

Governor Knowles State Forest 2016 Forest Management Work Plan

As a requirement of forest certification state forests are required to annually give the public an opportunity to provide input on planned management activities. Annual work goals are directly tied to the property's master plan, which was accepted by the Natural Resources Board in September of 2012. The master plan can be accessed online through our website under the Management and Business tab.

Timber Sales

State forest timber sales are a combination of thinning and/or regeneration cuts. A thinning is an intermediate treatment where trees of poorer vigor and form are removed to favor higher quality future crop trees. A stand may be thinned once to several times before the final cut when it is regenerated. A regeneration cut (clearcut) removes the majority of the overstory trees at one time.

Timber sale acreage goals are set by fiscal year and are determined through analysis of the forest inventory data for the property. After the timber sale list is produced, the forester examines the sale areas and determines if the sale should be established or re-evaluated in the future.

In fiscal year 2016, which runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, six timber sales were established for a total of 496 acres. The sales have a total appraised value of \$125,000. The sales will be offered on bids in July of 2016.

In fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) approximately 650 acres will be examined for sale potential and need. Sales will be offered to buyers through competitive sealed bids during the fiscal year. Maps of potential timber sales are available on our website under the Management and Business tab. If you wish to comment on any timber sale please reference the section and township in your comment.

Regeneration

Regeneration is a vital part of the forest management program on the Governor Knowles State Forest. A reforestation plan is developed for a sale area prior to a regeneration cut. Harvested areas either re-grow, or regenerate, on their own or artificial regeneration (planting or seeding) is prescribed.

In 2016, 104 acres are expected to be planted to pine.

The forester monitors the success of current and past planted areas. 1,500 acres of survival checks are scheduled for 2016. Survival checks not only produce survival numbers, but are also used to evaluate the need for any site specific treatments.

Herbicide, hand release, or other treatments are often needed to ensure seedling growth and survival. Approximately 375 acres of pine plantations will be bud capped in the fall of 2016 to prevent deer browse damage. Roughly 90 acres of hand release is scheduled

for 2016. Hand release is the cutting of brush around young pine trees to reduce the competition for light.

Invasive Species

Invasive species monitoring is on-going in conjunction with other management activities. There is a potential for some pre-timber sale invasive treatments in 2016. One area of particular interest for 2016 is the Sunrise Ferry area. A comprehensive invasive inventory will be conducted. If warranted, a variety of control treatments will be implemented and evaluated for effectiveness.

Forest Inventory

Forest reconnaissance is the process of dividing the state forest up into stands (areas that are similar throughout) and collecting and maintaining data for each stand. Our goal is to revisit each stand a minimum of once every 20 years. In 2016 a minimum of 1,000 acres will have up to date stand data.

Prescribed Burning

Some burning has been done in the past to encourage pine regeneration or to maintain areas of brush/prairie. Evaluations for burning opportunities are on-going. Currently there is one burn planned for the fall of 2016 on the state forest. It is located in section 20 of Sterling (W) Township south of Evergreen. The burn area was recently harvested. The purpose of the burn is to prepare the site for hand planting jack pine in 2017.