All-Age Management

DEMONSTRATION WOODLOT

A Virginia LEAF site at: SHENANDOAH VALLEY AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENTION CENTER (SVAREC) & McCormick Farm

Compiled by: Charlie Huppuch, Forester

Many forest owners value their forest for wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetics. Given accurate information, many want to manage their woodlot using sound silviculture but clear-cutting as a regeneration method may not be visually acceptable. While a profitable timber harvest is of interest, a visually pleasing residual stand may be more important. To meet this objective, Stand D3 of the SVAREC forests was selected to demonstrate All-Age Management using group selection silviculture and individual thinning of select trees to create four age classes.

STAND DESCRIPTION

Forest Type: 5.8 acres of mixed hardwoods
Species: Hickory, white oak, ash, red maple, cherry and black walnut
Regeneration: Sparse oak seedlings and small. Fair amount of larger hickory and ash seedlings.
Size: Scattered mature trees from 16-28 inches. The younger class is pole timber and small sawtimber. Defective timber about 15%.
Trees/Acre: Well stocked to overstocked – Basal area 60-130 sq. ft. before harvest
Topography: West facing near top of slope – 3-7%
Site Quality: Good oak site- estimated Site Index 70. Frederick Soils – Previously pastured
Prescription: Demonstrate all age- management. Take current three-age stand and create four age classes by a regeneration harvest.
  • Harvest over-mature sawtimber – save vigorous trees in the older age class
  • Harvest Crop tree thinning for vigorous pole timber in 35-45 age class
  • Thin to a basal area of 70-80 sq. ft.
  • Provide patch cuts to regenerate oak by creating openings of ¼ acres
  • Thinned poles will go for pulpwood or firewood

STREAMSIDE MGT. ZONE: This stand contains the head of a small active stream. Best Management Practices must be demonstrated in this zone.
2009 HARVEST DATA

Age Classes: 0, 40-50- 80-90- 100 +

Volumes before cut = 27.3 (5 /acre) MBF Doyle – 35 cords pulpwood

Basal Area - Before cut = 60-130 Avg. 92 sq. ft./Acre

After cut = 0-130 Avg. 82 sq. ft./Acre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of Harvest</th>
<th>Thousand Board Feet (Doyle Log Rule)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>$311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>6,005</td>
<td>$1693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>2,907</td>
<td>$436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>$145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>$140</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>11,383</td>
<td>$2775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulpwood</td>
<td>6 cords</td>
<td>$84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saw timber volume left after cut = 15,928 MBF /Doyle or 2,895 MBF /acre

Pulpwood volume left after cut = 14.3 cords

Crop Trees Marked – 24 trees from 8” to 14” marked in red band

Regeneration: Adequate ash, hickory and oak seedlings can be found in the group selection and small openings in the canopy to create a new age class.

Future Harvest: The next harvest could be in 15-20 years when the 100 year + and a new age group moves into this mature class.

Wildlife Benefits: Den trees and snags are marked for squirrels and birds. Brush piles create a variety of conditions for various birds, mammals and new deer browse.

For more information about this site or the management of this forest contact: Adam Downing, Extension Forester – Northern District: 540-948-6881 adowning@vt.edu

Visit http://valeaf.org/ for more information about the Virginia LEAF, a partnership program for Education About Forests. Project partners for this LEAF site are: