

MCWOA NEWS

THE FORESTER'S FORUM

By: Mark Bodamer, Forester

DCNR, Bureau of Forestry



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HIGHLIGHTS

in this issue

- New MCWOA Officers
- BTU chart for wood
- New Stewards
- Just for Fun

Heating With Wood

For the past 100 years, fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal have been used to heat homes. As energy prices continue to rise, many people are turning to wood for heat. Here are some thoughts to keep in mind about using wood.

Wood is really stored sunlight. By using energy from the sun, the leaves on trees are able to convert carbon dioxide and water into wood. A standing tree is a factory that produces wood as well as a warehouse that stores the yearly accumulation of

wood. When the wood is burned or rots, carbon dioxide and water is released which becomes available to other trees to make more wood. Trees are truly a renewable resource.

Pound for pound, all woods produce the same amount of heat. Wood such as locust, oak, hickory, maple and beech are denser and therefore produce more heat per cord than the same volume of lighter woods such as aspen or pine. These dense woods also produce a good bed of coals which helps to ignite new wood added to the fire.

Firewood is measured by the cord. A standard cord is a stack of wood 4

(Continued on page 6)

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MCWOA MEMBERS NEWEST STEWARDS

Pat Kelley and Alan James each became the newest MCWOA members to complete the PaFS (Pennsylvania Forest Steward) program in October 2006.

The Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Training Workshop was held at the McKeever Environmental Center in

Sandy Lake during September and October. Pat and Alan were the lone representatives from Mercer County. The entire class had approx. 40 attendees, making it the largest class to date, since inception in 1992.

Congratulations to Pat and Alan.

Understanding Privately Owned Forest Retention in Mercer County

By Gary Micsky, Extension Educator Penn State Cooperative Extension

Previous articles in this series focused on the impact of parcelization on forest ecosystems, the effects of stewardship education, and the importance of estate planning in retaining privately owned forests for future generations. This article explores what was learned from the public policy stakeholders who participated in the study, as well as their similarities and differences with the landowners interviewed.

Study participants

In addition to the 23 private forest landowners who participated in the study, 22 stakeholders representing state, county and township government, county and township planning commissions, and appointed officials responsible for land-use decisions were interviewed.

Public policy stakeholders were supportive of forests

Overwhelmingly, policy stakeholders were clearly concerned that their efforts help protect or conserve forests in Mercer County. Only one of the participants clearly articulated a strong lack of concern. Personal perceptions can be attributed to

how we define and view our surroundings – in this case our forests. In part one; we discussed parcelization’s impact on forest retention and compared it to the disease process. Often, we fail to recognize the initial signs and fail to act until the symptoms (changes in land use) become pronounced and treatment (policy) becomes more difficult. Policy makers were concerned about the loss of forests and their benefit to society, but unsure of how conservation efforts could be funded – and by whom. Using another disease analogy, compare this to being treated by three different hospitals (federal, state, and local) with different roles and resources.

Importance of definitions

Interestingly, both stakeholder groups strongly linked forests to ecosystems (Table 1). Currently, ecosystem paradigms have renewed interest and have been central to many debates associated with long-term forest sustainability. When respondents referred to forests as groups of trees, they seldom associated spatial conditions or acres necessary to qualify as forest with this idea; nevertheless, spatial determinations are related and important in sustaining the other forest functions shown in table 1.

Table 1. Key themes expressed by stakeholders when asked what “forest” means to you? Some individuals expressed more than one general theme.

Responses Categories Related to:	Stakeholder Group	
	Public Policy (n=22)	Forest Landowners (n=23)
Ecosystems, groups of trees, shrubs,	19	18
Wildlife habitat	5	5
Harvestable resource	4	5
Environmental benefits	4	1
Aesthetics	4	1
Minimum acreage or tree maturity	3	3



Understanding Privately Owned Forest in Mercer County *Continued*

As we discussed in an earlier issue, research clearly shows a corresponding relationship between decreasing parcel size, management, and an increasing rate of forest parcelization.

Tomorrow’s Forest

Asked about the future of forests in Mercer County, there was clear disagreement between forest owners and public policy stakeholders (Table 3). Forest owners were not optimistic, most saw that the acreage would decline and only two held out hope that forest loss would not happen.

