

Resource Management Guide

Greene-Sullivan State Forest

Compartment 1 Tract 3

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Foresters Narrative

Location

Tract 3 of compartment 1 is found in Sullivan County, Sections 2 and 3 of Cass Township, T7N R8W. From Dugger take Highway 159 south to County Road 250 South and turn left. Follow this road for .65mi. on your left there will be forest road; this road comprises most of the tract's west boundary.

General Description

Tract 3 is 111.5 acres with the majority of the stand being hardwoods, but also an integral component of mixed pine. Two lakes of moderate size and two small lakes, all unnamed, reside in the tract. There are a couple of old roads that run through the center of the tract.

History

This tract was acquired from Central Indiana Coal Company on July 14, 1949. The majority of the tract was strip mined for coal prior to the state acquisition. The trees seem to have been planted around this time.

Landscape Context

All of the borders are straight except for the western border which follows a curving forest road. Said tract borders more state forest to the east and west, but to the north and south their lies agricultural land, private residences and forest land in private holdings.

Topography, Geology and Hydrology

The stripper hills run east to west and north to south in this tract. There is one stream in this tract that at points grows into a wide marshy area. Two lakes of moderate size and two small lakes, all unnamed, reside in the tract. These riparian areas play a large part in the layout of this tract.

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.

Access

This tract can be accessed at several places. First, the forest road that comprises the majority of the western border leads into the tract from County road 250 South. Second, the tract shares almost its entire eastern border with County Line Road. Also, there is an old forest road that runs along most of the western border of the tract.

Boundaries

The entireties of the northern and southern borders run along private property separated by roads. Most all of the western border, save a small length at the end of the road, shares a border with a forest road and more forest property. The majority of the eastern border is separated from more forest property by County Line Road.

Wildlife

There is a wide variety of wildlife present in this tract. Deer and turkey sightings and signs were common. Several fox squirrels and a rabbit were also observed. Several songbirds and woodpeckers were noted during the inventory.

This area is known to attract both deer and turkey hunters.

Table 1 shows how this tract compares to the Indiana Bat guidelines. All goals for bat trees per acre are not only met, but are exceeded in this tract.

Description	Goal	Tract
Preferred live trees per acre \geq 20" DBH	3	4.1
Preferred live trees per acre \geq 11" DBH	6	15.4
Snags per acre \geq 9" DBH	5	13.9
Snags per acre \geq 19" DBH	1	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. Also, there are a few pine plantations that reside within the tract. Soft and hard mast trees can be found throughout the tract. Aquatic and riparian trees also add to the diversity of the tract. There was a large community of Eastern white pine and another of black walnut in the tract. Also, there was a small section of the tract that was covered primarily with sugar maple. Invasives such as Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and Autumn olive were observed during the inventory. There was also an abundance of grapevines.

Recreation

There are a few recreational opportunities in this tract. The two lakes in this tract are stocked with fish, but there is very little access to them so there is little fishing done in these lakes. This site is also known to draw hunters.

Cultural

Culturally, this tract is not very diverse. With the exception of a couple of old roads in the center of the tract, the only cultural importance of this tract is an area in the northern part of the tract that is used as pasture by the private property owner that shares the northern border with the forest.

Silviculture Prescription

The overall recommendation of this tract is to conduct an intermediate cutting, more specifically an improvement harvest using single tree and group selection. This harvest should take place within the next couple of years. This harvest will improve the overall vigor, quality and value of the residual stand, in part by removing the pines to transition the tract to a more hardwood forest, while capitalizing on stems dropping out due to natural mortality or maturity. Wildlife will benefit from this harvest as well. Additional sunlight penetrating the forest floor will stimulate the development of new ground flora, consequentially increasing nesting and foraging habitat. This is essential for game and non-game species as well as continued forest development.

The improvement harvest should yield approximately 480,680 board feet, if the whole tract is harvested, leaving approximately 138,530 board feet. After the harvest a TSI will increase the snags per acre while diversifying diameter distributions of both snags and growing stock trees; also, it will control grapevine and release selected crop trees not successfully released during the harvest. This stand should be re-inventoried in 2028.

Proposed Activities Listing

<u>Proposed Management Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Date</u>
TSI (Pre-Harvest)	2009 – 2010
Skid Trail / Log Yard Construction	2008 – 2010
Timber Marking	2010 - 2011
Harvest	2011 - 2013
Close Out	2012 - 2013
TSI (Post-Harvest)	2013 - 2016
Re-Inventory	2027

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