TM 902 Date: 8-25-09

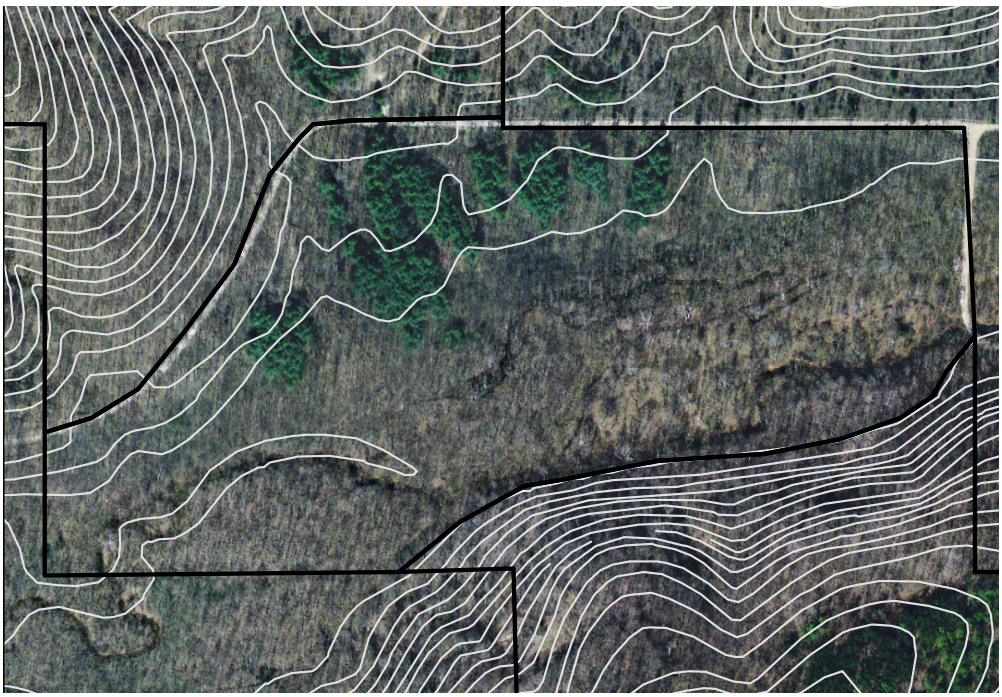
# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Compartment: 6 | Tract: 9 | Acreage: 58 | |
| County: Martin | Section: 14 | Township: 3N | Range: 3W |

## FORESTER'S NARRATIVE

By: Abe Bear

### ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:



This parcel is bounded on the north by Tank Spring Trail Road. Buckley Road forms the eastern tract boundary. The south boundary follows South Fork Creek from Buckley Road for about ¼ mile until the creek turns south. The south line continues to the west about another ¼ mile. No marker was found at the southwest corner. The western line runs north from this point for about 1/8 mile before meeting Tank Spring Trail Road. The south portion of the west line and the western portion of the south line were flagged pink at the time of inventory. The remainder of the boundaries are shared with state owned land or bounded by county road.

### TRACT DESCRIPTION:

This is tract is situated in a broad bottomland area along South Fork Creek. Some uplands are included near the north and west boundaries. The timber is generally of low quality and low value. Stocking varies from very dense pole stands of sycamore to open areas with dense herbaceous vegetation. Small ridges running south from the north border are planted to white pine, most of which are small to medium sawtimber size. Generally speaking, the timber is of lower quality nearer to the creek channel. Stocking decreases and species diversity decreases until becoming mostly boxelder along the stream.

Some invasive bush honeysuckle was noted along the northern boundry. The area is not infested, but could become so if not treated. Multi-flora rose is also quite prevalent in the well drained areas.

Timber Stocking

Average volume per acre in this tract was 4,722 board feet per acre. This is lower than most stocking at Martin State Forest and can be attributed to the open areas along the creek. 2,263 board feet was listed as harvest stock and 2,459 board feet was recorded as growing stock. The most common species is American sycamore which comprised 50 percent of the total volume. The next most prevalent species is Eastern white pine at just over 11 percent.

The most common timber type on the tract is Bottomland Hardwood, which totals 41 acres.

Average volume per acre in this type is 4,880 board feet. 2,307 board feet was listed as harvest stock and 2,573 board feet was recorded as growing stock. American sycamore was heavily dominant, making up 62 percent of the total volume. The next most common species was yellow poplar at just over 9 percent.

Mixed Hardwood was the next most common timber type at 10 acres. Average volume per acre in the Mixed Hardwood stand was 3,216 board feet, 1,638 was classified as harvest stock and 1,578 was listed as growing stock. The most common species in the mixed hardwood stands was yellow poplar, making up about 44 percent of the volume.