Table 3. Key themes expressed by stakeholders when asked to give their thoughts on what they believed Mercer County’s forests would look like in 10 years. Some individuals expressed more than one general theme.

Responses Categories Related to:	<u>Stakeholder Group</u>	
	Public Policy (n=22)	Forest Landowners (n=23)
Acreage stable	8	2
Acreage increasing	3	0
Acreage decreasing	13	21

One half of the policy makers saw Mercer County forested acreage remaining stable or possibly increasing in ten years. Again, this could relate back to how “forest” is defined or perceived. While smaller parcels may retain certain forest attributes, they often carry an associated loss of “forest ecosystem values” important to society both economically and environmentally. Continued parcelization often occurs with each change in ownership as landowners struggle to balance economic pressures and stewardship values. It is important that all members of society clearly understand these values as decisions on land use and policy are made.

What can you do?

Regardless if you are a forest landowner, an elected or appointed official, or perhaps both - communication and dialog is critically important. As a concerned steward of Penn’s Woods, you have an obligation to make sure your voice is part of the dialog. Your elected representatives cannot respond to your side of an issue without your participation in the discussion. It is equally important

to communicate with and educate those who do not share your privilege of owning forested land and make them aware of important issues which affect us all – today and tomorrow.

Frank Baumgartner, a distinguished professor of political science at Penn State offers the following insights:

Politicians set priorities by listening to their constituents. So if you want to help shape government policies, get in touch with your elected officials, tell them what’s on your mind, and keep at it.

“Government responds to those it hears,” Baumgartner said, “not always perfectly and not always in the way one might like. But it does respond when a mobilized group with great legitimacy, speaking on a cause that all agree is worthwhile, demands attention.”

For full report details contact Gary Micsky at Mercer County Extension Office.

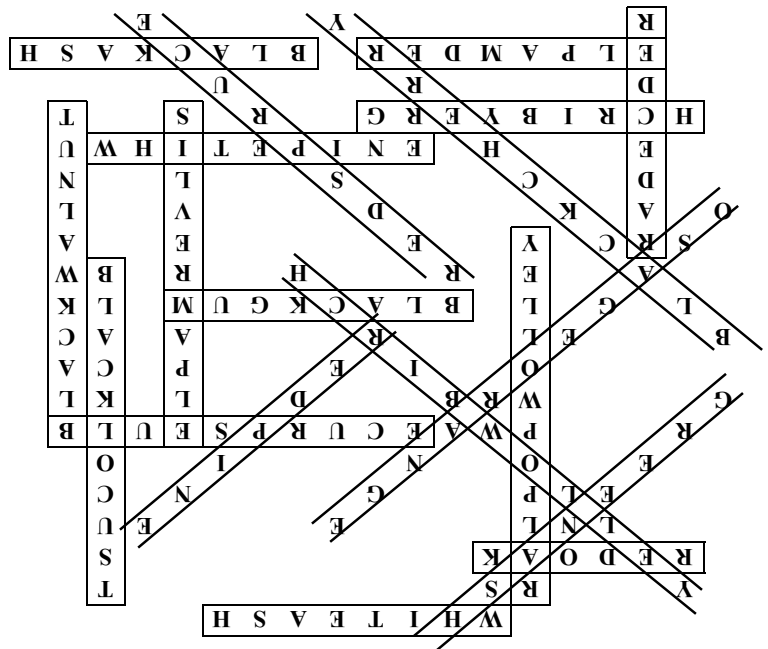
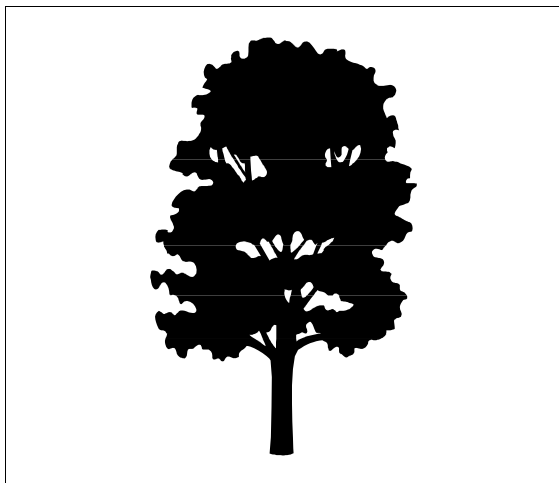
JUST FOR FUN
WORD SEARCH

