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FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared For:
Covington County Board of Education

Prepared By:
Robert J Scoggin
Mississippi Forestry Comm.

Time Period Covered by This Plan:
2012 - 2021

Date Plan Prepared:
2012-01-24

Plan Type:
Stewardship / Stewardship

This plan was developed in accordance with the rules of the Stewardship program.

Property Name: Section 16 Township 8 North Range 15 West

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LANDOWNER INFORMATION

Organization: COVINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Name: Covington County Board of Education
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 1269
City, State, Zip: Collins, MS 39428
Country: United States of America
Contact Numbers: Home Number:
Office Number: 601-765-8274
Fax Number:
E-mail Address: bdotsom@cov.k12.ms.us
Social Security Number (optional):

FORESTER INFORMATION

Name: Robert J Scoggin , Assistant District Forester
Forester Number: 01594
Organization: Mississippi Forestry Comm.
Street Address: P.O. Box 348
2705 Hwy, 15
City, State, Zip: Bay Springs, MS 39422
Contact Numbers: Office Number: 601-764-2711
Fax Number:
E-mail Address: rscoggin@mfc.state.ms.us

PROPERTY LOCATION

County: Covington Total Acres: 638 Latitude: -89.51 Longitude: 31.66
Section: 16 Township: 8N Range: 15W

DISCLAIMER

This information was derived from a small sampling of the forest resources. It reflects a statistical estimation that is only intended to be accurate enough for the purposes of making decisions for the short-term management of these resources. These estimations are temporarily static. Events and circumstances may occur within the survey area that will physically alter the forest resources and therefore will not be reflected in this plan.

INTRODUCTION

This Forest Stewardship Management Plan will serve as a guide for accomplishing the goals and objectives for your property. In addition to addressing your specific goals and objectives, this plan includes recommendations for maintaining soil and water quality and protecting your forest from insects, disease, and wildfire. Recommendations are based on observation and assessment of the site.

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OBJECTIVES

Timber Production

The primary objective of placing sixteenth section lands under a forest management program is to produce as much revenue as possible for the Covington County School Board. The goal is to produce high value products such as quality sawtimber. These efforts will be directed by regulating the forest resource through reforestation and timber stand improvement practices such as herbicide applications, prescribed burning, thinning at specified intervals and other silvicultural practices. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

Wildlife Management - General

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suitable for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on developing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and the management of trees located within the Streamside Management Zone.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

General Property Information

This section consists of one full section of land containing 640 acres. It is located three miles east of Collins on Highway 84. The section has 502 forested acres and 138 acres in open ground which includes Highway 84 with the remainder in pasture. Access to the property is very good, with both Highway 84 and Providence-Tisdale Road running through the section. Stand 40, sixty (60) acres was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, was salvaged, site prepared and planted.

Water Resources

There is one perennial stream that runs through the northeast portion of this section called Okie Woods Creek. It is the only source of permanent water on the section and is protected in accordance with Mississippi's Best Management Practices.

Timber Production

The goal is to maximize the production of high quality timber. This will be accomplished through the application of timely thinning and other silvicultural practices designed to enhance timber quality and growth. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

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Threatened and Endangered Species

No threatened and endangered species were identified during the reconnaissance and evaluation of this property. However, Gopher Tortoise Turtles do exist in Covington County.

Interaction with Surrounding Property

Prescribed practices should be carried out in a manner that will minimize adverse impacts on surrounding properties. Consideration should be given to potential air, water, visual, and other impacts. In addition, practices carried out should have positive effects on the surrounding community such as improved wildlife habitat and soil stabilization.

Soils General

Soils were evaluated on the property to determine the suitability of the site for the proposed activities. Forest practices were planned so as to minimize erosion or other adverse effects on the soil. The following soils are identified for this property: Ruston Fine Sandy Loam.

Archeological or Cultural Resources:

No Archeological or Cultural resources were identified during a reconnaissance of the property. However, if Archeological or Cultural resources are discovered anytime on the property special managements measures will be applied immediately in order preserve these sensitive areas. These areas can range from churches, old cemeteries or Indian mounds to old home sites or other areas of historical significance.

GENERAL PROPERTY RECOMMENDATIONS

Forest Protection

A healthy vigorously growing stand is the best defense to an attack from a variety of forest insects, plants and pathogens. Forest roads and permanent firelanes have been installed to protect the forest from destructive wildfires.

Insects and Diseases

Trees are subject to attack from insects and diseases. Different insects and diseases affect trees according to the age, species, and condition of the trees. Planted stands of pines and pure stands of hardwoods are particularly susceptible to attack. Since there are many different insects and diseases, no attempt will be made here to explain all of them.

