

Lyme Adirondack Timberlands

Mud Lake OSR Forest Management Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief summary of the treatment plan and outline the rational of needing to obtain an APA clear-cut permit. Most of the area being proposed for treatment under this permit could be treated without obtaining an APA clearcut permit, however this would require leaving a higher percent of undesirable stems or compromising proven silvicultural systems. Since we did not want to create a situation where the forester needed to manage the stand to stay above the regulatory threshold and avoided doing what is needed to achieve the desired future condition, we have elected to seek a permit to ensure regulatory compliance.

General Site overview

The treatment area is located on our Perkins Clearing tract ½ mile to the west of Mud Lake in the Town of Lake Pleasant. The entire tract is 14,379 acres in size and the proposed treatment area includes a total of 824 acres as described in more detail on the harvest plan document. Most of the permit acres were last harvested in 2010, 2015 and 2016 with shelterwood establishments, two areas were not treated with shelterwood establishments and will receive a different prescription.

The harvest areas treated with a shelterwoods in 2010, 2015 and 2016 will be prescribed a shelterwood removal with reserves. These areas responded with a mix of northern hardwood regeneration. Current overstory basal area is 58 ft²/ac (sugar maple 21%, white ash 19%, yellow birch 16%, red maple 16%, beech 14%, red spruce 8%, black cherry 5%, basswood/iron wood 1%). 66% of the overstory is acceptable growing stock while 33% is unacceptable growing stock, displaying poor form, canker, disease, broken tops, etc. The understory stems 1"-4" dbh consist of 1600 stems/acre (beech 56%, yellow birch 16%, striped maple 9%, sugar maple 7%, white ash 6%, red spruce 6%). Understory seedlings <1" dbh consist of 8000 stems/acre (sugar maple 28%, red maple 22%, beech 15%, 13% yellow birch, striped maple 10%, red spruce 4%, white ash 3%, balsam fir 3%, the remaining 2% is made up of elm, black cherry and ironwood). With a mature overstory and well established understory, an overstory removal with reserves will be prescribed to release a young age class of healthy, desirable species. Reserves will be selected from yellow birch, sugar maple, white ash, red spruce, red maple and black cherry stems to provide seed source into the future.

The harvest areas that were not treated with a shelterwood during the 2010, 2015 or 2016 harvests will be prescribed a free thinning. The overstory basal area on these acres is 110 ft²/acre and is made up of sugar maple, white ash, beech, yellow birch, red maple and red spruce. With a high percentage of healthy growing stock available, a free thinning will be applied to focus growth on future crop trees.

The terrain is flat to gently sloping hillside. There are no classified stream crossings within the harvest area; however, there are several intermittent crossings. Flagged edges will be the harvest boundaries. Care will be taken around all wetlands and stream buffers using the guidelines of the Management Plan.

All harvesting activities are conducted under the following controlling documents:

1. Lyme Adirondack Forest Company Forest Management Plan
 - a. Forest Management Goals and Objectives
 - b. Structure and Composition Goals
 - c. Silviculture guidelines and prescriptions
 - d. Strategies to promote biodiversity

- e. Riparian Management Zones
 - f. Aesthetic Guidelines
 - g. Soil disturbance Guidelines
- 2. Retention and Harvesting Guidelines – Forest Stewards Guild 2010
- 3. NY BMP's