COLORFUL NAMES

P I N Y E S W H I T E A S H E U L F F
 U Y A E S R S S D G J U R D A E T E D
 R R E D O A K E U L N G N R E E S N S
 P O I L N L P L U C E V N J K E U F F
 L T G E L P V N A G D H J Y N R C A S
 D A E A W O G Y N R C H J I K U O K H
 V R V C D P W A E C U R P S E U L B B
 G R E E D W R B D G K D K Y L K K L M
 X M I O L O O G I F E F J N P H C A E
 B E R T E L Y U I R I O P P A L A C K
 Z L K G J L H B L A C K G U M G L K F
 K F A D D E S R X C V H B N R M B W M
 A S R C Q Y W E E R T Y U U E O P A L
 O K A J K H G F D D S A A S V D F L G
 G H D J K C K K L M S B V C L A E N G
 J O E V C R H A E N I P E T I H W U P
 O H C R I B Y E R G L Q R A S H Y T A
 L E D H A P P Y R P S U T U M H G T T
 P E E L P A M D E R S B L A C K A S H
 B N R H O L I D A Y Y G D B L E S S U

Find the colorful names
trees
horizontal, vertical and
diagonal
Forward and backward

- BLACK ASH
- BLACK CHERRY
- BLACK GUM
- BLACK LOCUST
- BLACK WALNUT
- BLUE SPRUCE
- GREEN ASH
- GREY BIRCH
- OSAGE ORANGE
- RED CEDAR
- RED MAPLE
- RED OAK
- RED PINE
- RED SPRUCE
- SILVER MAPLE
- WHITE ASH
- WHITE PINE
- YELLOW BIRCH
- YELLOW POPLAR



DON'S DIARY

BY: DON CAMPBELL

High Grading

High Grading is the practice of removing the most valuable trees from a stand. This was what the timber buyer did to our property fifteen years ago, ten years before we purchased it. This is not a recommended silviculture practice. It degrades the woodlot in a multitude of ways thus passing on a poorly performing stand to the owner or future owners.

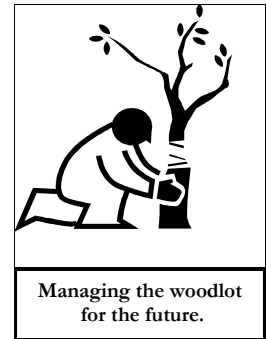
The logger left an over abundance of hollow trees that were suitable for den trees, I don't need that many. Normally some or most of these trees are dropped and utilized by the landowner for firewood or just left on the forest floor. The hollow trees that are removed should enhance your woodlot by meeting the landowner's objectives through a sound silviculture practice. Large trees with frost cracks and lightning strikes were left as the dominant trees in our stand. These trees usually don't develop into commercially valuable trees.

Poor value trees were left in our woodlots as well. We have an over abundance of Aspen, Yellow Birch, and American Beech. While Shagbark Hickory has more value than the previous trees it is not worth as much as Northern Red Oak, and Black Cherry. A lot of Hickory was left behind to develop into the next forest. Not only were low value trees left, but poorly formed ones were retained as well. Many of these trees developed branches on the lower 16' log as well as the entire tree bole. This is known as epicormic sprouting. Black Cherry our most valuable tree is subject to epicormic sprouting when released by removing to many trees from around it. This has occurred in several places on our property. Over the next few years I will remove some of these undesirable trees. Those taken down may serve in the production of firewood for home heating.

Among my current projects, I am cutting off grape vines in stand number thirteen. While I have left grape vines in trees growing in the under story and in less value trees, I have been mechanically kill them in my crop trees. These vines should have been removed many years ago, but now I am doing it as part of our stand improvements.

Many of the trees left in the stand from the last logging operation should have been removed. Some of these defective trees will be removed for firewood by this owner in an attempt to correct the problem created by the last logging operation. I will also girdle some poor value trees. As I look at the remnant stumps, I know some of the trees removed should have been left to put on growth thus putting on value. It is this woodlot owner's objective to improve upon the long-term perspective of our stands for economic returns as well as providing for wildlife habitat & den sites. These are lofty goals but obtainable with a good management plan and a lot of hard work.

