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Timber Management
Timber Marketing
Timber Appraisals

Ron Howard
4595 Colby Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

March 27, 2018

Dear Ron,

You had asked me to assess woodlots on properties owned by you in Sections 22 and 27 of Antrim Twsp. Shiawassee Co. MI for the possible logging of the timber present.

After walking the woods, I would recommend not cutting the timber at this time. There are a great number of very nice red oak trees within the woodlots. The diameter of many of these trees was 14 to 18 inches at chest height (the portion of the tree that gives the most accurate sense of its size). In my estimation, these trees are in their "teenage" years. I equate it to the growth of a human being in that regard. These trees have spent their energy so far growing upward- to get to the light necessary for their survival. Now, when many of them have attained most of their mature height they will spend more of their time growing their girth.

Diameter is very important when growing trees for best value. As the tree increases in diameter, it is putting on clear lumber, having pruned its lower limbs due to the new growth higher along its trunk. This clear lumber is what is most valuable for lumber and veneer. In addition, as diameter increases, volume does so almost logrhymically. A tree of 16 inch diameter has about 50% of the volume of a like formed tree of 20 inch diameter. Liken it to a car tire- a 10 inch tire does not go half as far as a 20 inch tire.

Since so many of these trees fall into that diameter class, cutting now would only take away from a much higher value that can be obtained in the relatively near future. Although some trees can be harvested at this time, cutting and removing them now would only risk damaging many of the others for the value that can be obtained. If one waits until more of the trees reach financial maturity any lanes and subsequent damage made to remove the trees from the woods would be spread over a larger number of trees. At that time, leaving the trails open for future logging and access would also minimize damage over future uses.

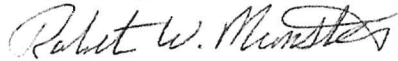
It is your decision as to whether to proceed with a harvest at this time or not. However, I try to view a woods as if it is mine and thus recommend waiting to cut for the cost/benefit ratio it involves.

If I were to do anything, it would be to girdle the existing cottonwoods and poorer quality soft maple specimens. Doing so would allow for more sunlight to hit the forest floor to allow for the growth of more trees that have good value. Of course, they can be cut for firewood, but the cottonwood have very little value as either a lumber tree or for

firewood. The value of girdling them or removing them would be to increase the sunlight for regeneration and lessen the competition for water and available nutrients that can better be invested in growth of trees that will increase the health and productivity of the woodlot.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns regarding your timber.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert W. Munsters".

Robert W. Munsters
Woodland Management Specialties, LLC
Michigan registered Forester #645
(517)543-0076