thinning. Individual trees targeted for removal include the following: competing mixed hardwoods; suppressed trees; trees damaged by past fire or grazing; wind-damaged trees; drought-stressed trees; and any other dominant or co-dominant trees that are overtopping or suppressing quality growing stock. The residual stocking in these areas should remain above the B-line (75 sqft/acre) according to the Gingrich stand density chart for upland hardwoods.

Small group selections may be implemented in areas dominated with poor growing stock, creating a component of mixed hardwood regeneration, young forest and important early successional habitat. Low thinning may also be utilized in denser, even-aged areas with large amounts of suppressed and intermediate trees that are likely to drop out from competition. This method can also be employed to reduce the density of shade tolerant species such as sugar maple, red maple, and American beech in an attempt to establish and promote advanced oak-hickory regeneration.

**Sanitation Cutting(EAB)**

Emerald Ash Borer has been detected in Indiana State Forests and is killing ash trees throughout the forest. Numerous trees are dying and more are showing signs of EAB infestation. When an infected ash tree dies, the wood quickly starts to breakdown and decay; by the second year following death, the wood is too far degraded to be utilized for commercial wood products. A sanitation harvest is prescribed to utilize the majority of ash trees before they die and decay. This will also allow ash seed to be captured and new seedlings generated before the loss of seed bearing trees to EAB. Many ash trees will not be utilized due to the rapid spread of EAB and mortality of ash across the infested landscape.

**TSI**

A Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) is prescribed for 6370510. Work should include the following:

- Grapevine Control – Pre-harvest in potential openings, Post-harvest in old openings
- Croptree Release – Post-harvest in old openings
- Regeneration Opening Completion – Post-harvest
- Large Snag Creation – Post-harvest as part of opening completion and crop tree release strategies
- Coppicing – Post-harvest as part of opening completion operation – limited to young oaks, walnut, yellow-poplar, & black cherry
- Exotic Control – Potential Pre-harvest in openings, Post-harvest as needed

**Schedule:**

<u>Proposed Management Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Period</u>
Pre-Harvest TSI/ Invasive Treatments	2017-2018
Timber Marking	2017-2018
Road/Landing Work	2017-2018
Timber Sale	2018
Timber Sale Closeout	2018-2020
BMP Review	2018-2020
Post Harvest TSI/Invasive Treatments	2019-2021
Regeneration Success Review	2025
Reinventory and Management Guide	2030

**To submit a comment on this document, go to: [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/8122.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/8122.htm)**

You must indicate the State Forest Name, Compartment Number and Tract Number in the “Subject or file reference” line to ensure that your comment receives appropriate consideration. Comments received within 30 days of posting will be considered. Note: Some graphics may distort due to compression.

# 6370510

