



THE LOGGING IS COMPLETE, THE HARVESTS ARE NOT

The loggers have harvested all of their logs within the single-tree areas, group selections, and clearcuts. They have seeded their log yards and skid trails and moved on to another job. That means that the “harvests” are complete, right? No, not yet.

The loggers removed the trees that were marked and that they could sell. They left standing trees that were too small or too gnarly to be worth the fuel to haul them out of the woods. That means that the harvest areas—that have been harvested—are not clean slates. Not yet.

The next step will be to re-enter these areas and mechanically remove the smaller trees that are still standing. Many of these smaller trees are late successional species. If left alone, these species (mainly, sugar maple and beech) would grow quickly to shade out the bare sun-lit soil that oaks require to regenerate.

The post-harvest treatment of these sites is referred to as Timber Stand Improvement or TSI. The overall goal is to ensure that the new openings grow species that we wish to replace. TSI treatments will continue into the summer months.

SHELTERWOODS: Many hands make light(er) work!

HEE has six 10-acre shelterwoods. Each of these require an understory thinning which means the removal of some to most of the pole-sized trees up to about 10 inches in diameter.

The purpose of this effort is to make room for oak seedlings without promoting the growth of the sun-loving (and hogging)

tulip poplar. The end result of this initial cut is an open park feel.

On Saturday, November 1, members of Indiana Society of American Foresters and the Purdue student chapter of Society of American Foresters (pictured below) converged to tackle 20 acres of shelterwood thinning in one day!



Kneeling (Left to Right): Josh Maclam, Stephen Steele, Zach Seeger, Alex Finger, Andy Ritter
Standing (L to R): Mike Saunders, Andy Fox, Brian Bailey, Greg Koontz, Dan Shaver, Doug Brown, Brian Gandy, Matt Aghai, Olga Kildisheva, Justin Schmal; Not Pictured: Jim Allen.

Fencing OUT the Deer

When examining oak regeneration in Indiana, one must not underestimate the power of the ungulate. Although the deer in the study forests don't appear to be having as much of a devastating impact as they did in Brown County State Park in the 1980s and 90s, excluding deer from regeneration sites may have a positive impact on growing oak seedlings.

Currently, two technicians (Jeremy Sheets and Travis Stoelting) are working full-time this winter to erect thirty-two deer exclosures. These exclosures are 22 m by 22 m and 2.5 m tall. The exclosure placement is relative to harvest opening edge. In four 3-acre group selections, an exclosure is placed near the center of the opening, one is along the edge, and one is outside the 3-acre opening in the single-tree harvested matrix (Figure 1). In four of the six 10-acre clearcuts, a center, edge, and matrix exclosure is supplemented by an additional exclosure within the opening between the center exclosure and the edge (Figure 2). The four 10-acre shelterwood areas will only have a single center exclosure until the second shelterwood entry removes some of the overstory trees (not shown).

The goal is to have the poles in place and fence hung before leaf-out. This effort is funded by DNR's Division of Forestry, and is being lead by Scott Haulton (DNR) and Mike Saunders (Purdue).

These exclosures will be featured on the field tour during the HEE Annual Meeting (see last page of this newsletter for more information).

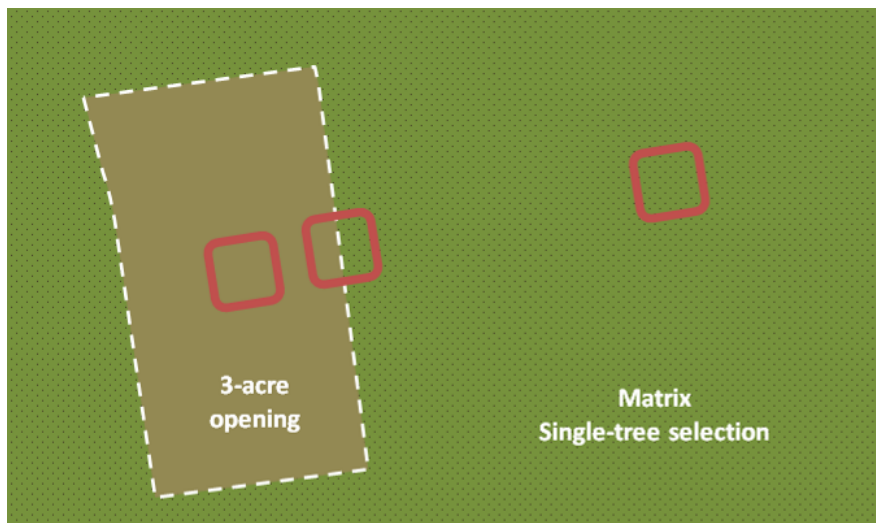


Figure 1. Diagram of 3-acre opening with interior, edge, and exterior exclosures.

