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Landowner's Objective for Management:

It is the intent of the owners to use the wooded tract as a wildlife habitat and as an investment for income from timber harvesting in the future.

Management Unit Description:

The entire tract of the Abernathy ownership, off McCroy Lane, is wooded with all aged mixed upland hardwoods. The terrain is very steeply sloping down to narrow intermediate streams. The streamside areas are narrow with only small amounts of alluvial soils. Exposed rocky outcroppings are along all upper side slopes.

Dominant species are red oaks (southern red, black, northern red), hickorys (shagbark, mockernut), ash, maples (sugar, black), and beech with associate species being white oaks (white, chestnut, post), cherry, sassafras, and persimmon.

The basal area, an indicator of stocking, is between 120 - 130 square feet of growing surface per acre. This is above average for stands of mixed crop tree hardwoods on the western section of the highland rim.

Increment samples taken from next generation crop tree oaks showed an average of 10 rings per inch. This is good growth for the steep slope site with relatively shallow soils and less than average moisture in the soil during the growing season.

Board footage of mature and maturing trees ranges upwards to 5200 board feet per acre. This is well within the range for a profitable selective harvest, however, there is harvesting complications and high costs due to the steep terrain and lack of flat loading sites for the cut logs.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
GREENBELT ASSESSMENT**

David Abernathy
865 West Trinity Ln.
Nashville, TN 37207

&
Mary Jane Baird
3 Morningside Dr.
Indianola, MS 38751

Davidson County

Total Acres - 21.05

Map No - 155

Parcel No - 0155.00

December 13, 2011

Total Wooded Acres - 21.05

Management History of the Forest Land:

The Abernathy property, owned for many years, is a very steeply sloping tract of woodland divided by small intermittent streams. There is evidence of two past harvests within the acreage, past wildfire damage to trees within the woodland, and some recent wind damage to several large trees.

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I was surprised to find numerous sapling size sassafras throughout the acreage. Sassafras is a "pioneer" species requiring full sunlight to become established and grow. This most probably indicates that at some time, many years ago, livestock was permitted to graze throughout the wooded acres. This livestock grazing creates small openings in the woodland.

Many of the older "climax" species of sugar maple and beech have damaged trunks. This damage was done by wildfire burning in the acreage. Farmers, in the early years of ownership, would burn pastures each year to eliminate weeds and tree seedlings and promote grass growth. These fires would often burn out of the pasture land and into the woods before being contained. Wildfires will kill back on the root collar and lower trunk areas causing decay to start in the heartwood of the trees and eventually extend all the way up to the limbs.

Two past harvests were made in the acreage. The first, most probably in the 1930's or 40's was to salvage the dead and dying American chestnuts. During this salvage harvest, other large mature trees were cut in the timber stands. The more recent harvest of very scattered trees was made along the eastern intermittent streams. This could have been near the property lines. These lines are not marked.

Prescription for Management:

All property lines should be marked to eliminate possible timber trespass. I recommend that multiple trees along all of the lines be marked with a spot of blue paint facing outward from the property. Any hunting within such a marked privately owned woodland must have written permission, by State of Tennessee Law.

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Consideration should be given to a selective harvest of the mature and damaged trees throughout the woodland. A harvest of these trees would provide an income and improve the future income potential from better quality crop trees. This is a recommendation to be considered in the future years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARED BY;

 12-2011

Ted K. Melton

Forester, Graduate, University of Georgia, School of Forestry