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Dead River Campers, Inc.
P.O. Box 323
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July 22nd, 2017

RE: Management Unit #3 & #4 Timber Sale Overview Field Day

Dear DRCI Members,

Below is a summary of the forest management activities that are planned for Management Units #3 and #4.

Management Unit 3a Summary: ~81 Acres

Management Unit 3a will be divided into three separate harvest units. The majority of the acreage in this area will be treated with an Individual tree selection harvest in which roughly 35 percent of the timber volume will be removed. Trees to be cut will be marked with orange paint and selected based on health, vigor, form, spacing, and maturity among other factors. The objective of this harvest is to concentrate the growth of the forest on the high quality trees that are retained while also allowing enough sunlight through the forest canopy to encourage the advancement of sugar and red maple regeneration. Where possible management techniques will be implemented to encourage forest diversity by creating conditions conducive for the growth of tree species such as white pine and red oak.

A portion of Management Unit 3a that was originally scheduled to be treated with an individual tree selection harvest will now be treated with a species removal harvest in which all merchantable maple, spruce, balsam fir, white birch and aspens will be harvested. The reason for this change is that the maples found in this portion of the unit are generally in poor condition and not well suited to the somewhat dry soil conditions found here. Harvesting this area in this fashion will allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor and encourage mid shade tolerant species including white pine and red oak to regenerate and advance into the forest canopy.

The remainder of Management Unit 3a will be treated with a modified clearcut. This area is comprised of very low quality red and sugar maple with a large component of balsam fir and spruce. The harvesting specs in this area will be to cut all trees five inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) and greater except pine, hemlock, cedar, red oak, and elm. Conducting a modified clearcut in this area will encourage natural regeneration that will provide a source of food and cover for many species of wildlife. The open conditions following the harvest will also promote the regeneration of species well suited to the site including white pine, white spruce, and to a lesser extent red oak.

A portion of Management Unit 3a that was originally scheduled to be clearcut will be omitted from harvest altogether to protect the integrity of a small stream that flows through it. In addition a hawk nest observed within the individual tree selection harvest area will be protected with a no harvest buffer that extends roughly 60 feet in all directions from the nest.

Management Unit 3b Summary: ~113 acres

Management Unit 3b will be treated with three different forest management techniques including an individual tree selection harvest, species removal, and an overstory removal. The individual tree selection harvest and species removal harvest are being implemented for the same reasons and will follow the same guidelines previously described for Management Unit 3a.

The overstory removal harvest is being implemented to salvage some timber that was left following an aggressive harvest that took place roughly five to ten years ago. This harvest retained some low quality maples that were then sun scorched following the previous harvest. These maples are found in clumps or patches throughout the area depicted on the Management Unit 3b Activities map. Therefore only portions of this area will be treated during this timber harvest, not the entire 53.1 acres which is shown on the map.

Management Unit 4a Summary: ~21 acres

Management Unit 4a will be treated with two different forest management techniques including an individual tree selection and a modified clearcut harvest. The individual tree selection will follow the same guidelines discussed in Unit 3a and the results of the harvest will look nearly identical.

The modified clearcut will be implemented to utilize the mature jack pine and spruce that is present and to encourage the natural regeneration of white spruce, red oak, white pine, red maple, and to a lesser extent aspen. White spruce, red oak, and white pine are very well suited to the soil conditions found here and therefore promoting their growth will be more beneficial than conducting a thinning which favors the growth of maples which are not well suited for the growing conditions present.

Management Unit 4b Summary: ~48 acres

Management Unit 4b will be treated with an individual tree selection harvest and a species removal harvest. The individual tree selection harvest will focus on promoting the growth of high quality sugar maple and creating conditions conducive for maple regeneration. Tree selection will follow the same guidelines as those described for Management Unit 3a and the result of the harvest will have a very similar appearance.

The species removal harvest located in the area south of County Road 510 will be focused on creating cover and browse for wildlife while also promoting the growth white pine, hemlock, and to a lesser extent red oak. This harvest will be conducted by cutting all merchantable red and sugar maple, balsam fir, white spruce, aspen, ironwood, and white birch. Following the harvest this site will regenerate naturally with a mixture of white pine, hemlock, red oak, white spruce, red maple, white birch, and balsam fir. The regenerating forest will create browse and cover suitable to many species of wildlife.

The species removal harvest located on the north side of County Road 510 is being implemented in a different forest type with a different goal. The forest here is comprised of a mixture of high quality red oak and low quality red and sugar maple with occasional basswood, yellow birch, white birch, ironwood, balsam fir, white spruce, and white pine. Trees to be cut will include all merchantable red and sugar maple, basswood, yellow birch, white birch, ironwood, balsam fir, and white spruce. This harvest will retain all of the red oak, white pine and any hemlock or cedar that may be present. The result of this harvest will be a partially opened canopy that will promote the growth and regeneration of red oak and white pine. In addition species including red and sugar maple, balsam fir, and white spruce will also regenerate naturally.

Addressing Shareholder Concerns:

A large part of conducting a successful timber sale on any private ownership is ensuring that all shareholder concerns have been received, considered, and where possible appropriately addressed prior to the sale being sold to a logging company. Once a timber sale is sold to a logging company a contract is drafted between the landowner and the logging company that outlines the tasks that must be completed by the logger and the payment schedule. Trying to address shareholder concerns after a sale is under contract is difficult because addressing these concerns often adds more time and work required by the logger which often leads to a reduction in payments to the landowner. Making these contractual changes during times of active logging is cumbersome and inefficient. However, if these concerns are considered and addressed during the pre-sale set up work they can often times be easily incorporated into the timber sale contract before it is sold to a logging company.

Common concerns that are typically addressed include the following:

- a) Maintaining personal use trails throughout the duration of the timber sale.
- b) Blocking or maintaining access sites following the completion of the sale.
- c) Aesthetics following the completion of the sale.
- d) Harvest timing restrictions (ex. Busy 4th of July week)
- e) Others???

Thank you for taking the time to attend this field day and voice your concerns. I hope you found the time valuable and educational. We at Green Timber will continue to work with the DRCI board to ensure the successful implementation of a timber sale in Management Units #3 and #4.

Sincerely,



Rexx A. Janowiak, ACF
Senior Forester
Michigan Registered Forester # 46012

Figure 1:



Individual tree selection harvest similar to those recommended in Management Units 3 and 4.

Figure 2:



Species removal harvest conducted on DRCI property in 2015.

Figure 3



Species removal harvest in a red oak stand similar to the one located in Management Unit 4b.