Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry

TM 902 12-16-08

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 7	Tract: 6	Acreage: 37.7
Section: 26	Township: 3 N	Range 3W

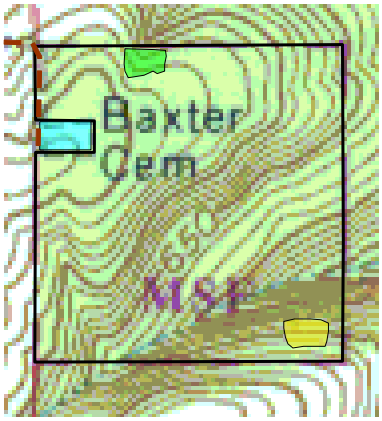
FORESTER'S NARRATIVE
By Andy Fox and Abe Bear

ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:

Baxter Cemetery road runs along the northwestern border of this parcel for a couple hundred yards. The road is gravel and is not very well maintained, as it is all but abandoned. There are remnants of at least two other roads within this tract, but both are abandoned. One of these is an old fire lane that extends east into the tract from the cemetery (shown in blue on the map). It follows the ridge that runs along the northern border of the tract and then turns back into a large flat just above the major drainage that runs along the southern border of the tract. This road is in good condition and can be used to access much of the tract for timber management. Since driving the road requires crossing the cemetery, an alternate route would have to be made for timber harvesting. The other road comes up from that drainage and is thought to be an old skid trail or wagon trail. This road is visible but not currently passable.

The northwestern corner is next to the 90-degree turn in Baxter Cemetery Road. There is an old fence post here with fence running both east and south from it. The line running east follows the ridge top to the east for about a half mile. There was no physical marker of the northeastern corner at the time of inventory. A cornerstone was found in the southeastern corner of the tract. Fencing ran both north and west from a white ash tree next to the stone. The fence running north was barbed wire that was sturdy and restored within the past five to ten years. The fence running west has fallen down in several areas and was considerably older than that of the fence running north. There were no fence remains visible along the eastern (did he mean western?? – JL) border, and no stone was discovered in the southwestern corner. Multi-flora rose was very dense. An old field edge is obvious along the south half of the eastern (western?? – JL) border. The adjacent land is planted to pine.

TRACT DESCRIPTION:



This tract varies greatly in topography and forest type, and has many odd characteristics about it. The dominant forest type on this tract is oak-hickory, which contains 60 percent of the inventoried sawtimber volume. In the pole sizes, American beech and maple make up 48 percent of the total inventoried volume. The timber potential is good for this parcel. Good stocking of post to small sawtimber oak is present as well as medium sawtimber tulip poplar. Some large trees are present with spreading crowns. These are occupying quite a bit of growing space and the stand would benefit from their removal.

Grapevines were well established throughout the tract. It was noted that there were several large trees that have been damaged as a result of these vines. Fire was not very evident on this tract with only a few acres showing signs of

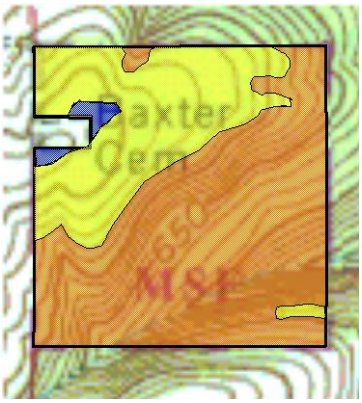
moderate fire activity. On the ridge top that runs along the northern border of the tract there was a mixture of different forest types, starting with dense, mostly oak-hickory cover in the very northwestern corner. In the middle of the tract along the northern border there is a largetooth aspen-yellow poplar stand of about two or three acres in area (shown in light green on the map). Further down the hill in the northeastern corner, the forest cover again turns to mostly oak-hickory. The canopy is quite open though, and there is some reproduction of sugar maple and pawpaw. In nearly a third to half the tract, the canopy is thin and reproduction is strong. In the very southeastern corner there is a large open area where a shack of some kind used to stand, and now a large blow down is located (yellow on map). A deep drainage runs along the southern border which will make it quite hard to harvest in several areas. That area has some of the best timber of the tract, with good quality oak, hickories, and maples. A large bench opens up in the middle of the tract in between the large drainage in the south and the ridge top that runs along the northern border.

In order to harvest timber form this tract, a yard must be cleared. The best location for this yard seems to be the northwest corner. Timber quality is not very high in this area and it would be near the county road. From there, a skid trail could be constructed to join the existing firelane east of the cemetery.

