

Swackhamer's Forestry Service

Heintz Trust Woodland Inspection Report

For: Mr. Sam Clark; Halderman Farm Management Area Representative

October 7, 2024

I inspected the Heintz Trust property in north-central Hamilton County, Indiana, owned by the Mary S. Heintz Living Trust. The property is located east of State Road 19 near the intersection of 216th Street. This is a summary of my findings.

Stand 1: This stand of timber is located in the south-east corner of the property and is approximately 8 acres in size. The species composition in this area consists primarily of Sugar Maple, Shumard Oak (a member of the Red Oak family), Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, and other species which make a minor contribution to the stand. The Oak Trees measure from 28" – 40"+ DBH (Diameter at Breast Height). Sugar Maple and Black Walnut in dominate and co-dominate crown positions range in size from 20" to 30" DBH.

The trees within this stand are mature to over-mature. Many trees are exhibiting various signs of decay. If timber production is a primary management objective I would recommend a timber harvest in the near future to capture the value of the mature and over-mature trees before they are lost. You may notice several large trees lying on the forest floor which have already succumbed to the ravages of age and decay.

If management objectives lean more heavily in favor of wildlife and aesthetic values the large trees offer large quantities of food in the form of acorn production (hard mast) from the oak trees, walnuts from the Black Walnut trees, as well as nesting and den cavities in the hollow trees. Additionally, the beauty of large mature timber can't be replaced in a human lifetime. Another potential value to this stand is as a sugar-bush for maple syrup production due to the large number of Sugar Maple trees. This is a specialty crop which involves lots of time and labor each February and early March, but the opportunity exists.

There is a light honeysuckle infestation in this stand which could be controlled with relative ease at this time, but several years of neglect will make the task much more difficult. Grape vines in this stand should also be controlled if timber production is a priority.

Stand 2: This stand is located just north of "Stand 1" and east of the wetland. It covers about 5 acres. The stand contains pole-sized and small-sawlog size trees. The primary species present are Black Walnut and Red (Shumard) Oak. There are also smaller amounts of Hackberry, Elm Species, and dead and dying Ash trees. Trees range from 8" – 18" DBH.



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This stand needs Forest Stand Improvement in order to control grape vines and release future crop trees. There is also a light infestation of honeysuckle in this stand which needs to be controlled. I would not anticipate timber being ready for harvest in this area for 20 – 30 years, depending on ownership objectives.

Wetland and Wild-lands: This property includes a natural wetland and adjoining areas of herbaceous cover surrounded by small trees and shrubs. The total acreage of the area is about 22 acres. The heart of the area which is free of tree growth is approximately 9 acres in size, while the area of the wetland itself is approximately 6 acres, according to the USDA Soils Website. At the time of my inspection in October 2024, the area was dry and I was able to walk across it without getting my feet wet or even muddy. The area defined as "water" on the Soils Website is primarily occupied by cattails. The tree-free area surrounding the wetland is occupied by Reed Canary Grass along with other grasses and forbs. The outer ring of cover in this area is occupied by various herbaceous plants along with some trees including Silver Maple, Black Willow, as well as some Black Walnut, Mulberry, and Hackberry.

I've seen quite a bit of rural central Indiana during my 44 years as a consulting forester and a wetland of this size isn't common, based on my observations. It could present an opportunity for enhancement to benefit a variety of wildlife species including waterfowl. I'm not sure of the possibility of doing work within this area with the goal of "Wetland Enhancement" as that subject falls outside my area of expertise. However, I'm sure the staff at the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Center would be able to provide information and resources concerning the opportunities possible for such a project.

Fields and Fencerows: Brushy fencerows may not be a farmer's friend, but they provide travel lanes, nesting sites, valuable edge habitat, windbreaks, food, and cover for a wide range of wildlife species. These areas combined with the woodlands, wetland, and wild-lands provide a diverse array of habitats for wildlife for those who value nature.

If row-crop agricultural production isn't your primary objective the smaller fields could be converted to native warm-season prairie grasses and wildflowers to further enhance wildlife habitat on the property. Although not guaranteed, I see the potential for Bobwhite Quail on this property with proper management. As they said in the movie *A Field of Dreams*, "If you build it they will come!"

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Swackhamer
Consulting Forester



Swackhamer's Forestry Service

Heintz Stand 1



Heintz Stand 2



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Wetland and Wild-Lands



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Sam Clark

From: Jeffrey Swackhamer <jeffrey_swackhamer@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 8:05 AM
To: Sam Clark
Cc: Jim Clark
Subject: Re: [External Email] Heintz Timber Evaluation

Sam,

It would depend on how aggressively it was marked. A ballpark guesstimate would be as follows:

$50 \text{ trees} \times 600 \text{ bd. ft. / tree} = 30,000 \text{ bd. ft.} \times \$0.50/\text{bd. ft.} = \$15,000$

It might be a little less or it could be a little more, depending on how much or how little defect is found in the large over mature oak trees, as well as how many walnut trees would be harvested and how well they grade.

Also, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so it would depend on how well the buyer thinks the trees will cut. That's why we recommend selling timber with a sealed-bid sale.

I hope this helps!

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 8, 2024, at 7:41 AM, Sam Clark <SamC@halderman.com> wrote:

Jeff

Thanks for sending this along. This detailed report will be helpful. Do you have any rough idea of what kind of dollars would be involved if someone did a timber harvest for the mature trees in Stand 1?

Thanks

Sam Clark

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