

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 5
County: Martin

Tract: 3
Section: 11

Acreage: 212.7
Township: 3N

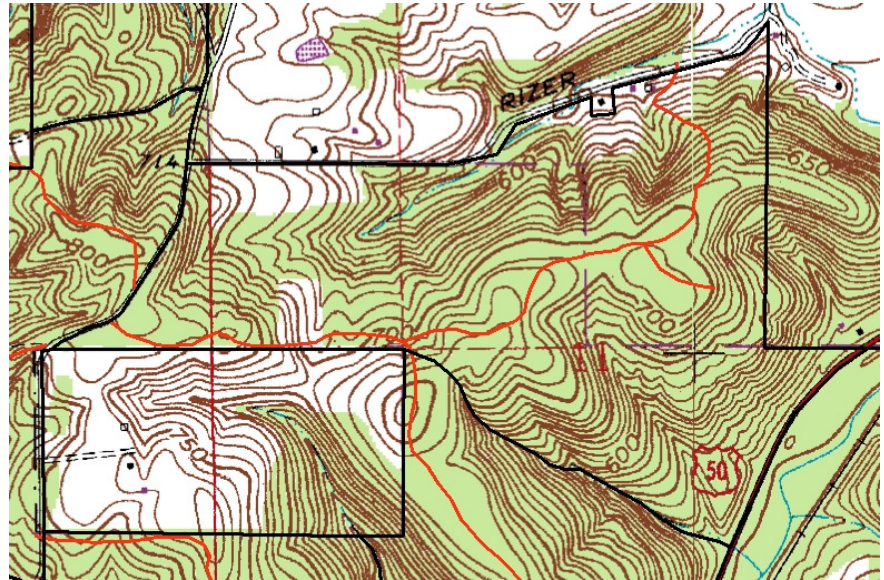
Range: 3W

FORESTER'S NARRATIVE

By: Abe Bear

ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:

This tract is bounded on the west by Williams Road and on the north by Stiles Road. Private property forms the northern portion of the east line and US HWY 50 makes up the southern portion of the eastern border. The south boundary is shared with C5 T5 along the southwest line and is bordered by private property further to the west. Fire lane 19 provides good access to the interior of the tract.

TRACT DESCRIPTION:

The tract is composed of two very different parcels. The original tract 3 is 144 acres of mature forest. Most of the area contains mature timber and has been managed by Martin State Forest for many years. The northeast portion of the tract was acquired by Martin State Forest in 2007. Prior to the purchase, the timber was cut very heavily. Virtually no mature timber was left in this area. It appears all merchantable trees down to about 16 inches on the stump were cut. At the time of the inventory, this part of the tract is very dense and impenetrable. No inventory points were taken in this area.

The original 144 acres contains quite a mix of timber. The southeast portion of the tract contains very good quality oak-hickory timber. The size distribution is good and tree quality is excellent. Generally crown spacing is acceptable, but there are instances where thinning the stand will improve growth rates without reducing the quality. The portion of the tract along firelane 19 appears to have been an old field. The species mix contains tulip, sassafras, oak, black gum and other early successional species. The quality in this area is not nearly as good as the southeast area. Black alder and tulip poplar were planted in this area in the mid 1970's. Since then, the black alder has died out and the tulip has mixed with volunteers to the point the planting is not obvious. Two pine stands are present in the tract. One is about 10 acres in size in the northwest corner and one about 3 acres in size in the south central part of the tract. Both are a mix of Virginia, loblolly, shortleaf, white, and pitch. The pine was planted in 1966 and thinned in 1988-82. The thinning effort resulted in a higher quality stand than most other pine plantations at Martin. Even the Virginia Pine are relatively straight and in good condition.

In May of 2010, a severe windstorm damaged a large area of timber in the north central portion of the tract. An area of approximately 6 acres was completely blown down and individual trees or groups of trees were uprooted throughout the tract.

Overall stocking levels in this tract are high at 8,700 board feet per acre. At a glance, the stocking rates do not appear this high, but the height of the good quality timber increases the per acre volume. Several inventory points contained significant amounts of downed timber which was not recorded as volume. For specific stratified stocking rates refer to TM 901.

SOILS:

The vast majority of the tract is composed of Wellston-Berks-Gilpin complex. This soil is found on 18 to 70 percent slopes and is generally deep and well drained. The most common concern when operating on this soil is excessive erosion due the rapid surface water runoff. Apalona silt loam is the next most common soil type and is found higher on the ridge. This soil is deep and well drained, but has a fragipan at 23 to 31 inches restricting permeability and rood penetration. Other soil types found in the tract are Wellston silt loam and Apalona silt loam. For specific distributions, refer to the attached soil map.

HISTORY:

Forest Management

Two timber sales have been conducted on this tract since state ownership; one sale in 1975 of 68,922 board feet, and one sale in 1995 of 194,127 board feet. Timber stand improvement was conducted following each of the sales. The 2007 acquisition was harvested very heavily around 2004. No post harvest TSI was conducted. An extension of Firelane 19 was installed through the acquisition area in 2009.

Cultural Resources

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.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

The ease of access and diversity of habitat types makes this tract a popular recreation site. The most common forms of recreation are hunting for deer, turkey and squirrel along with mushroom gathering and hiking. Firelane 19 is well maintained and can be hiked as part of a larger loop when used in conjunction with adjacent firelanes. Common wildlife species on this tract are deer, turkey, squirrel, raccoon, various songbirds, box turtles, various species of snakes, and salamanders. The presence of the very dense young growth in the northeast portion of the tract should attract ruffed grouse in the near future.

Along with the timber inventory, a wildlife structural habitat inventory was also conducted. This inventory showed an abundance of snags, legacy trees, and cavity trees. For specific numbers, refer to the attached Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary.

A review of the Natural Heritage Database showed a report of Worm-eating Warbler about 1/2 mile southeast of the tract. Any type of forest management likely to be conducted by the Division of Forestry will not have a negative impact on the Worm-eating warbler.

WATERSHED:

This tract is divided by a central ridge. The eastern portion of the tract drains to the east directly into Beaver Creek. Water from the northern and western portions of the tract drains into a small intermittent stream which flows into Beaver Creek. Beaver creek eventually joins with the East Fork of the White River.

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SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

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Portions of this stand are heavily stocked and will benefit from a thinning harvest. The highest quality trees will be allowed to continue to grow and improve, and the lower quality stems will be harvested. The areas damaged during the May 2010 windstorm will be salvaged. Thinning the stand should result in approximately 300,000 board feet of harvest timber. The wind thrown trees should yield about 35,000 more board feet based on inventory estimates. The large opening created by the windstorm will be completed and allowed to regenerate to shade intolerant species. Standard post-harvest TSI will follow the harvest. Prior to the harvest Grapevines will be killed.

The large opening will be evaluated in 2020 for thinning needs to favor desirable species. At that time, the entire tract will be re-inventoried. The 2007 purchase area should be included in that inventory. By that time, the area will be more easily traversed.

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http://www.in.gov/surveytool/public/survey.php?name=dnr_forestry

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.

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Specific Practices For Accomplishment

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| Year Planned | Practice | Year Accomplished |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| 2010 | Grapevine control | |
| 2010 | Harvest to thin stand and salvage downed timber | |
| 2012 | Post Harvest TSI | |
| 2020 | Re-inventory entire tract | |