

NOTES ON USE OF EXISTING STAND MODEL

- 1. Ownership objectives** - This model was developed with the assumption that production of high quality sawtimber is the primary objective of management. However, the same reasoning process will likely be used if other values, such as wildlife habitat, are more important.
- 2. Inventory and stand assessment** - These two steps are often combined. In some cases traditional inventory (cruise) data- volume, number of stems, etc. - may already be available and would be a good source of information for the first look at the stand. However, further assessment of the stand for such things as health, vigor, and stem quality is most often needed.
- 3. Acceptable or unacceptable for future management** - Again, this decision depends on the objectives of management. Assuming the goal is timber production, it will be determined primarily by stocking, composition, and condition (including age and quality) of the trees that are present.
- 4. Younger stand** - This refers to a stand that is below commercial size even for pulpwood. Pre-commercial thinning is sometimes advocated in these stands but all indications are that it can not be justified.
- 5. Older stand – pre-sawlog size** – What is done here depends on the density and composition of the stand. In many hardwood stands of this age nothing will be done – density is low enough that the best alternative is to wait for the first sawlog thinning. Where density of desirables is high, it will be primarily a thinning, and where other species are more prevalent it may be a combination thinning and improvement cut.
- 6. Older stand – sawlog size** – What is done in terms of cutting here will depend on the previous management of the stand. If it has been managed, the emphasis may likely be on thinning with some attention to improvement (composition and quality control). If the stand has had no previous management, the emphasis will be almost entirely on stand improvement.