Crop Tree Release
Why, How and When

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What are your goals?

- Lumber
- Wildlife
- Recreation
Management Plan –
Road Map to a Successful Project

- Addresses landowner objectives
- Describes site (soils, drainage, aspect etc.)
- Provides direction on accomplishing your goals
- Provides direction on maintaining your project
Crop Tree Release

What is it?
Crop Tree Release is a way for you to pick your future forest.

A way for you to reduce the competition (Basal Area) within an even age stand of trees.
What is Basal Area?

- The cross-sectional area of a tree trunk measured in square inches at 4.5 feet above ground level.
- Used to determine stocking level in a stand of trees.
- How Many Cows!
Prism Cruising

In-Count
Out-Don't Count
Borderline-Count every other one

Prism Cruising is a fast method of obtaining an estimate of basal area in a stand of trees.
Upland Central Hardwood Stocking Guide

Relation of basal area, number of trees, and average tree diameter to stocking percent for upland central hardwoods. Tree-diameter range 7-3 (page 39). The area between curves A and B indicates the range of stocking and
Why do we use Crop Tree Release

- Reduce competition within a stand of trees.
Species Diversity
Meet Management Goals
Forest Health
How do you do Crop Tree Release?
Crop Tree Selection

- Base your crop tree selection on your personal goals.
  - Wildlife
  - Timber production
  - Esthetics
  - All of the above

- You should pick trees based on:
  - Desirable species
  - Good form
  - Good canopy growth
  - Proper spacing
Crop Tree Release

- Select a crop tree every 30 feet.
- Mark it with flagging or paint.
- Kill any tree that is competing with the canopy of your crop tree.
Double Girdle
When do I want to release my trees?
This will depend on your goals!

- Wildlife- may want a very open canopy.
- Lumber- fine line between too much and not enough competition.
- Usually at 4 to 6 inches in diameter.
- Use you stocking guides.
Crop Tree Release

One of the best things you can do for your woodlands.