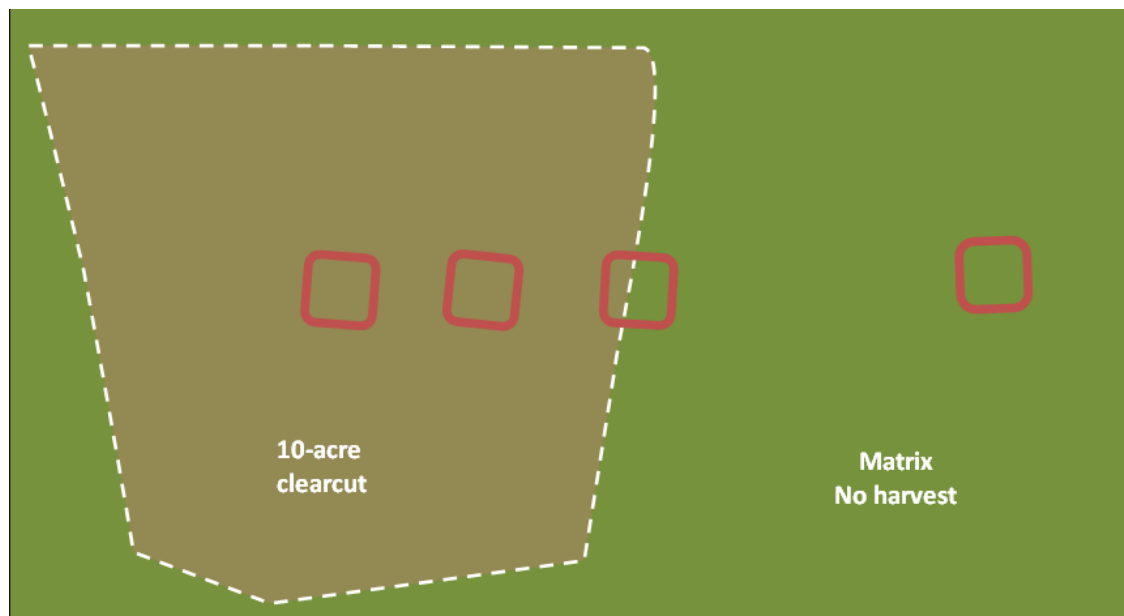


Figure 2. Diagram of 10-acre clearcut with interior, middle, edge, and exterior exclosures.

Executive Committee Update

The HEE Executive Committee met at Purdue on November 18. The following items were on the Committee's agenda:

Harvest Area TSI and Deer Exclosures — Materials and labor have been contracted with Purdue. These efforts will continue through spring.

Annual Meeting— The planning has begun. DNR will reserve a room for the indoor portion of the meeting at Brown County State Park.

Summer Field Crews—Vehicles and housing continue to be a limiting factor for our project. We hope to receive several salvage DNR vehicles to move the crews around. With extra technicians to house, we are expanding our presence at Morgan-Monroe and Brown County State Park. Additional housing will probably be rented in Bloomington

HEE Executive Committee Members:

John Seifert, IN DNR - DoF, Co-Chair	Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair	Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF
Duane McCoy, IN DNR - DoF	Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Education Committee Update

The HEE Education Committee completed its brochure. It is now available at the forest offices, and at the new sign on Main Forest Road at Unit 3 in Morgan-Monroe. Another meeting will be held in mid-February to discuss other opportunities.

HEE Education Committee Members:

Brian MacGowan, Purdue FNR, Chair	Brittany Davis, IN DNR - SPR	Jim Eagleman, IN DNR - SPR
Lenny Farlee, Purdue FNR	Bill Hoover, Purdue FNR	Melissa Malloy, Purdue FNR
Cortney Mycroft, Purdue FNR	Jeff Riegel, Purdue FNR	Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Timber stand improvement in harvest areas
- Continue deer exclosure installation
- Reconstructing salamander cover object grids
- Relocating and marking bird points
- Summer field crew hiring
- Annual meeting

A FOND FAREWELL

As many of you know, this is my final edition of the HEE Update, as I will be pursuing a new career direction in the coming weeks. It has been my pleasure to be a part of the HEE project.

If you know of someone who might be a good fit for my position, contact Barny Dunning (jdunning@purdue.edu) for more information.

Thank you all,
Cortney Mycroft

HEE Annual Meeting

The HEE Annual Meeting will be March 25 and 26, 2009. The early registration date is **March 1** — after that date the registration prices increase. You can download a registration form at <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/HEE/meetings/meetings.htm>. If you are planning on staying overnight, we have rooms blocked at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park. Rooms are \$89 per night. Call 1-877-lodges1 and use the group code 0325PE. This room block will be released if rooms are not reserved before **MARCH 1**.

Summer Field Season Technicians

Summer is right around the corner. We've begun the search for summer technicians. Please direct any interested parties to our website <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/HEE/People/jobs.htm> for job descriptions and applications. Anyone interested in gaining experience in sampling birds, bats, turtles, snakes, small mammals, and vegetation should visit this site. Field housing is provided.

DOCUMENTING CHANGE



John Maxwell, of Indiana DNR, stands poised over his meticulously leveled tripod to take the HEE project's second round of 360° pictures. These pictures will be used to show the regrowth of the forest after harvest.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please send your news, findings, tid-bits, publications, funding opportunities, and committee reports to Cortney at mycroftc@purdue.edu to be included in "The HEE Update."

"The HEE Update" is distributed to anyone interested in receiving quarterly updates on the HEE Project—you need not be actively involved in the project. If you know of someone that would like periodic updates on HEE, we can add them to the list!

Previous issues of "The HEE Update" are on our website: HEEForestStudy.org.

NEW ADDITIONS:

Lauren Brierly, a graduate student in Purdue's Biology department, is working with Jeff Lucus to study the behavior of chickadees within our study areas.

Andrea Currylow, a graduate student in Purdue's Forestry and Natural Resources department, will be working with Rod Williams and Brian MacGowan to track box turtles in our study areas.

Welcome to the project!

Visit us on the web!
HEEForestStudy.org