

Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Paint Creek Watershed Team

Site Assessment Survey

Site Number (date and chronological order)	4.11.12 Site 5
FS Veg Compartment and Stand Number	"site" included all of area along Ricker Mountain road, especially moderately sloping south and southwest facing ridges.
Approximate Elevation	2360-2760
Slope	Varying, gentle to steep
Aspect	South/South-West
What is the current Ecological system present at the site?	102 acres of regenerating Poplar stands below the road in oak ecosystems. Above the road there are at least 3 ridges that have some yellow-pine/oak and two draws that have some poplar dominated stands (totaling < 10 acres).
What does FS Veg say is the current Forest Type?	White Pine plantation (FT 3), Chestnut Oak (FT 60), Chestnut Oak-Scarlet Oak-yellow pine (FT 45)
What did Steve Simon's model predict would be at the site?	One area of White Pine dominated in Oak Systems. Several areas of Oak dominated in Pine system. Large amounts of dry oak, montane pine, and low elevation pine predicted, which is consistent with current vegetation.
Is the site in a desired condition? Could it be improved? What S-Class or System would we like to move it toward?	This site could be improved to provide an open pine woodland on the ridges and possibly increase the diversity of species present in the draws. White pine plantation could be regenerated with fire. Poplar dominated regen units could use tsi work.
What treatment options could be used to do that? How many entries?	Thinning and Prescribed Fire.
How many of those treatments could be done commercially?	Likely if bundled together. Could be a firewood sale if nothing else
Would there be a need for additional funding to complete treatments at this site?	Unknown
Does this site provide an opportunity to demonstrate a restoration treatment or condition that is better than other locations in the watershed? On the north end of the Forest?	Potential to provide a very good example of restoring Open pine woodlands.
Additional Comments/Discussion Points or unanswered questions.	Several south facing slopes that would be good for possible open oak/pine woodland. Thin to 40 basal area or lower leaving Yellow Pine and older Chestnut oaks and Black Gums. Scarlet oaks on site may help make the project commercially viable. Site needs additional ground truthing. Will need to determine burn lines. Currently not within

	a burn unit. Possible location for reintroduction of American Chestnut.
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Please paste photos below.



