

Kung Fu Cats.....They do exist



**KUNG FU**

Welcome!

Freeborn County Soil and Water  
Conservation District Forestry  
Workshop

Sponsored by the Minnesota Forest  
Stewardship Program Administered  
through the MN Department of Natural  
Resources.

# Introductions

- Emily Hutchins – MN DNR Private Lands Wildlife Specialist
- Donald Flatness – Freeborn SWCD District Manager
- Mark Schaetzke – Freeborn SWCD District Technician

# Please fill out our Survey

- Helps us identify your interests and needs
- Helps us justify putting this workshop on
- Allows you to enter our door prize drawing
- We will give you a tree planting product for completing it

# Forest Stand Improvement (FSI)

FSI Is the active management of species composition, structure, health and growth.

Reasons for FSI vary with landowner goals and site characteristics.

# Reasons for FSI

- To increase quantity and quality of marketable forest products (saw logs, maple syrup, etc.)
- To harvest forest products
- To reduce potential damage from wildfire and pests.
- To restore “natural” communities
- To improve recreational or aesthetic values
- To improve wildlife habitat

# Reasons for FSI

- To improve a desired understory community
- To improve water and soil conservation
- To achieve a desired level of tree density

# Variables to consider

- Landowner goals and expectations
  - Vary greatly from person to person
- Site constraints
  - Wet
  - Dry/sandy
  - Adjacent lands
  - Floodplain
  - Existing vegetation
  - Local laws and ordinances



# Variables to consider

- Forest product markets
- Cost
  - Do it yourself or hire a contractor

# Methods

- Thinning
  - Removing a portion of desirable species to allow remaining individuals to grow faster and larger
  - Due to overcrowding
  - Sometimes happens naturally but takes much more time
- Release
  - Removing undesirable or less desirable competing vegetation to allow target species to grow

# Methods

- Selective Harvest
  - Similar to thinning but logs are of marketable size
  - Keep the best specimens
- Culling
  - Cutting and/or removing trees with disease, poor form, or damage problems
- Removal of a single species
  - Noxious or invasive species

# Methods

- Pruning
  - High maintenance activity
  - Correct form
  - Remove diseased or damaged portions
  - Improve mast or fruit production
- Prescribed burning
  - Oak Savannah
  - Decrease shrubs or seedlings
  - Decrease wildfire fuel

# Methods

- Tree planting
  - Increase diversity
  - Regeneration
  - Disease resistant specimens
  - Desired species and location
- Seedling protection
  - Rabbit, deer, vole browse

# Wildlife Considerations

- Determine target species
- Determine limiting factor(s)
  - Winter cover
  - Winter food
  - Nesting/Den habitat
    - Territories and predators
- Individual species needs vary
  - What is good for one species may not be good for another

# Sources:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Practice Standard, Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666

Questions?  
Comments?



It took me five years to learn, but now I can climb trees!  
Let's see if that darn cat will laugh at me now...