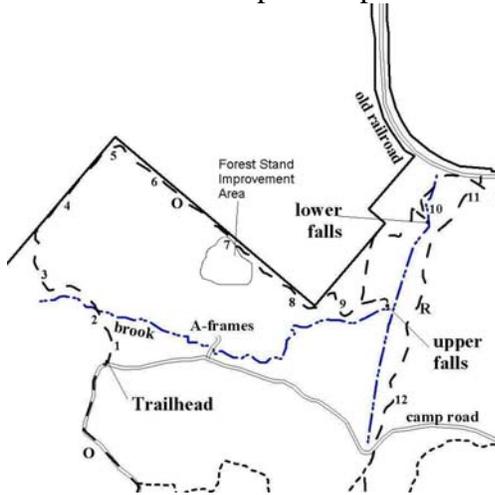


From the Forester: Intermediate Treatments

Drukker Scout Reservation: Camp Turrell and Camp Kluge for Forestry Merit Badge Requirement 4D

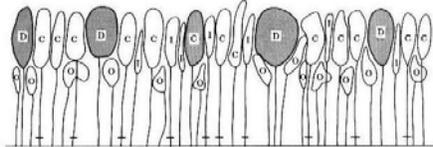
In forestry, intermediate treatments are used during the life cycle (or rotation) of a forest stand in order to improve a particular forest in accordance with the landowner's objectives.



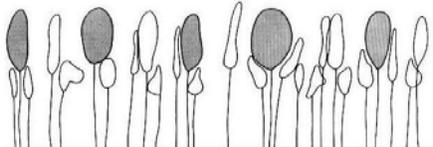
Forest Stand Improvement

The cutting under consideration for this area is a type of intermediate treatment known as “forest stand improvement.” This forest stand is composed of various oaks (52%), red maple (14%), and white pine (11%). Since many valuable oak trees are competing with low-value red maple trees, a decision was made to cut many (but not all) red maple trees. The trees to be cut will be marked by the forester. The forester will look at the oak trees and other desirable trees that the Council wishes to favor. Then, the forester will identify the trees that are competing with those desirable trees for sunlight, and will mark some of them for cutting. Later, in the winter

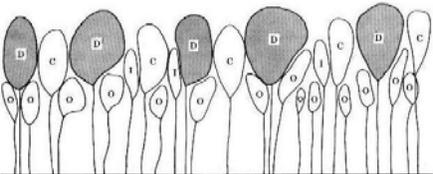
2006-2007, those marked trees will be cut.



Before



Immediately after



Several years after

(This graphic was adapted from “The Practice of Silviculture” by Smith, Larson, Kelty, and Ashton)

By cutting some of the undesirable trees that are directly competing with desirable trees, additional sunlight will be gained for the desirable trees. As a tree captures more sunlight with its leaves, it can produce more energy from photosynthesis, and grow faster and become healthier. Within a few years, the small holes in the forest canopy will be filled by additional growth of our desirable trees. This process of forest stand improvement is similar to weeding a garden, except on a much larger scale. This will be a non-commercial treatment, since no forest product will be gained by this treatment.

This brochure was written by the Northern NJ Council, BSA Conservation Committee (last updated 4/2006). For more information on conservation activities within the Council and at Council camps, visit <http://www.njbsa-conservation.org>