

Governor Knowles State Forest 2018 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. For more information or to comment on a project, contact the Governor Knowles State Forest.

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 2018, which runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, six timber sales were established for a total of 533 acres. The sales have a total appraised value of approximately \$126,700.00. These sales will be bid out in May of 2018.

In fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) approximately 1,500 acres will be examined for sale potential and need. Roughly 300 to 500 acres will be selected for harvest. 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 2018, 89 acres will be planted to pine.

The forester monitors the success of current and past planted areas. 775 acres of survival checks are scheduled for 2018. 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. Depending on the timing of timber sale harvest, chemical and mechanical site preparation may be conducted in 2018. In addition, approximately 300 acres of pine plantations will be bud capped in the fall of 2018 to prevent deer browse damage.

Hand release is the cutting of brush around young pine trees and chemical release involves spraying a planted site with herbicide. Both treatments reduce the competition for the planted pine trees, thereby improving growth and survival. Survival checks in the spring of 2018 will help to determine whether or not chemical or mechanical hand release is needed.

Approximately 100 acres are scheduled for regeneration site preparation in 2018. Site preparation may include, but is not limited to, trenching, dozer blade scarification, broadcast herbicide treatments, and roller chopping.

Invasive Species

Invasive species monitoring is on-going in conjunction with other management activities. Pre-timber sale invasive inventories are scheduled in 2018.

The Sunrise timber sale, located along Ferry Drive in the Town of Sterling, is part of a buckthorn control trial. Buckthorn treatments are occurring before and after the timber harvest so that state forest staff can evaluate the best strategy for controlling buckthorn in that area. The evaluation will take a few years to complete. The most effective control methods will be employed elsewhere on the state forest where buckthorn densities are high.

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 2017 a minimum of 1,000 acres will be inventoried and updated.

Prescribed Burning

None anticipated for 2018.