The property should be inspected at least annually for possible signs of insect and disease activity. Some things to look for are:

- Unseasonable leaf fall
- Discoloration of leaves or needles
- Pitch pockets on pine trees
- Heavy defoliation of hardwood leaves

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- Groups of three or more dying trees within a stand

This list does not cover all instances of insect or disease attacks. If anything unusual is noticed, report it to a forester. In most cases, insect and disease problems can be controlled if discovered early.

Fire Protection

Your forest should be protected from wildfire at all times. The best way to protect your investment is by establishing and maintaining firebreaks around the property. Guidelines for establishment and maintenance of firebreaks may be found in Mississippi Forestry Commission publication #107, *Mississippi's Best Management Practices*.

Grazing

Tree seedlings should be protected from grazing until such time as the terminal bud of the sapling is beyond reach of livestock. Domestic livestock should be denied access to the tree planting area.

Boundary Lines

It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that all property lines and boundaries designating areas to receive forestry work are clearly identified and visible to all contractors. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will establish and maintain the boundary lines every three years or as needed.

Note: Some forest practices may cause temporary adverse environmental or aesthetic impacts. These practices will only cause short-term adverse impacts where they are installed. Special efforts will be made to minimize adverse effects when carrying out any of the practices. Examples include: site preparation, planting, prescribed fires, firebreak installation and maintenance, road installation and maintenance, pesticide applications and timber harvesting.

Water Quality Protection

The objective of the landowner is to protect, preserve and enhance all water sources on or transecting the property. This can best be achieved by implementation of Best Management Practices in all aspects of the management of the property.

Aesthetics

The goal is to assure that the property is managed in such a way that is aesthetically pleasing to the landowner as well as the community. Activities could include, maintaining buffer strips along the road and adjacent to the home site, planting wildflowers along the road, and trees with attractive fall and spring color along the drive and near the home site.

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Ecological Restoration

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. A reconnaissance of the property has been conducted and no ecological restoration activities are recommended at this time.

Wildlife Mgt. Target Species

The objective of this practice is to provide habitat best suited for the featured or target species. Habitat management will focus on providing food, cover, water, and space to facilitate the target species.

Environmental Education

Environmental educational goals are to provide educational opportunities for children and adults through the development of items such as nature trails with tree identification markers, wildlife viewing areas, picnic areas, parking, public restroom facilities.

Wildlife Management General

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suited for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on providing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished, in part, by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and leaving mast producing and den trees.

Timber Management

Timber management goals for this property are to manage timber resources in such a manner as to maximize timber production throughout the life of the stand.

Recreation

According to landowner objectives the recreational use of the property could prove to be an avenue for personal enjoyment or for generating income. An evaluation of your property should be conducted and a plan developed to accomplish your specific goals for recreational activities on your property.

SOIL TYPES

Ruston Fine Sandy Loam.

The Ruston series consists of nearly level to very steep, well drained soils of the Coastal Plain uplands. These soils are strongly acid, contain a small amount of organic matter and are low in natural fertility. They are moderate in available water capacity. Ruston soils usually occur with the Eustis, Ora and Savannah soils and are widely distributed throughout the county. The native vegetation consists of pines and hardwoods in mixed stands with an understory of dogwood, hawthorn, shrubs and grasses. This section is a natural pine site with site index 78-96 feet for Loblolly Pine.

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STRATA

Strata 4

Strata Description

This strata is classified as sub-merchantable. It consists of Stand 40 and has a total acreage of 65.

This stand is classified as sub-merchantable and was artificially regenerated with genetically improved Loblolly Pine Seedlings. This stand is approximately 4 to 6 years old.

Strata Recommendations

This stand is a pine plantation 5 years old. It will be evaluated for first thinning at age 15. This stand will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

Activity Recommendations

Harvest 2021

A first thinning is scheduled in 2021 for Stand 40 on approximately 65 acres that will focus on removing poor quality, diseased, poor formed trees. Residual stocking should be 75 square per acre.

Strata 5

Strata Description

This strata is classified as Pulpwood. It consists of fourteen Stands; 60, 62, 64, 12, 14, 68, 26, 37, 39, 43, 52, 54, 71, and 73 with a total area of 261 acres.

These stands are classified as pulpwood and were all regenerated artificially with an improved genetic variety of Loblolly Pine. Most of these stands were planted at 605 or 726 trees per acre. Their ages range from 21 to 24 years old. The majority of these stands were planted from open field leases and should be evaluated for first time thinnings.

