

**Resource Management Guide**

**Greene-Sullivan State Forest**

**Compartment 3    Tract 7**

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## **Foresters Narrative**

### **Location**

Tract 7 of compartment 3 is found in Greene County, Sections 30, 31 and 32 of Stockton Township, T7N R7W. From Dugger take Highway 159 south to County Road 500 South and turn left. Take this road until it merges with Truck Road. Follow Truck Road until the road forks, and take the left fork. Follow this road until you reach Sassafras Road and you will be at the south-eastern end of the tract.

### **General Description**

Tract 7 is 92.6 acres with the majority of the stand being hardwoods, but it also has an integral component of mixed pine. Scott Lake resides in this tract along with some scattered smaller lakes. Overall, approximately 77 acres is forested.

### **History**

This tract was acquired in two parts. One from the Maumee Collieries Company on April 15, 1959, and the other from Sentry Royalty Company on May 5, 1964. The majority of the tract was strip mined for coal prior to the state acquisition. The trees seem to have been planted around these times.

### **Landscape Context**

The western, northern and southern borders of this tract share borders with more State Forest that rival the same forest type inside C03T07. The eastern border of the tract borders a private agricultural field.

### **Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

The stripper hills run primarily north to south in this tract with a slight curve. There are not any streams in this tract. Scott Lake resides in this tract along with some scattered smaller lakes. Their total surface area is estimated to be about 12.6 acres or about 14% of the tract's total area.

### **Soils**

The soils in this tract are classified as strip mines. They are described as long narrow mounds of mine spoil (a mixture of soil, till, shale, sandstone and some coal) and a few open pits. Due to this soil type, the slope between the spoil hills can be very steep.

## Access

Truck Road and an offshoot of Truck Road border this tract on the western and southern boundaries. At the northernmost part the tract has an access road leading off of Truck Road to Scott Lake as a boundary

## Boundaries

Truck Road and an offshoot of Truck Road border this tract on the western and southern boundaries. At the northernmost part the tract has an access road leading off of Truck Road to Scott Lake as a boundary; the rest of the northern boundary borders more State Forest. The eastern boundary borders a private agricultural field.

## Wildlife

There is a wide variety of wildlife present in this tract. Deer, turkey and coyote sightings and signs were common. Several songbirds, crows and woodpeckers were noted during the inventory. This area is known to attract both deer and turkey hunters.

A NHDB review was conducted for this tract on May 26, 2009. The Northern Crawfish Frog was also found in March of 2005 about a mile east of the tract. The following is a description of the frog's habitat. "Grasslands, prairies, and woodlands are areas where *R. areolata* is most likely to be encountered. However, it is hard to find *R. areolata* because it lives underground most of the year in old, vacant burrows of other animals. The opening of these burrows is about 76.2 mm wide and is usually covered with grass. However, during the mating season, *R. areolata* resides near river floodplains, ponds, and lakes." (*Illinois Department of Natural Resources and January 21, 1999; Ken Crawford, Jeff Warwick, and January 11, 2001; Tennessee Department of Environment, Conservation, and May 21, 1997; Wright et al., 1942*)

The management proposals for this tract should not affect the frog or its habitat. There are no other records within the tract of any significant areas or T & E species, specifically bald eagle, northern harrier, American bittern, or Henslow's sparrow.

Table 1 shows how this tract compares to the Indiana Bat guidelines. With the exception of the preferred live trees per acre  $\geq 11$ " DBH this tract does not meet the Indiana Bat guidelines. Over time it is expected some of the smaller trees will grow to help reach the goal of 3 trees per acre  $\geq 20$ " DBH. Also it can be expected that some trees die so as to meet the 1 snag  $\geq 19$ " DBH and 5 snags  $\geq 9$ " DBH per acre. These may also be created during TSI activities.

| Description                                   | Goal | Tract |
|---|------|-------|
| Preferred live trees per acre $\geq 20$ " DBH | 3    | .5    |
| Preferred live trees per acre $\geq 11$ " DBH | 6    | 17.5  |
| Snags per acre $\geq 9$ " DBH                 | 5    | 2.1   |
| Snags per acre $\geq 19$ " DBH                | 1    | .2    |

TABLE 1

## **Communities**

Most of this tract is a mix of various hardwood and pine trees. While the majority of the trees in the tract are hardwood, there is an ample supply of pines. Soft and hard mast trees can be found throughout the tract. Aquatic and riparian trees also add to the diversity of the tract. Invasives such as Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, Ailanthus, mullein and multiflora rose were observed during the inventory. There was also an abundance of grapevines.

## **Recreation**

There is a great deal of public recreational opportunities in this tract. With there being one large body of water with easy access to it, fishing is popular in this tract. There is a horse trail that runs through a portion of this tract, as well. This site is also known to be a popular spot for hunters.

## **Cultural**

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.

## **Silviculture Prescription**

The overall recommendation of this tract is to implement a free thinning and improvement cut utilizing single and group tree selection. The estimated yield of this tract may be approximately 95,000 board feet leaving 200,000 board feet. The current stocking is 105%. The proposed harvest should reduce the stocking level to approximately 78%. Skid trails will need to be constructed before the harvest. Grapevines and invasives will be controlled before and after harvest. The stand should be re-inventoried in 2027.

## **Proposed Activities Listing**

| <u>Proposed Management Activity</u> | <u>Proposed Date</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Skid Trail / Log Yard Construction  | 2009 – 2010          |
| Timber Marking                      | 2009 - 2010          |
| Harvest                             | 2010 - 2012          |
| Close Out                           | 2011 - 2012          |
| TSI (Post-Harvest)                  | 2012 - 2015          |
| Re-Inventory                        | 2027                 |

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