

Indiana FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

Section II Natural Resources Information

Forest Land Interpretations

Woodland Management

Forest land interpretations are important to good woodland management. The management of trees begins with an understanding of the soil on which they grow or are to be grown. Some soils are very suitable for growing wood crops; others barely support tree cover. Different tree species may vary in production on the same soil.

Forest land interpretations should be used to assist landusers in planning, installing, and maintaining forest land management systems.

This subsection contains:

Explanation of Forest Land Interpretations
Woodland Interpretations for Indiana Soils

Explanation of Forest Land Interpretations

Woodland Management and Productivity

The Woodland Management and Productivity table, found in the published soil survey or Soil Interpretation Record, presents information about management and productivity by map unit in the survey area which is suitable for producing timber. Management concerns which are covered include hazard of erosion, equipment use, seedling mortality, and windthrow hazard. Ratings of SLIGHT, MODERATE, or SEVERE are used to indicate the degree of major soil limitations. Information on potential productivity includes plant competition, common trees, site index, productivity class, and trees to plant.

Management Concerns

EROSION HAZARD - the risk of erosion is slight if the expected soil loss is small; moderate if some measures are needed to control erosion during logging; and severe if intensive management or special equipment and methods are needed to prevent excessive loss of soil.

EQUIPMENT LIMITATION - A rating of slight indicates that use of equipment is not limited to a particular kind of equipment or time of year; moderate indicates a short seasonal limitation, or a need for some modification in management of equipment; and severe indicates a seasonal limitation, a need for special equipment or management, or a hazard in the use of equipment.

SEEDLING MORTALITY - The ratings are for seedlings from a good planting stock that are properly planted during a period of sufficient rainfall. A rating of slight indicates that the expected mortality of the planted seedlings is less than 25 percent; moderate - 25 to 50 percent; and severe - more than 50 percent.

WINDTHROW HAZARD - A rating of slight indicates that trees in wooded areas are not expected to be blown down by commonly occurring winds; moderate - that some trees are blown down during periods of excessive soil wetness and strong winds; and severe that many trees are blown down during periods of excessive soil wetness and moderate or strong winds.

PLANT COMPETITION - A rating of slight indicates little or no competition from other plants; moderate indicates that plant competition is expected to hinder the development of the fully stocked stand of desirable trees; and severe means that plant competition is expected to prevent the establishment of a desirable stand unless the site is intensively prepared, weeded, or otherwise managed for the control of undesirable plants.

POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY - This is discussed under the ordination class symbol.

COMMON TREES - Trees which generally occur on the soil are listed regardless of economic importance.

SITE INDEX AND PRODUCTIVITY CLASS - These are discussed under ordination class symbol.

TREES TO PLANT - Trees that are suitable for commercial wood production and that are adapted to the soil.

See the National Forestry Manual, Subpart B for criteria used in rating management concerns.
