

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry**

TM 902

Date: 7-31-09

**DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE Amendment- October 2017**

(The purpose of this amendment is to reflect a change in property access that enables the prescribed management to be undertaken ahead of schedule. See pg. 3 highlighted text)

Compartment: 1  
County: Martin

Tract: 8  
Section: 25

Township: 5N

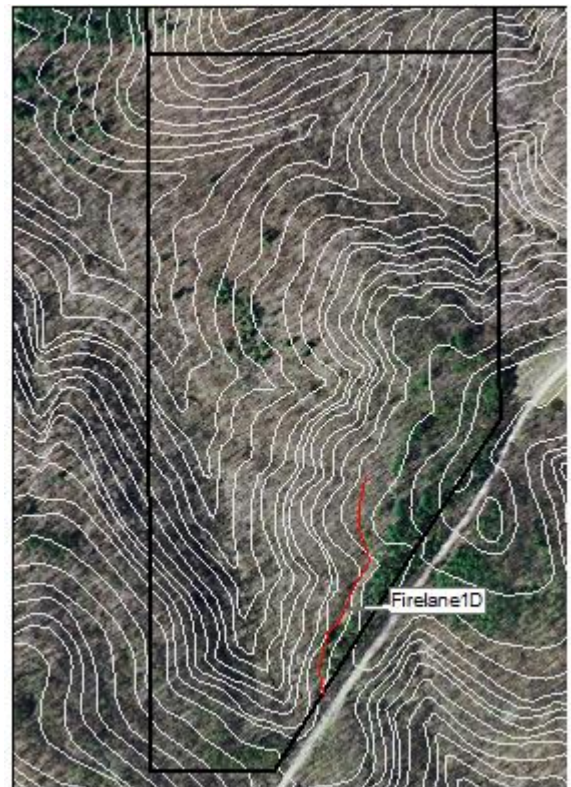
Range: 3W

**FORESTER'S NARRATIVE**

By: Abe Bear

**ROADS AND BOUNDARIES**

This tract is bounded on the southeast by Graded Road, a well maintained gravel county road. The north boundary is bordered by state owned land (Comp. 1 Tract 4). The west and a portion of the east boundary are bordered by private land owned by Padanaram. The land to the south is owned by Linda Long. The southwest corner was located in 2009 by Ken Anderson, a private land surveyor. Coordinates for the Southwest Corner are 38° 49' 56.74"N, 86° 42' 06.11"W. The west, south, and east boundaries were flagged pink at the time of inventory. Some scattered physical evidence was located on these lines, but no stones or rebar. The south and west lines are section boundary lines. An old roadbed, currently being maintained by Padanaram as an ATV trail runs along the western boundary. This trail veers onto state owned land in several places.



**TRACT DESCRIPTION**

Firelane 1D runs north into the tract from Graded Road. The firelane currently dead ends at a ravine about 1/3 mile into the tract. Old maps indicate the lane once ran through the tract and into tract 4 to the north but due to lack of maintenance, the old route is unclear. A parking area is located at the head of the firelane. This area appears to be frequently used for bonfires, target shooting, and other nefarious activities.

The topography of the tract is generally a western facing slope. The eastern edge is a broad ridge top with a history of agriculture. The slope is not overly steep, but there are some deep ravines present. No large rock outcroppings were observed, but there may be a sandstone rim at some point along the slope.

The timber on this parcel is a mix of even-aged young forest and uneven-aged mature timber. The young timber is a result of clear cutting by the US Forest Service in 1982. The clear cut area has regenerated very well. Many good quality black cherry, white and black oak, ash, and tulip polar stems are present. Most trees are 4-8 inches in diameter and 20-30 feet tall. Unfortunately, grape vines are

problematic and are impacting tree quality. The tulip and ash are in direct competition with the oak and cherry. In many cases the slower growing oak are being outcompeted by tulip poplar. This young stand of timber covers about 18 acres. This area, along with portions of the mature timber, fell into the Mixed Hardwood strata. Total area for the Mixed Hardwood strata was 46 acres. Average per acre volume was 4,284 bf Doyle. This includes 1,020 bf Doyle of harvest volume and 3,263 bf Doyle of leave volume.

The mature stands of timber include Oak-Hickory, Mixed Hardwoods, and Mixed Pine-Hardwoods stands. The Oak-Hickory stratum occupies 17 acres of the tract and is generally located on the southern facing slopes in the northern end of the tract. Timber is of good quality in this area. Trees have been harvested in the past, but it looks to have been quite some time ago. In general, single tree selection could be used to improve the stand, but some isolated areas may be managed with a shelterwood technique. Average volume per acre in the Oak-Hickory stratum was 8,221 bf Doyle. This includes 5,239 bf Doyle of leave volume and 2,982 bf Doyle of harvestable volume.