As a Forester, I am sometime amazed at what we do to our forest and why we do it. I wonder if Americans have had an abundance of timber for so long we think our forest will never run out of what we need. While building our new home two years ago I talked to several builders about the quality of construction lumber and how it has declined over the years. In some cases new products like particleboard were introduced to utilize more of our waste materials. We also see more layered materials being used in beam and support construction. The "added strength" to layering is the selling point, but in reality it is partially due to a lack of good old fashion available lumber as well.



*I am sometimes
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forest and why we
do it.*



What do you burn?

It is very important to use dry wood to maximize the usable heat



HEATING WITH WOOD

By: Mark Bodamer, Forester DCNR, Bureau of Forestry

(Continued from page 1)

feet high by 4 feet wide and 8 feet long containing 128 cubic feet. A cord of dried hardwood weights about one and a half tons. A full size pickup truck with an 8 foot bed loaded will hold about one half of a cord.

It is very important to use dry wood to maximize the usable heat and to minimize the amount of "creosote" formed in the chimney. Before wood can burn, any water in it must be vaporized. This takes a lot of heat that is lost up the chimney as steam. It is better to let the hot summer sun and wind dry the wood. Splitting the wood exposes more surface area to the air that speeds the drying time. Stack the wood where it is exposed to the wind and sunlight. Split pieces dry better when stacked with the split side down. Cover the woodpile to keep the rain off. Only cover the top of the pile and not the sides. You want the air to circulate through the

pile.

If you own some woodland and use firewood, you may want to work on improving your forest. By removing trees that are deformed, diseased and interfering with the growth of your better trees, you will improve the growth rate on those that remain. Sometimes this woodlot improvement may necessitate the removal of good quality trees that are crowding equally good trees, all competing for limited sunlight. To determine which trees to release and which trees to cut requires some knowledge of tree growth and stand development.

For information and/or field assistance on marking your woodlot for a firewood thinning, contact the DCNR, Bureau of Forestry at (724) 253-2634 or 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145.

EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

MCWOA received notes of thanks from student recipients.

- Travis Sereday _
West Virginia University
- Francis Whalen _
Penn State University

The students wish to thank the Board and all MCWOA members for making this award available to them. And the assistance it provided in continuing their education in their respective filed of Forest management.

Have submitted letters of thanks to MCWOA for the awards.

HEAT EQUIVALENT OF WOOD

WOOD (1 STANDARD CORD)	GROWTH RATE**	BTU'S PER CORD	GALLONS OF NO.2 FUEL OIL FOR = BTU'S
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Greatest Heat Equivalents - 1 Cord = 1 Ton of Anthracite Coal (approx.)

Apple	slow	23,877,000	244
Beech, American	slow	21,800,000	222
Hickory, butternut	slow	23,477,000	240
Hickory, shagbark	slow	24,600,000	251
Ironwood	slow	24,100,000	246
Locust, black	medium	24,600,000	251
Oak, white	slow	22,700,000	232

High Heat Equivalents - 1 Cord = 9/10 Ton of Anthracite Coal (approx.)

Ash, white	medium	20,000,000	204
Birch, white	slow	18,900,000	193
Birch, yellow	slow	21,300,000	217
Cherry, black	medium	18,770,000	191
Maple, sugar	medium	21,300,000	217
Oak, red	slow	21,300,000	217
Walnut, black	slow	19,500,000	198

Moderate Heat Equivalents - 1 Cord = 8/10 Ton of Anthracite Coal (approx.)

Ash, black	medium	17,300,000	177
Ash, green	fast	18,360,000	187
Elm, American	fast	17,200,000	176
Maple, red	medium	18,600,000	190
Maple, silver	fast	17,000,000	173
Pine, pitch	fast	17,970,000	183
Sycamore, American	fast	17,950,000	183
Tamarack	fast	18,650,000	190

Low Heat Equivalents - 1 Cord = 6/10 Ton of Anthracite Coal (approx.)

