

Kung Fu Cats.....They do exist



KUNG FU

Welcome!

Freeborn County Soil and Water
Conservation District Forestry
Workshop

Sponsored by the Minnesota Forest
Stewardship Program Administered
through the MN Department of Natural
Resources.

Introductions

- Emily Hutchins – MN DNR Private Lands Wildlife Specialist
- Donald Flatness – Freeborn SWCD District Manager
- Mark Schaetzke – Freeborn SWCD District Technician

Please fill out our Survey

- Helps us identify your interests and needs
- Helps us justify putting this workshop on
- Allows you to enter our door prize drawing
- We will give you a tree planting product for completing it

Forest Stand Improvement (FSI)

FSI Is the active management of species composition, structure, health and growth.

Reasons for FSI vary with landowner goals and site characteristics.

Reasons for FSI

- To increase quantity and quality of marketable forest products (saw logs, maple syrup, etc.)
- To harvest forest products
- To reduce potential damage from wildfire and pests.
- To restore “natural” communities
- To improve recreational or aesthetic values
- To improve wildlife habitat

Reasons for FSI

- To improve a desired understory community
- To improve water and soil conservation
- To achieve a desired level of tree density

Variables to consider

- Landowner goals and expectations
 - Vary greatly from person to person
- Site constraints
 - Wet
 - Dry/sandy
 - Adjacent lands
 - Floodplain
 - Existing vegetation
 - Local laws and ordinances

Variables to consider

- Forest product markets
- Cost
 - Do it yourself or hire a contractor

Methods

- Thinning
 - Removing a portion of desirable species to allow remaining individuals to grow faster and larger
 - Due to overcrowding
 - Sometimes happens naturally but takes much more time
- Release
 - Removing undesirable or less desirable competing vegetation to allow target species to grow

Methods

- Selective Harvest
 - Similar to thinning but logs are of marketable size
 - Keep the best specimens
- Culling
 - Cutting and/or removing trees with disease, poor form, or damage problems
- Removal of a single species
 - Noxious or invasive species

Methods

- Pruning
 - High maintenance activity
 - Correct form
 - Remove diseased or damaged portions
 - Improve mast or fruit production
- Prescribed burning
 - Oak Savannah
 - Decrease shrubs or seedlings
 - Decrease wildfire fuel

Methods

- Tree planting
 - Increase diversity
 - Regeneration
 - Disease resistant specimens
 - Desired species and location
- Seedling protection
 - Rabbit, deer, vole browse

Wildlife Considerations

- Determine target species
- Determine limiting factor(s)
 - Winter cover
 - Winter food
 - Nesting/Den habitat
 - Territories and predators
- Individual species needs vary
 - What is good for one species may not be good for another

Sources:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Practice Standard, Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666

Questions?
Comments?



It took me five years to learn, but now I can climb trees!
Let's see if that darn cat will laugh at me now...