

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Compartment: 6  
County: Martin

Tract: 8  
Section: 15

Township: 3N

Range: 3W

FORESTER'S NARRATIVE

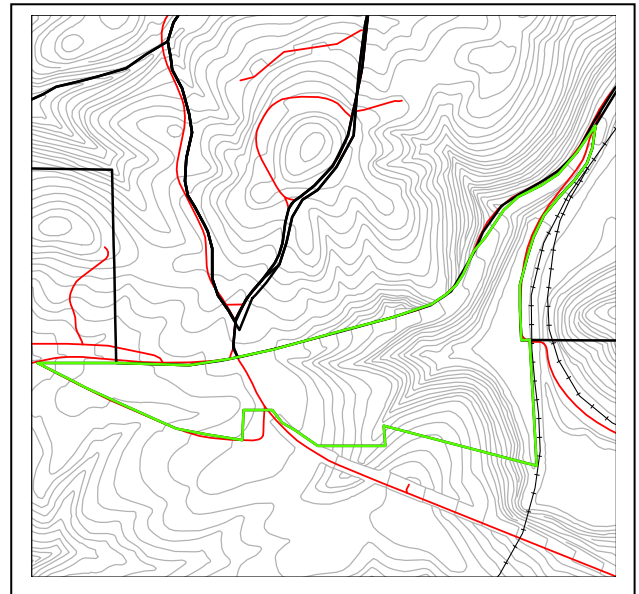
By: Jeremy Herman

ROADS AND BOUNDARIES:

The northern boundary of this tract is US Hwy 50. Hwy 650 goes through the western third of the tract and meets up with US Hwy 50. This western third of the tract is triangle shaped with the northern boundary being US Hwy 50, the southern boundary being Freeman Rd., and the eastern boundary being Hwy 650.

In the southeastern section of this triangle, there is a small piece of private land owned by the trucking company. The rest of this tract is east of Hwy 650. This western two thirds of the tract is bordered by US Hwy 50 to the north, Hwy 650 to the west, private land to the south, and the northern two thirds of the eastern border is Deep Cut Lake Rd. while the southern third of the eastern border is private land. B&O Railroad tracks border the tract along the entire eastern edge.

Access to this tract is poor due to the steep topography. The best way to gain access for silvicultural activities would be through the private land on the southern border east of Hwy 650.

TRACT DESCRIPTION:

The tract is a combination of part of a previous compartment 5 tract 9 and a section of land purchased in 2002. Spice bush was plentiful as well as Sugar Maple seedlings throughout the tract except in the lowland area. The North, West, and South borders of the tract steeply slope downwards to the eastern property line. Along the eastern border is a swampy lowland area. This is said to be an old beaver pond. The beaver dam is no longer obvious but there is still a ponded area. This area was composed of Bottomland Hardwood timber type which made up 14 percent of the tract acreage. The main tree species found here were American sycamore, silver maple, and yellow poplar. However, there was a fair amount of river birch found along the edge of the lowland that was not in our plots. The average basal area for this stratum was 100 sq. ft., which was the second highest found in all the strata on this tract.

Mixed Hardwoods was the most common timber type, making up 48 percent of the tract acreage. Northern red oak, white oak, and yellow poplar were the three most common species found here. American sycamore, red maple, and black oak were common species as well. The average basal area for this stratum was 70 sq.ft.

Oak-Hickory made up 26 percent of the tract acreage. This area was dominated by black oak and northern red oak. The rest of this stand was an even mix of bitternut hickory, white ash, and white oak

with a few red maple, sugar maple, and red elm to make up the rest of the species composition. The average basal area for this stratum was 78 sq. ft., which was the third highest found in all the strata.

There is a power line that goes through the tract from the northeast corner then skirts along the lowland and then up the ridge on the south eastern corner of the tract. One point landed in this area. The Open stratum is 5 percent of the total tract acreage. The average basal area in this stratum is 10 sq. ft., composed of yellow poplar. There is another power line that goes through the western tip of the tract.

Pine made up 5 percent of the tract acreage. The dominant species found here was red pine. The remainder of the stand was mainly composed of American basswood and sassafras. The average basal area in this stratum was 160 sq. ft.

#### SOILS:

The soils in this tract are extremely erodible. There is not an area in the tract that is suitable for log landings or log roads due to slope, low strength, flooding, and subject to erosion and land slides. The main soil type found in this tract is a Wellston-Tipsaw-Adyeville complex, 18-70 percent slopes. The site index for Yellow Poplar is 90.

#### HISTORY:

The western third of this tract (the triangle piece West of Hwy 650), which is predominantly Red Pine, was once part of compartment 5 tract 9. Compartment 5 tract 9 was harvested in April 1994 but this little triangle piece was not included in the harvest. In April 2002, the state purchased 156.5 acres from Kate H. Dickey. Some of the property from this purchase along with the triangle piece is what makes up compartment 6 tract 8. This tract has not been harvested since being purchased by the state, but looks to have been harvested in the past.

A small community called Willow Valley was once located in this tract. This area will be buffered from any future soil disturbing activities.

#### RECREATION AND WILDLIFE:

Due to the steep topography, compartment 6 tract 8 would provide a challenge for hikers. Also, hunting, wildlife viewing, trapping, and mushroom picking all could be done on this tract. Common species in this tract include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, beaver, coyote, raccoon, squirrels, rabbits, song birds, snakes, and turtles.

A beaver pond is located on the eastern edge of this tract. The pond currently covers about 1/5 acre. Recent activity was noted during the inventory. This area provides a unique wetland habitat and will be buffered from any timber harvesting should it occur. On June 6, 1993, a Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorous*, was spotted about one mile northeast of this tract. Also, on June 22, 1927, Panic-grass, *Panicum yadkinens*, was found about a mile southeast of this tract. A Natural Heritage Database Review map is on file in the property office.

The Wildlife Habitat Feature Inventory results are listed below:

	Maintenance Level	Optimal Level	Inventory
<b>Legacy Trees</b>			
11" + DBH	522		712
20" + DBH	174		148
<b>Snags</b>			
5" + DBH	232	406	378
9" + DBH	174	348	49
19" + DBH	29	58	10
<b>Cavity Trees</b>			
7" + DBH	232	348	145
11" + DBH	174	232	72
19" + DBH	29	58	40

These results show the tract is deficient in several categories. It is important to remember that the guidelines are compartment wide and deficiencies in a particular tract may be compensated for by abundances in another tract within the compartment. To make up for these shortfalls snags may be created during Timber Stand Improvement operations, Legacy trees will be favored, and cavity trees will be left wherever possible.

An Ecological Review Form is on file in the property office.

#### WATERSHED:

The entire tract drains into Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek then flows into the East fork of the White River in Shoals, IN, just south of the US Hwy 50 bridge.

#### SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

The land surrounding the tract is a mix of publicly owned state forest land and privately owned land. The majority is forested with small scattered agricultural fields and residential areas. The exception to this is the U.S. Gypsum plant located about ½ mile southeast of the tract.

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SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION

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A crop tree release would be recommended for this tract. However, due to steep topography and limited access, nothing can be done at this time. Grape vine work would be the only this that could be done at the moment.

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[http://www.in.gov/surveytool/public/survey.php?name=dnr\\_forestry](http://www.in.gov/surveytool/public/survey.php?name=dnr_forestry)

You **must** indicate “Martin State Forest C6 T8” 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.

Soil Map—Martin County, Indiana  
(6360608)

