

CMU 3 - EAST-FACING SLOPE

Significant amounts of dead trees, woody debris and needle litter on the forest floor and draped on the lower limbs of the trees pose a high wildfire risk especially during the summer and early fall months. The unit has never been burned. There are currently no fire breaks within the unit. There is continued tree mortality from bark beetles present in the stand. This is due to the high number of trees per acre and the resulting general poor health of the trees. A neighbor stopped to visit with the clients when they and the planner were working near the county road. He indicated that his property about a ¼-mile down the road has been hit hard by the beetles, and he has lost his 20 acre forest. The clients expressed concern of mortality and fire hazard over their own stand to the planner.



Note: Wildfire hazard is a function of overstory, surface vegetation, ladder fuels, slope, and slope position. The day-to-day hazard is determined by fuel moisture conditions, air temperature, and wind velocity

A [zig-zag transect](#) was performed in the small conifer area to determine the stand conditions.

Tree No.	Species	Distance (ft.)	DBH (in.)	Condition	Notes
1	Conifer 1	6	4	POOR	Forked
2	Conifer 1	4	4	POOR	Suppressed, insects
3	Conifer 1	10	6	FAIR	
4	Conifer 1	14	8	GOOD	
5	Conifer 1	2	4	POOR	Suppressed
6	Conifer 1	5	6	GOOD	
7	Conifer 1	3	4	POOR	Suppressed, insects
8	Conifer 1	12	8	GOOD	
9	Conifer 1	13	8	GOOD	
10	Conifer 1	10	6	GOOD	
11	Conifer 1	11	6	POOR	Suppressed, forked
12	Conifer 1	7	4	POOR	Suppressed, insects
13	Conifer 1	13	8	FAIR	
14	Conifer 1	15	8	GOOD	
15	Conifer 1	3	4	POOR	Suppressed
16	Conifer 1	14	8	GOOD	
17	Conifer 1	12	6	GOOD	
18	Conifer 1	5	4	POOR	Dying, insects
19	Conifer 1	6	4	POOR	Suppressed, insects
20	Conifer 1	7	4	POOR	Suppressed, insects
Totals		172	114		
Average		8.6	5.7		

All trees are the same shade-intolerant species. The trees were naturally established, i.e., not planted. The average spacing from the zig-zag transect indicates that the conifer stand density is 633 trees per acre: 43,560 sq. ft. per acre / (8.6 X 8.6) = 633. Canopy cover, as measured with a [spherical densiometer](#) is 93 percent. [Increment borer](#) cores show that the trees are 16 years old. There are 7 growth rings in the last inch of radial growth of the trees. Insect infestation occurs in 30 percent of the trees.