



Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>

Question re: WMNF Forest Plan Age Class Objectives

Corless, Theresa - FS, NH <theresa.corless@usda.gov>

Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 2:01 PM

To: Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>

Cc: "Innes, James - FS, NH" <james.innes@usda.gov>, "Hall, Scott - FS, NH" <scott.hall@usda.gov>

Zack,

Please see responses below in blue.

Best,

Theresa

**Theresa Corless (she/her)**
Forest Planner and Environmental
Coordinator**Forest Service****White Mountain National Forest****p: 603-536-6135**
theresa.corless@usda.gov71 White Mountain Drive
Campton, NH 03223
www.fs.fed.us**Caring for the land and serving people**

From: Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 5:20 PM**To:** Corless, Theresa - FS, NH <theresa.corless@usda.gov>**Cc:** Innes, James - FS, NH <james.innes@usda.gov>; Hall, Scott - FS, NH <scott.hall@usda.gov>**Subject:** Re: [External Email]Question re: WMNF Forest Plan Age Class Objectives

Hi Theresa,

I have a follow-up question on this topic. I recognize that it's 5pm on a Friday, so please don't worry about getting back to me until next week.

The definition that you shared in your previous email says that regeneration age forest is "Forest with less than 30 square feet of basal area in the overstory in which almost all the trees are 0-9 years old." Then there is a short list of the ways that these conditions can be created in the second sentence: "Can be created through natural disturbance, clearcutting, seed tree harvest, shelterwood harvest to 30 basal area or less, or shelterwood harvest with removal harvest within 10 years of original harvest." Are the prescriptions listed in the second sentence intended to be **exhaustive** of all of the ways that regeneration harvest can be created? Or are these simply **some** of the ways?

Yes, it is an exhaustive list. The Forest Plan definition of Regeneration Forest Habitat states "Forest is which almost all the trees are 0-9 years old with less than 30 square feet of basal area in a mature overstory. Can be created through natural disturbance (e.g. wind, fire) or the following silvicultural treatments: clearcutting, seed tree harvest, and shelterwood harvest to 30 basal area of less or with removal harvest withing 10 years of original harvest." (Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 23)

The Forest Plan definition of Regeneration Harvest is "A harvest that removes selected trees in the existing stand to a density that allows for the establishment of a new stand." (Forest Plan, Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 23)

Can you or someone from the silviculture staff help me understand how a group selection harvest (uneven-aged according to your email) or patch cut (even aged) is **incapable** of creating those conditions on the ground? In other words, why wouldn't forest regrowth from group selection harvests or patch cuts also be considered regeneration age forests?

The Forest Plan definition of Patch Cutting states "a term used to describe a cutting system in even-aged management. It defines a clearcut 2-10 acres in size." (Forest Plan, Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 21) A patch cut treatment creates a new stand.

The focus of a group selection harvest is not to create a new stand of each group. It is an "uneven-aged cutting method that describes the silvicultural system in which trees are removed periodically in small groups, resulting in openings that do not exceed an acre or two in size. This leads to the formation of an uneven-aged stand, in the form of a mosaic of age class groups in the same stand. It may be applied in combination with single-tree selection." (Forest Plan, Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 11)

Also, what is meant by "Forest" at the beginning of the definition (i.e. "Forest with less than 30 square feet of basal area in the overstory...")? What size of an area must have less than 30 square feet of basal area?

A Stand is our management unit related to forestry. The Forest Plan definition of a stand is "a community of naturally or artificially established trees of any age sufficiently uniform in composition constitution, age, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities, thereby forming a silvicultural or management entity." (Forest Plan, Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 30)

The area size depends on the size of the stand being managed.

Thanks for your help.

Zack

On Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 4:14 PM Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org> wrote:

Thank you, Theresa.

Zack

On Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 12:17 PM Corless, Theresa - FS, NH <theresa.corless@usda.gov> wrote:

Zack,

The Forest Plan definition is:

“Regeneration Forest Habitat: Forest with less than 30 square feet of basal area in the overstory in which almost all the trees are 0-9 years old. Can be created through natural disturbance, clearcutting, seed tree harvest, shelterwood harvest to 30 basal area or less, or shelterwood harvest with removal harvest within 10 years of original harvest.” (Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Glossary, p. 24)

Related to the group selection question. We manage stands, a group or single tree & group prescription would be an uneven-aged prescription for a stand that has planned repeated entries over time as a single stand and not just individual small groups that are part of the larger stand. The silvicultural stand is identified and managed as such into the future. Even-aged regeneration type treatments focused on the managed of individual stands resulting in stands with “almost all trees in 0-9 year old” range are stands created by clearcuts, seed tree, shelterwoods, etc as indicated by the Forest plan definition above.

Best,

Theresa






Theresa Corless (she/her)
Forest Planner and Environmental
Coordinator

Forest Service

White Mountain National Forest

p: 603-536-6135

theresa.corless@usda.gov

71 White Mountain Drive
Campton, NH 03223
www.fs.fed.us
  

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Zack Porter <zporter@standingtrees.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 10:59 AM

To: Innes, James - FS, NH <james.innes@usda.gov>; Corless, Theresa - FS, NH <theresa.corless@usda.gov>; Hall, Scott - FS, NH <scott.hall@usda.gov>

Subject: [External Email]Question re: WMNF Forest Plan Age Class Objectives

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Hi Theresa, Jim, and Scott,

Thanks for your help with the questions that I have been sending your way.

The project documents that I have reviewed for the Tarleton, Peabody West, and Sandwich projects do not describe or reference a definition of "regeneration age" forest and how it can be created. I have seen suggestions in the 2005 WMNF Forest Plan and FEIS that regeneration age forest is created through even-aged harvests, but I do not see a definition, standard, guideline, etc... that clearly describes:

- 1) what the conditions are on the ground that would "count" towards regeneration age class objectives (i.e. the percentage targets in MA 2.1), or
- 2) how areas that would qualify as the regeneration age class can be created.

I realize I may simply be missing something in the Forest Plan. If so, can you point it out to me?

To give just one example to illustrate my questions: I recently learned that a group selection harvest that creates a two acre opening might **not** count towards the Forest Plan regeneration age class objectives. Can you confirm for me that this is correct? And if so, can you help me understand why?

Thanks,

Zack

--

Zack Porter

Executive Director, Standing Trees

he/him/his

Montpelier, VT

802.552.0160

zporter@standingtrees.org

Standing Trees works to protect and restore forests on New England's public lands.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

--

Zack Porter

Executive Director, Standing Trees

he/him/his

Montpelier, VT

802.552.0160

zporter@standingtrees.org

Standing Trees works to protect and restore forests on New England's public lands.

--

Zack Porter

Executive Director, Standing Trees

he/him/his

Montpelier, VT

802.552.0160

zporter@standingtrees.org

Standing Trees works to protect and restore forests on New England's public lands.