Competing Vegetation Survey For Conifer Stands

Date: August, 1999
Application: All forested lands.

DISCUSSION

This task defines the method used to conduct a vegetation survey to assess vegetation that may affect the progression of a site to a forested ecosystem. This survey is designed to achieve forested ecosystems dominated by coniferous trees. When forest management unit objectives include higher levels of hardwoods, the suggested thresholds should be modified. The survey essentially compares a conifer seedling to an expected size range for its age. If the seedling's size is not within the expected range, it may be an indication that less desirable vegetation is competing with the seedling to occupy the site. An on-site survey should be done when competition is suspected. The survey results will identify the abundance of species of herbs, brush, and undesired trees, and provide information about the stress level on the coniferous portion of the stand. An informed decision can then be made regarding the appropriate treatment.

Action

(1) Conduct a field survey according to the Regeneration Survey Protocol (see guideline GL 14-006-010). Systematically distribute plots throughout the unit.

(a) Run survey lines across topographic contours to adequately sample differences in vegetation.

(b) Take a minimum of ten plots when vegetation is uniform or the goal is to control a single undesirable species.

(c) Take two plots per five acres when vegetation is clumpy, scattered, or uneven.

(2) Measure and collect information as specified on the Vegetation Survey Card for Conifer Release (see Attachment 1 of this task).

(3) Use Attachment 2 of this task to calculate the competitive interference level.

(4) Select the appropriate treatment options (see PR 14-006-040 and GL 14-006-030).

APPROVED BY: Michael Perez Gibson, Manager
Forest Resources Division
August, 199

SEE ALSO:

GL 14-006-010	REGENERATION SURVEY
GL 14-006-030	TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS
PR14-006-040	CONTROLLING COMPETING VEGETATION