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Strata Recommendations

These stands are a mixture of pine plantations ranging from 21 to 25 years old. These stands will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

Activity Recommendations

Harvest 2018

A second thinning is scheduled in 2018 for Stand 60 on 109 acres that will focus on opening the stand further by removing smaller less well formed trees and focusing on leaving the tallest trees with the largest diameter and crowns. These trees should be the best and highest value trees in the stand that will be the final harvest crop trees. Residual stocking will be 75 square feet per acre.

Strata 6

Strata Description

This strata is classified as Chip-n-Saw. It consists of twelve Stands; 74, 16, 18, 34, 35, 45, 49, 59, 61, 63, 65, and 69 with a total area of 175 acres.

These stands are classified as Chip-n-Saw and are all of good form and quality. Their ages range from 24 to 32 years old. The size of the trees in this strata will range from small to large chip-n-saw and some small logs.

Strata Recommendations

Most of the stands in this strata have been thinned once. They are currently being evaluated for a second thinning. These stands will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

Activity Recommendations

Harvest 2015

A second thinning is scheduled in 2015 for Stand 35 on 45 acres that will focus on opening the stand further by removing smaller less well formed trees and focusing on leaving the tallest trees with the largest diameter and crowns. These trees should be the best and highest value trees in the stand that will be the final harvest crop trees. Residual stocking will be 75 square feet per acre.

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OTHER PLAN ACTIVITIES

Boundary Lines

Line Description

Generally, these lines consist of permanent boundary lines that delineate the section boundary. They are usually well established and are readily identifiable by a pushed or painted line.

Line Recommendations

Routine inspections and general maintenance of the roads, firelanes and boundary lines will ensure overall appearance and aesthetics of the property. These lines are usually maintained by painting, pushing or disking. They are generally pushed on a yearly basis and re-painted every 3 to 5 years.

Activity Recommendations

Property Activities 2013 and 2018

This line will be repainted with Orange Boundary Line paint in 2013 and 2018.

Section 16 Township 8 North Range 15 West



Section 16 Township 8 North Range 15 West

Radio Station
2012 to 2021
638.42 Acres




(01/10/2012)

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles






Section 16 Township 8 North range 15 West


Property

 Property (1)

Category 1: Stands

-  Sub-Merchantable (1)
-  Chip-n-Saw (12)
-  Pulpwood (14)

Category 3: Non-Forest Stands


 Non-Forest (2)

Boundary Lines

 Property (1)

MFC Basemap

County Boundary

 County Boundary (1)

Quadrangle Grid

 USGS Quad (1)


PLS Townships

 PLS Townships (1)


Survey Districts

 District 5 (1)


Blockgroup (Census 2000)

 Blockgroup (Census 2000) (1)


Block (Census 2000)

 Block (Census 2000) (9)

Tract/BNA (Census 2000)

 Tract/BNA (Census 2000) (1)


County Roads

 County Roads (4)

US/State Highways

 US Highway (1)


School Sections

 School Sections (1)

Public School Districts

 COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS (1)

US Congressional District

 US Cong Dist #3 (1)


MS Senate

 35 (1)

MS House

 90 (1)

Perennial Streams

 Perennial Streams (1)


Intermittent Streams

 Intermittent Streams (1)


Hydrologic Units (Basins)

 UPPER LEAF RIVER (1)

Historic Forest Boundary

 Longleaf Pine with Loblolly Pine-Slash Pine (1)

MS Forest Habitat

 FRAGIPAN LOAM HILLS (1)


Physiographic Region

 SOUTH CENTRAL HILLS (1)

Soil Associations

 ora-smithdale-ruston (1)

Surface Geology

 PASCAGOULA/HATTIESBURG (1)


MFC Districts

 MFC Districts (1)

MFC Dispatch Units

 MFC Dispatch Units (1)

MS Outline

 MS Outline (1)

Stand Activity Summary for

16 8N 15W

Filters Applied: County: Covington
 Client Class:
 District:
 Client:
 STR: 16 8N 15W
 Activity:
 Year: 2012 Through 2021

STR	Strata	Stand	Activity	Acre	Est. Cost	Est. Revenue
2015						
16 8N 15W	6	35	Harvest, Mechanical, 2nd Thin, Machine, Loblolly	45	\$1,575.00	\$24,669.00
Yearly Totals				45	\$1,575.00	\$24,669.00
2018						
16 8N 15W	5	60	Harvest, Mechanical, 2nd Thin, Machine, Loblolly	109	\$3,815.00	\$59,753.80
Yearly Totals				109	\$3,815.00	\$59,753.80
2021						
16 8N 15W	4	40	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	65	\$2,275.00	\$25,077.00
Yearly Totals				65	\$2,275.00	\$25,077.00
Grand Totals				219	\$7,665.00	\$109,499.80