Aspen	fast	14,700,000	140
Basswood	medium	11,700,000	119
Butternut	medium	12,800,000	131
Hemlock	slow	13,500,000	138
Pine, red	fast	12,765,000	130
Pine, white	fast	12,022,000	123
Poplar, (aspen)	fast	12,500,000	128
Willow, black	fast	13,206,000	135

*128 cubic feet wood and air; 80 cubic feet solid wood; 20 percent moisture content.

**These rates are relative and may vary considerably in different locations.

THROUGH A CHILD'S EYE: A HOLIDAY TALE

We think about the trees growing straight and tall. We see decay, a crook, or imperfection we remove it for the benefit of the others. Sometime we decide it has benefit to remain.

When Taken down this may then be left for waste, cut for fire wood or perhaps lucky enough to be salvaged for another purpose.

Happy Holidays



Charlie Brown never had such a pitiful little thing.

One winter I was caught up in a new job, no vacation time, but the privilege of covering jobs vacated by others. Ever changing hours, and call-in can make for a hectic season young children just don't understand. "When are we getting our tree?" ... "Can we go tomorrow?" "Soon" was the pat answer and soon became later and the days of December began to tic away.

To a young boy it was the holiday season and it would not start with out a Christmas tree to savor the dreams of what might be found there on Christmas morning. We had no chimney for the jolly man to pop out of, no place for stockings to hang, and a landlord that did not permit the display of holiday décor on the outside of the house. All the sugarplum dreams rested on that tree standing in a corner, waiting for a day of magic.

It so happened that the spruce trees growing along the edge of the road had reached in to the power lines. That December, cold, wet and snowy the cutting crew worked through out the day topping out the trees to clear the lines. Of the taller trees, this meant ten to twelve feet were being taken off the tops. They then stacked the branches in several places to await the chipper and clean up crews.

The snow was enough that schools closed early, the boys would get home a few hours before me, but the neighbors would be glad to look in on them till I arrived.

As he stepped off the bus, there in the front yard lay the cut tree tops. And the work began. I don't recall if the school bag even made it to the porch, but the tree top did. From there into the garage where the snow and ice began to melt.

Soon tools came of the shelves. The measuring tape, the branch loppers, twig clippers and the only saw within reach—a hack saw. The trunk was trimmed up, and measured for the cut that would make it fit in the house. The tree stand made its way into the corner awaiting the prize. And so the sawing began.

I was greeted by the grin of self pride and awaited acknowledgement. "I got the tree...I got us a Christmas tree!", and was lead to the garage. There lay the tree top, a hacksaw about two inches in the trunk and the other tools amidst the puddles of slush. Not ready

to deal with it I said "okay, pick up the tools and we'll finish after diner." The meal was silent. And when he went to his room afterwards, I realized the let down I delivered.

What I saw that he did not was the curve in the main beam - that tree would never stand. And the branches, well there were only 3 or 4 layers...on a 8 foot tree that was a lot of space. Going to his room like a dog with its tail between its legs I told him we needed to let the tree dry out over night. Tomorrow was Saturday, we could finish the job.

Given the hand saw he worked hard at cutting the rest of the trunk. We stood and shook the tree and then realized we needed to lop off another 6 inches which we took from the top spike. I kept thinking, Charlie Brown never had such a pitiful little thing. But as the project continued I grew as determined as my son to make it work.

It was decided we would have to put it in the corner. I added two nails in the walls on either side and tied some wires to steady the tree, I would patch those later. A few concrete blocks were laid on the legs of the stand to secure the bottom, we could cover that with the tree skirt. By noon we had it in place and standing. Oh, but those gaping branches. I brought out our ornaments and he brought in his school bag. Between Santa's workshop and grade school art projects we had quite a collection of the most unique tree hangings imaginable. Colored paper garland—somewhat crinkled, pictures with glitter trim, clothes pin reindeer, paper-clip ice skates and candy canes began to emerge. With our lights, large balls and icicles the voids filled quickly.

Those gaping spaces soon filled with memories and conversation. He explained the creation process on each piece of art work as though he were a design architect giving a lecture on stress vectors in construction. The tales of searching out those Santa workshop pieces for just the right thing and the ones he passed by was almost like swapping hunting stories with a buddy. What fate that the teacher made them clean out their desks that day.