SOILS:

There are three different soil types in this tract, the most abundant of which is Wellston-Berks-Gilpin complex, with 18-70 percent slopes (orange on the map). These well-drained soils are found on most of the side slopes and are characteristically deep to moderately deep. The surface layer is typically silt or channery silt loam and the subsoil is roughly 36" deep. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid, and surface runoff is rapid to very rapid. Organic matter content in the surface layer is moderate to moderately low. Erosion hazards are moderate to severe on these soils, but can be compensated for by using gentle grades for skid trails and by installing water bars and outsloping the roads to remove water.

The second soil type in this tract is WeD2-Wellston silt loam, with 12 to 18 percent slopes eroded (yellow on the map). This sloping, deep, well-drained soil is found along slopes along drainages in uplands. The surface layer is dark grayish brown about five inches thick. This layer is also mixed with some brown sub-soil material. The Subsoil is a firm silt clay loam about 5 inches thick. The underlying soil is a yellowish-brown clay-loam with mottled channery and 15% sandstone fragments. This underlying soil runs to about 60 inches in depth. The available water capacity for this soil is high with moderate permeability and very rapid surface run off. There is moderate organic matter content in the soil. Erosion will be a limiting factor when it comes to the logging operations, as this soil is highly erodible.



The final soil type is **Z**anesville silt loam, with 2 to 6 percent slopes (blue on the map). It is a gently sloping, deep, well drained to moderately well drained soil found on the ridgetops. The surface layer is an eight-inch thick, brown silt loam, underlain by roughly three-foot thick silty clay loam subsoil. A firm fragipan, which restricts root penetration, exists in the lower part of the subsoil. In some areas, the lower portion of the subsoil is extremely acidic. Available water capacity is moderate and permeability is moderate above the fragipan and slow in the fragipan. This slow permeability restricts downward water movement through the soil and often results in the soil being saturated in the winter and spring. Surface runoff is medium. Organic matter content in the surface layer is moderate. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are slight for this soil; however, winter and spring logging may be restricted due to the saturated soil conditions.

HISTORY:

This tract was bought from two couples in 1966. Walter and Eugene Bales, along with their wives Dorothy and Betty sold their individual twenty acre parcels of land to the state for a total of $1.00.

Two timber cruises have been performed on this tract in the past. The first cruise in 1974 by Ben Hubbard, found that there was approx. 34,287 bd. Ft. The second inventory was conducted in 1979, by Janet Eger who found there to be approx. 99,384 bd. Ft. Field notes form both inventories mention evidence of prior TSI. In January of 1980, 120 sassafras and 2 oaks were harvested by the state for use as fence posts. The objective was twofold, obviously to use the posts and also to regenerate tulip polar on the old field site in the northern portion of the tract.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

Due to the isolated location of this tract, the only recreation on this tract will likely be the occasional hunter and mushroom gatherer. Its remoteness makes it a very nice hideaway for wildlife. The many raspberry brambles and grapevines present make an excellent food source for birds and many different mammals. The varying terrain and forest types provide many food sources and shelters. One concern for wildlife on this tract however is water. There are no apparent sources of permanent water nearby for wildlife to utilize, especially during drought periods.

WATERSHED:

The vast majority of this tract drains via a central ravine which flows east into a major drainage. This major drainage flows north and eventually empties into Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is the major drainage for most of the surrounding areas, and later empties into the East Fork of the White River. A small portion drains north into another east flowing ravine and eventually into the same large drainage.

SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE:

This tract is bounded on all four sides by private forest land. On a broader scale, the surrounding landscape is a mix of forest land, small agricultural fields, and pasture. Martin State Forest and the Hoosier National Forest manage several thousand acres near the tract.

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Section: 25	Township: 3N	Range: 3W

SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

By: Andy Fox and Abe Bear

Grapevine TSI should be performed on this tract within the next five years to reduce the damage being caused to mature trees in the tract.

A light timber harvest in 5-10 years will help keep the stand vigorous. This harvest should remove poor quality, suppressed, and wolf trees. Such a harvest will help advance the good stocking of 12-16 inch oak and thin the dense stands of tulip.

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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.

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Specific Practices For Accomplishment

By: Andy Fox and Abe Bear

Year Planned	Practice	Year Accomplished
2009-10	Grapevine TSI	2009
2012-13	Timber harvest of approximately 2,000-2,500 bd. ft. per acre	
2013	Post harvest TSI	
2018	Management Guide Revision	