

Soil - A Key Component in Forest Management Planning

John P. Dwyer
Department of Forestry
School of Natural Resources
University of Missouri at Columbia

Soil information is crucial to the development of a sound and sustainable forest management plan. Soil parameters are important in interpreting the vegetation - its survival, growth, and structure within the landscape. The first step in developing a comprehensive management plan is to locate, identify, and interpret the key soil parameters which influence not only what we see but what we might wish to see in the future. The implementation of a forest stand prescription involves the analysis and interpretation of data collected on the water, forest, vegetation, and soils which are present on the tract. Failure to account for any of these crucial elements will result in a prescription that may not meet the expectations of the landowner or forest manager.