The Mixed Hardwoods-Pine stratum is located on the broad ridge top on the eastern side of the tract. This area was likely old agricultural field planted to eastern white and shortleaf pine in the 1960's. Since the time of planting, the pine has been invaded by hardwoods (mostly tulip poplar) and commercially thinned. The thin canopy in the pine stand has allowed the establishment of oak in the understory. Many young oaks are present awaiting a canopy gap. This stratum occupies 7 acres of the tract. Average volume per acre is 6,477 bf Doyle, all of which was recorded as leave volume.

## SOILS

The tract is dominated by Wellston-Tipsaw-Adyville Complex. This series makes up the vast majority of the tract and is located on the slopes. The upland flat area is comprised of Crider silt loam. Both the Wellston-Tipsaw-Adyville and Crider are well drained soils. Site index for Yellow Poplar on Wellston is 90. Refer to the attached soil map for detailed distributions.

## HISTORY

This tract was obtained from the US Forest Service by the State of Indiana in 1982. At the time of transfer, the Forest Service harvesting had just been completed. Since the State has owned the land, little forest management has been conducted. There were multiple pine pole sales to private individuals in the early 1990's.

Prior to Forest Service ownership, the land was privately owned. Remnants of the past land use are still apparent in the old field type timber on the ridge top. There is also an old home site on the tract. This site has been surveyed by both the Forest Service and State on Indiana archeologists. The site consists of foundation piers for both a house and a barn and an open cistern. According to Forest Service research, a 1892 plat shows a structure owned by Noah Keller on the site. Transfer records from 1940 show a barn and house present which correspond to the location of the foundations. At that time, the property was owned by Susie Rusher West. The State archeological survey found melted glass and burned nails leading to the conclusion that the structures were burned.

## RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

The main forms of recreation on this tract are hunting, hiking, and gathering. As mentioned prior, the parking area appears to be a popular location for bonfires and target shooting. The dense young forest across much of the tract offers diverse wildlife habitat. Species likely to be found include: white tail deer, wild turkey, squirrels, raccoons, box turtles, various snakes, various songbirds, and possibly grouse.

A structural wildlife habitat analysis was conducted at the time of inventory. It revealed the stand has sufficient Legacy trees (trees of species preferred by Indiana Bat), sufficient snags of small and large

diameter, and sufficient cavity trees of mid- diameter. Areas needing improvement are mid diameter snags and large and small diameter cavity trees. Additional snags will be created during future Timber Stand Improvement operations. The cavity tree estimate is likely low due to the difficulty of observing cavities high in the tree canopy during summer inventories.

## WATERSHED

The entire tract drains into tributaries of Sulpher Creek. These tributary creeks enter Sulpher Creek in Sec. 27 & 34, T 5N R 3W. Sulpher Creek then enters Indian Creek in Sec. 21, T 4N, R 3W. Indian Creek then enters the East Fork of the White River in Sec. 5, T 3N, R 3W.

## SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION (Amended section)

By: Abe Bear/Josh Kush

Due to the young age of much of this stand, the most immediate need is for crop tree release and grape vine control. The young timber area contains many vines that are damaging trees and many good quality crop trees being out competed by faster growing species. The more mature portions of the tract will also benefit from vine control.

Mature timber is present low on the slopes and near the property lines, but given its location and difficult access, a harvest at this time is not recommended. Instead, it would be wise to wait about 20 years until the young stand is ready for a light harvest and include the mature timber areas. However, if access is realized earlier the prescribed improvement work and selective harvest may proceed therewith as further described below. \*

Improvement cut/selection thinning in the section of mature timber in the northwest quadrant (lower slope areas) of the tract, favoring retention of the healthiest and highest quality trees. Trees targeted for removal should include drought-stressed, fire damaged, suppressed, defective, poorly-formed, and over-mature declining timber.

Selection thinning in other portions of the tract that have substantial numbers of oak regeneration and/or declining trees present. Pre and post-harvest TSI may be completed to further aid release of the oak and crops trees. An inspection 5-7 years post-harvest will be completed with additional TSI possible.

An extension of the firelane to improve access to tract 8 and grant access to tract 4 would be very useful. An old roadbed was located during the inventory which may be used as a route. Archeological clearance has been granted for this project.

\*access issues were resolved in 2017.

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