White Pine timber type covers about 5 acres in this tract. Average volume per acre in the white pine stands are 6,022 board feet, 2,106 board feet was harvest stock and 3,916 was growing stock. Only two species were found in the White Pine type. Eastern white pine made up 83 percent of the volume and yellow poplar made up 17 percent. Good Chinkapin oak regeneration is present in the white pine stands. Both seedlings and advance regeneration was noted during the inventory.

One point was classified as Hardwood-Pine timber type. This point covered two acres of the tract. Volume was 5,765 board feet per acre, 4,885 board feet of harvest stock and 880 board feet of leave. Due to the limited number of points in this timber type, the harvest/leave balance is askew. The most common species in this type was yellow poplar comprising 60 percent of the volume.

SOILS:

Three main soil types comprise the majority of this tract. Birds silt loam is the most prevalent of these three. This is a poorly drained soil which is frequently flooded for short duration. The next most common soil type is Wakeland silt loam. Wakeland is also frequently flooded for short duration, but is classified as somewhat poorly drained. Apalona silt loam is present on the northern edge where the pines are located. Apalona is moderately well drained and does not flood. A small area of Adyville-Tipsaw-Wellston soil complex is located along the road on the northwest side. This soil is somewhat excessively well drained and does not flood. Site index for pin oak is 90 on both the Birds and Wakeland soils.

HISTORY:

This tract was purchased in 2002 from Kate Dickey as part of a larger purchase area. No evidence of past timber management was noticed during the inventory. The presence of pine on the higher ground leads one to believe those areas were farmed in the past. It is doubtful the low lying portions of the tract were farmed due to the saturated soils, but they were very likely used as pasture.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

This tract is very popular for deed hunting due to the good habitat and ease of access. During the inventory, deer sign was noted throughout the tract. Other wildlife species present include: turkey, squirrels, raccoons, coyotes, beaver, muskrat, wood ducks, various songbirds, aquatic and terrestrial turtles, snakes, and salamanders. The main form of recreation on this tract is hunting. The dense herbaceous vegetation makes hiking and other activities very difficult during the growing season.

During the timber inventory, a Wildlife Habitat Feature inventory was also conducted. This revealed a slight deficiency in large snags (19"+ DBH). In order to correct this deficiency, snags can be created by girdling large trees of poor quality. The stand was also deficient in large diameter Legacy trees. These species are listed on the attached Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary. Plenty of smaller Legacy trees were present. These will be favored and allowed to grow into the larger diameter class. Other habitat features (smaller Legacy trees, Cavity trees, and smaller snags) exceeded the recommended guidelines.

A review of the Natural Heritage Database revealed the presence of the Worm-eating Warbler *(Helmitheros vermivorus)* within a mile of this tract. Worm-eating Warbler is classified as a state species of Special Concern, but is widespread and abundant globally. Potential impacts of timber management would be increased predation on nests form brown headed cowbirds.

A Panic grass *(Panicum yadkinense)* was also reported within one mile of the tract. This report however was from 1927. A Panic grass has since been listed as extirpated from the state. In the event that A Panic grass was once again found near the tract, action would be taken to protect the population.

WATERSHED:

This is a broad bottomland bordering the South Fork of Beaver Creek. Water drains into Beaver Creek and then into the East Fork of the White River at the confluence just south of Shoals.

## SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

By: Abe Bear

Due to the soil types present, much of this stand may never produce high quality timber. The saturated soils favor low value species such as boxelder, sycamore, and cottonwood. A larger hindrance may be fact that the wet soils will make harvest difficult. The northern edge of the tract has better soils and has potential to grow better timber. It is in this area that we should focus our timber management.

The first priority should be the removal of invasive bush honeysuckle. Only a few plants were discovered during the inventory, but they should be controlled before spreading. Multi-flora rose was also noted. It should be controlled along with the honeysuckle. Invasive shrub control is either done with a foliar application of glyphosate in spring or fall or with basal application of triclopyr.

Good regeneration of Chinkapin oak was noted in the white pine stands and in other patches along the northern boundry. These stands should be released by removing competing trees. Grapevines were also noted during the inventory. Those vines threatening potential crop trees should be killed. For the sake of efficiency, the invasive species control, crop tree release, and vine control should be done as part of the same project.

No harvest is recommended in the near future for this tract based on the limited operable area and volume of timber present. Future harvests may be paired with 6360607 which is adjacent to the north.

**To submit a comment on this document, click on the following link:**
**http://www.in.gov/surveytool/public/survey.php?name=dnr_forestry**

You **must** indicate “Martin C6 T9” 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 Date: 9-8-09

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 6 Tract: 9 Acreage: 58
County: Martin Section: 14 Township: 3N Range: 3W

Specific Practices For Accomplishment
By: Abe Bear

| Year Planned | Practice | Year Accomplished |
|---|---|---|
| 2010 | Bush honeysuckle control, vine TSI, understory oak release | |
| 2017 | Inventory and revised management guide | |