

RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP ANALYSIS

Background: A North Carolina landowner is suffering from an economic loss when a forester found Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers on her land. The landowner was planning to do some thinning and harvesting of the trees in order to derive revenue, improve habitat in other areas of her ownership, and to re-invest in forest management by using this revenue to pay for regeneration costs. Since her management objective was not focused solely on timber production, the stands were being managed on a longer than normal rotation period.

The Fish & Wildlife Service guidelines for protecting Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat call for no disturbance within a half-mile radius (about 502 acres) of the cavity nesting (colony) trees. The presence of this endangered species means that she can not harvest trees on 2000 of her 8000 acres. The landowner argues that good forest management practices have created prime habitat for the bird. She must now, however, stop her management practices and take a financial loss that can not even be written off her taxes.

Economic Conditions and Assumptions

Age class of acreage involved is 50 years-old

M.A.I. is 1.5 cds/ac/yr (chip-n-saw, small sawtimber)

Standing volume per acre is 75 cds

Value per cord is \$60

Timber value is $75 \text{ cds/ac} \times \$60/\text{cd} \times 2000 \text{ ac} = \$9,000,000$

Problem: As a natural resource management professional, your first job is to tackle this issue. The landowner argues that she has demonstrated her belief in a "guiding philosophy of land ethics". Yet, she is questioning both her decision and conviction regarding sustainable landuse in forestry.

Develop a concise statement of the pro's and con's of the issues involved. What solution(s) do you recommend? Do not be constrained in simply finding a biological solution; feel free to consider political and societal reform as well. Be sure to include an implementation plan to accompany your solution.