What should have been a pile of mulch ended as one of our most memorable trees. The value we receive often comes from the labor of love. ***

Future Events

11th Annual Forest Landowners Conference

Saturday, February 10, 2007

Allegheny College,
Meadville, PA

Contact DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
814-723-0262
for further information
and registration

Forest Landowners Conference

Saturday, March 10, 2007

Clarion University, Clarion PA
Contact: Clarion County Cooperative Extension
814-226-1901

Or DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
814-226-1901

For further information
and registration

*Mark Your
Calendars*

MCWOA REPRESENTATIVES

Officers: President Robert McGhee
Vice Pres Alan James
Sec/Tres Pat Campbell (814)-425-2700 MCWOA@yahoo.com

Board Members: Albert Law
John Scheafnocker
Dane Mitchell
TBD

Advisors: DCNR, Bureau Forestry Mark Bodamer (724)-253-3634
Mercer County Extension Office Gary Micsky (724) 662-3141

MCWOA MEMBERSHIPS 2007

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Description</u>
Lifetime	\$200	Individual Lifetime, Woodland owner, voting member
Family	\$15	Immediate household, Woodland owner, 1 voting member
Individual	\$10	Individual, Woodland owner, voting member
Associate	\$5	Individual, Non-Woodland owner, non-voting member
Junior	\$2	Individual age 16 yrs and younger, non-voting member
Sponsor	\$10	Group or Business interested in Woodland Management, non-voting

ALL MEMBERS receive newsletter, mailings, MCWOA event admissions

Send membership dues to :

*Pat Campbell
778 Sunol Road
Cochranton, PA
16314*

*Need an application ?
call or e-mail.*

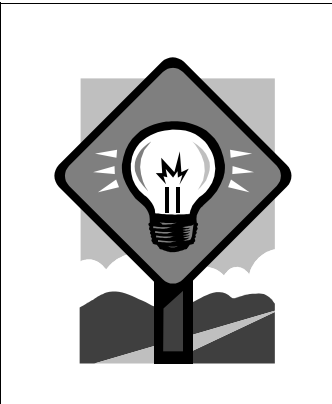
**Mercer County Woodland Owners
Association**

Attn: Pat Campbell, Sec
778 Sunol Road
Cochran, PA 16314

A Note of Appreciation



MCWOA



Future ideas

A Note of Appreciation

You've probably heard the saying "what you get out of something depends on what you put into it". Well that applies to organizations too. This past year has seen some changes to MCWOA. For starters, we've had some great and informative programs. Pat Campbell our secretary/treasurer has formatted an excellent quarterly newsletter. Quality newsletters are important because they are the primary mechanism of communication to the membership. Pat also initiated a MCWOA web page www.orgsites.com/pa/mcwoa/index. Our annual dinner in October had the highest attendance ever. MCWOA provided scholarships to two forestry majors, one at Penn State, and one at West Virginia. Every board meeting had a quorum!

So, I would like to personally thank outgoing president Debbie Sere day for her past two years of leadership, Vice president Bob McGee who is now our incoming president, Pat Campbell for her time and accomplishments as secretary/treasurer, Allan James for moving from a director to fill the vice president slot, all of the directors, Gary Micsky for his involvement as an advisor, and of course all of the members for their support throughout the year. For the cause of sustainable forestry, let's keep up the good work and make 2007 better yet.

Mark Bodamer

INTERESTS FOR THE FUTURE

INTEREST SURVEYS

Thank you to those members who took time to complete an interest survey at the annual dinner this past October. For anyone not able to attend we would like to hear your thoughts on future programming.

What's on your mind? Your board will be making plans for future programming. MCWOA's goal to educate is best put in practice if we also hear where your interests lie. Drop us a note by regular post, e-mail or give a board member a call.

Subjects requested for future programs included discussions of :

- Selective cut vs. Clear cut
- Tree propagation
- Wildflower enhancements
- Women woodland ownerships
- Continued woodlot visits for timber & wildlife management practices
- National forests and timber waste

We are also happy to report that MCWOA information impacted decisions woodland owners made in the following ways:

- Selective timber sale
- Estate planning
- Multi-flora rose control
- Tree tube lengths
- Damaged timber removal
- Stand release treatments