Even-aged Management of Northern Hardwoods

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Who is Weyerhaeuser?

- Plum Creek and Weyerhaeuser merged Feb. 19, 2016
- Founded in 1900
- Publicly Traded Company (NYSE: WY)
- Became a REIT in 2010
- Assets: $18.5 billion
- Largest Private Landowner in the U.S.
- About 14,000 employees
Michigan Timberlands Staff - 23 Employees
Offices in L’Anse and Escanaba
Michigan - approx. 568,000 Acres
Why manage the forest?

Land owners have many different reasons for owning forest land.

Investment, wildlife, retreat, family heritage,…
Silviculture is the growing and cultivation of trees. (google dictionary)
Silviculture is the *art and science* of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society such as wildlife habitat, timber, water resources, restoration, and recreation on a sustainable basis. This is accomplished by applying different types of silvicultural treatments such as thinning, harvesting, planting, pruning, prescribed burning and site preparation. Intermediate treatments (thinning) are designed to enhance growth, quality, vigor, and composition of the stand after establishment or regeneration and prior to final harvest. Regeneration treatments (harvesting) are applied to mature stands in order to establish a new age class of trees. Regeneration methods are grouped into four categories: coppice, even-aged, two-aged, and uneven-aged.
• Uneven-aged – not the discussion for today
  – Single tree selection
  – Group selection (canopy gaps)

• Even-aged
  – Thinning
  – Shelterwood
  – Overstory Removal
  – Release
  – Conversion from Even-aged to Uneven-aged

  – Keep an open mind / be objective
Considerations (not a complete list)

- **Landowner objectives - goals**
- The surrounding landscape
- Stand quality, stem quality
- Age(s) of the stand
- Site potential, soils, site index
- Species mix
- Regeneration (challenges to regen/deer)
- Terrain
- Time / risks
- Aesthetics
- Pros & Cons
Decision making!

- It is complicated!
- There is no “one right way”
- Know your objectives and constraints
- Gather your data
- Make a plan for success
- Execute the plan and monitor results
- Adjust the plan if needed
- Grow and cultivate trees
Be a Forester!

- Read / learn - there are tons of great documents, studies, resources, and people
- Review – no one person, organization, or book has all the answers
- Discuss – have an intellectual debate/discussion with other foresters about Silviculture, not just even-aged hardwood management. **THAT IS WHY SAF IS VALUABLE!!**
- Challenge / practice – try things, observe, learn, adjust, share, dig into the assumptions of the dated research…
- Use your education, experience, and tools to be the Forester. Practice forestry by design, not by a cook book, “I was told to”.

Thank you!

Questions??

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