

Owen-Putnam State Forest

Compartment 8 Tract 3

September 2005

Primarily compartment 8, tract 3 lies in the northeast quarter of section 34, township 11N, range 4W, Morgan Township, Owen County. The tract is accessible via fire trail to CR 390W to CR 475N to CR 400W (Fishcreek Road) to SR 46 approximately 3 miles to the south and 5 miles from Spencer.

This tract is a 66-acre parcel within compartment 8. The northern and a portion of the western boundary are adjacent to private property and marked in orange paint and flagging. The tract is composed predominantly of north, south and west facing.

The topography of the area is generally flat to rolling in the northern and southern portions of the tract where the ridges plateau with steep terrain in-between and bottomland along the western boundary where there is a mapped intermittent stream.

In the event a harvest operation is planned; an existing log yard and haul road can be utilized. As with any management activities, Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (Forest Practices Working Group, Indiana Woodland Steward Institute) will be followed to preserve soil and water quality.

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.

Timber types vary from well-mixed upland hardwoods, to predominantly oak-hickory, to bottomland species including Black Walnut. There is a scattering of pine along the main fire trail into the area. These were most likely planted along the ridge tops to stabilize the soil and reduce erosion from previous pasturing.

The over-story consists primarily of medium to large sawlog sized oak, poplar, hickory, maple and ash. The under-story is composed mostly of maple, beech, hickory and some oak. Regeneration is represented by all of the above species. The quality of merchantable timber is above average to excellent for trees grown in this soil type. In addition, the tract contains a small amount of grapevines.

Wildlife resources in compartment 8 tract 3 are abundant. Common species that are present include Grey Squirrels, White-Tailed Deer, Wild Turkey, hawks, songbirds, herpetiles and fish. This tract contains habitat for various wildlife species. Habitat includes oak-hickory and beech-maple areas that provide mast. Turkey and squirrel populations should thrive with the abundant (beech, hickory and oak) nut production. The pine stands provide winter cover and roost trees for Wild Turkey and upland game birds. The snags and dead trees provide nesting, bugging and roosting sites for songbirds and

the Indiana Bat. Rotten logs, crater knolls and the intermittent stream provide habitat for herptiles, aquatic vertebrates and mollusks.

A review of the Natural Heritage Database was conducted on May 16, 2005 (B. Hubbard, DoF-Properties Program Director) to locate and identify any known endangered, threatened or rare species and communities. The review did not identify any E.T.R. species in or nearby the area.

The tract is accessible to the public and adjacent to approximately 500 acres of state forest. This creates a good opportunity for public recreation including hunting, hiking, gathering, viewing and terrestrial and aquatic interpretation.

SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION
Compartment 8 Tract 3
November 2005

In 1988 cruise data was collected in compartment 8 tract 3 as part of the property wide TIMPIS inventory. The data estimated the tract to be 66% stocked with approximately 4945 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 419 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

In June of 2005 a timber inventory was conducted in this tract. The data estimated the tract to contain 9085 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with 5791 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre. The data also yielded an estimated 119 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 512 trees per acre for an estimated stocking level of 120% and an average tree diameter of approximately 7 inches.

According to the tract file, 89,000 Bd. Ft. in 404 trees were harvested from this tract in 1979. The relatively high stocking level indicates that this tract is becoming somewhat overcrowded. The dominant, sawtimber sized poplar, oak and hickory are overly competing for resources. With the overcrowded sawtimber species and a good oak-hickory pole sized stand, this tract would benefit from a timber harvest in the form of an intermediate cutting.

Stocking levels can be reduced through a selective thinning. In addition, species composition can be improved through an improvement cut. The recommendation is to remove mature to over mature species, low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as removing some less desirable species. Opening up the canopy and encouraging early successional species regeneration and releasing understory growth can be accomplished through group selection and single tree selection. This would not only help promote desired regeneration and release quality understory oak but also reduces competition in the overstory amongst favorable species.

Management in the form of Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) should be performed to control grapevines and release crop trees through the culling of low volume, poorly formed trees and to encourage early successional regeneration through the creation of

group openings. Standing dead trees (snags) will be given consideration as habitat for wildlife, such as the Indiana Bat.

The overall goal of this prescription is to thin the stand, improve timber species composition and to create favorable growing conditions for early successional timber species, while providing forest wildlife habitat. As with any forest management activities, Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to protect soil and water resources (Forest Practices Working Group, Indiana Woodland Steward Institute).

Robert Duncan
Asst. Property Manager

ADDENDUM TO SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

Compartment 8 Tract 3
January 2009

While performing timber marking activities for a timber sale in compartment 8 tract 2 a few trees along the stream which designates the eastern tract boundary and is adjacent to compartment 8 tract 3 were found uprooted. These uprooted trees are just inside compartment 8 tract 3 with all having fallen across the stream and into compartment 8 tract 2. Most likely these trees were uprooted by the heavy rain and severe flooding that occurred in June of 2008. It is recommended that these damaged trees be utilized and therefore be harvested as part of the timber sale in compartment 8 tracts 1, 2, 6 because of their proximity to a timber sale area and their eventual decline.

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Owen-Putnam State Forest - Topographic Map
Compartment 8 Tract 3 – 66 Acres
USGS - 7.5 Minute Series
Spencer Quadrangle



Tract Boundary



Intermittent Stream –

