

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 1
County: Martin

Tract: 2
Section: 20

Acreage: 105
Township: 4N

Range: 3W

FORESTER'S NARRATIVE

By: Abe Bear

ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:

The tract is bounded on the west by Indian Springs Road, a well maintained county road. The eastern side is bounded by Sulphur Creek. The north and south property lines are bounded by private property. An old railroad right of way runs north south through the eastern edge of the tract. This ROW is privately owned and restricts access to about 12 acres along the creek. An old road bed is present on the tract but is badly eroded. The old road came down the ridgetop and tied into Indian Springs Road according to the USGS topographical map. Only the southern portion of this roadbed is visible. The road continues south on private property and turns into Bill Fisher Road in Trinity Springs. If an agreement was reached with the private landowner to the south, this could serve as an easement to the tract. Otherwise the bottomland along Indian Springs Road will continue to restrict access into the tract's interior.

**TRACT DESCRIPTION:**

This tract contains four distinct strata of timber. The most common is Bottomland Hardwoods. The low lying areas along Sulphur Creek and the small stream bed through the center on the tract fall into this stratum. Timber on the eastern side of the old rail road bed is mature and some trees are quite large. Several large Shumard oaks fell into the inventory plots. Timber on the western side of the rail road bed is smaller. This is likely due to the elevated rail bed restricting access in the past.

Oak-Hickory timber covers most of the upland in the southern portion of the tract. Again, average tree size is large due to the limited access across the bottomland between the upland and Indian Springs Road. Tree quality is average with black oak composing most of the volume followed by tulip poplar and white oak. The stocking level in this stratum is high enough to warrant a moderate harvest. Several rutted trails are visible in the upland region, apparently from a past logging operation.

Mixed Hardwood timber is present on the east and steep north facing slopes. In this stratum, tulip poplar is responsible for the bulk of the volume. Quality of the tulip is good due to the rich soil. This area

includes an old field planted to tulip in 1975. It is not apparent the area was planted based on field observation as no rows are visible. Survivorship was good, resulting in high stocking. Trees could benefit from a harvest.

The north central portion of the tract is an old field. The area was planted to yellow poplar in 1975. In contrast to the other planting, survivorship here was very poor. Currently the site is dominated by small cedar and Virginia pine. The stocking is low and the ground is covered in grass. The failure of the planting is likely due to planting in fescue. The records show no indication of site preparation. Left as it is, this area is great wildlife cover. It will be a long time before the fescue is shaded out and hardwood species are able to colonize the site.

Overall, the tract would benefit from a harvest if suitable access is acquired. The harvest would be limited to the upland area in the southern portion of the tract and likely include about 150,000 board feet Doyle. For specific stocking rates per stratum, refer to TM 901.

SOILS:

Several soil types are present across this tract. The most common is Wellston-Tipsaw-Adeyville Complex. This is a well drained soil found in the upland portion of the tract. Birds Silt Loam is a poorly drained soil found throughout the lowland portions of the tract. Wellston Silt loam is found low on the slopes and is a well drained soil. Haymond Silt loam is found along the creek. This is a well drained soil despite being frequently flooded. Shircliff silt loam is found in the old field area. This is a moderately well drained soil. Native vegetation on all these soil types is hardwood forest. For specific soil distributions, refer to the attached soil map.

HISTORY:

Forest Management

This land was acquired in October of 1968 from the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service had purchased the land in August of 1942 from Alves and Winifred Kreitzer. Since falling into state ownership limited forest management work has been conducted. The initial inventory in the early 1970's recommended planting the open areas and a timber harvest for the southern upland. The open fields were planted in 1975 with mixed results. A timber sale containing 115,211 board feet of mostly oak and sycamore was held on April 17, 1979. DMI Furniture of Jasper bought the timber. Access to the sale was granted by Kimball International, Inc. via the old railroad bed. At the time, there was a bridge over Sulphur Creek and timber could be hauled north to Bear Hill Road. Timber stand improvement followed the harvest. With the exception of boundary marking, no other management had been conducted on the tract until the current inventory.

Cultural Resources

No Cultural resources were noted during the field inventory or review of the tract records. The presence of the old road bed leads one to assume a home site may have been present at one time. The proximity to Trinity Springs and the old railroad bed also may have influenced the cultural history of this site.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

The proximity to the county road and the creek make this tract popular for hunting and mushroom gathering. Without any maintained trails, other forms of recreation are limited. The wildlife habitat is good given the diversity of cover types. The old field grown up to cedar makes especially good habitat. Many deer trails and rubs were noted during the inventory in this area.

A review of the Natural Heritage Database showed no rare, threatened, or endangered species in

the tract but reported a bobcat and great blue heron nearby.

A Wildlife Habitat Feature inventory was conducted along with the timber inventory. This inventory revealed an abundance of Legacy trees, Snags, and Cavity trees of all size classes. For detailed results, refer to the attached Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary.

WATERSHED:

Water drains east into Sulphur Creek which flows south to Indian Creek. Indian Creek continues south and eventually flows into the East Fork of the White River. A spring was discovered during the inventory on the eastern side near the railroad ROW. A distinct sulfur odor was present despite the freezing temperature. The spring has been impounded by the railroad and small area was inundated. This spring flows east into Sulphur Creek.

TM 903

Date: 2-10-10

SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

By: Abe Bear

This tract would benefit from a timber harvest, but access for equipment will be a problem. Any route across the bottomland along Indian Spring Road will be susceptible to rutting. A better alternative would be to enter the tract from the south along an old road bed. This route would require an easement through private property. Any timber harvesting is unlikely until this access is established.

Grapevines are numerous throughout the tract. They should be controlled as soon as possible to prevent the damage of crop trees.

A good stand of young black walnut is present in the west central portion of the tract. This area needs crop tree release TSI in the next five years to ensure the walnut maintain vigor.

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You **must** indicate 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.

TM 904

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Specific Practices For Accomplishment

By: Abe Bear

Year Planned	Practice	Year Accomplished
2010	Pursue easement through private property to the south	
2010	Control grapevines with summer YHCC labor	
2011	Mid-rotation TSI to release BLW and other crop trees	
2011	If easement granted, build haul road and establish skid trails	
2012	Harvest aprox. 150,000 board feet from southern upland region	