Young Stand Study
Snag Creation Research
12-12-00

Present: Joan Hagar, OSU; D'Lynn Williams, MF; Shane Kamrath, MK; Penny Harris, BR; Pat Boleyn, SO and Jim Mayo, CCEM.

This meeting was held to coordinate plans for implementing the snag creation study on the 16 treatment areas of the Young Stand Study. There are two questions the study will try to answer:

1. Do snags created in young stands (14" dbh) provide habitat for wildlife?
   -which species use them?
   -how soon after creation are they used?
   -how long after creation do they remain useful?
   -what method of creation is most effective?

2. Does snag density interact with thinning treatment to influence the abundance of any wildlife species?

The following changes and additions to the study plan were discussed and agreed to:

A. The two methods of snag creation to be studied are:
   1. Topping by chainsaw.
   2. Topping by chainsaw with inoculation of Fomitopsis pinicola (Red Belt Fungus).

This is one of the most common wood rot organisms, and functions on both living and dead trees. Two plugs will be inserted into the tree at points five and 10 feet below the sawn top. This should maximize the rate of spread. Tops will also be notched or "rough cut" to promote decay.

Inoculation, by itself, was dropped because it was felt this would not kill the tree for some time and the objective is to provide habitat as soon as possible in these young stands.

B. The overall number of snags prescribed for the stand is one per acre. A survey will be done during the spring bird count, to determine the number of snags that have developed since logging occurred. Each treatment area will then have snags created to bring the total to one per acre. Equal numbers of the two methods will be applied. A minimum of 24 snags per treatment area will be created for the study, 12 by each method. The maximum number to be created will be determined by subtracting the existing snags from the number of acres in the treatment area.

C. Snags will be dispersed through the treatment areas, to minimize territorial disputes between snag users. Created snags should be no closer than 80 feet from an existing snag. Snags will be created in pairs (one of each method), approximately 60 feet apart, and within two inches of the same dbh. Pairs will be spaced about 1 per two acres.

D. Topping height will be determined in the following priority:
-Greater than or equal to 50 feet.
-Above the fourth live limb.
-Minimum top diameter of six inches.

E. Only Douglas fir will be used in the study. Mixing species would create too many variables.

F. Creation methods will be applied to a range of diameter classes depending on the stand data for the treatment areas.

G. Red tree vole surveys will be done.

H. One contractor will be used for all of the treatments on the three ranger districts, with one person (Penny Harris) administering the contract.

I. The contractor will select the trees, tag them with a number and Wildlife Tree sign (on opposite sides of the tree), and record the following information for each one:
-tag number
-species
-dbh
-topped height
-#of live branches below topped height
-creation method (and if inoculated, which side the dowel is on, N,S,E or W)
-existing forage use

J. The contract will have a start date of September 1st and will run to December 15th.

K. Miscellaneous:
-Penny will order the inoculant.
-The YSS crew will designate the boundaries of the four controls for the contractor. The boundary tags on the harvest units are still visible.