

# Management Options and Potential to Sustainably Intensify Production of Planted Forests: A North American Perspective

Thomas R. Fox

Garland Gray Distinguished Professor of Forestry  
Director, Forest Productivity Cooperative  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



**FOREST PRODUCTIVITY COOPERATIVE**

North Carolina State University · Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University · Universidad de Concepción

Joint EFIATLANTIC and IEFC Annual Meeting  
13-15 June 2016  
Biarritz, France



# Sustainable Forestry

Meet the needs of the current generation for goods, services and processes from the forest without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their needs

- Wood and Fiber
- Non-Timber Forest Products
- Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat
- Air and Water Quality
- Soil Productivity
- Aesthetics and Recreation
- Carbon Sequestration

# Population, Forest Area and Wood Use in the World from 1980 to 2010

	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Population (billion)</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Forest Area (billion ha)</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Wood Use (billion m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>

**Source FAO State of the Worlds Forest**

Forest Aesthetics, Recreation, Wildlife Habitat,  
Clean Water, Carbon Sequestration, Non-Timber Products



Natural Hardwood Forest in Eastern United States

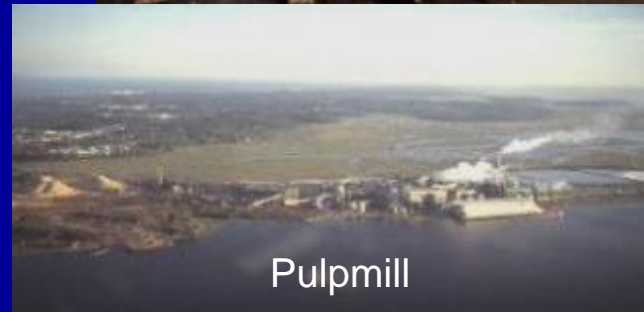
# How do We Meet the Demand for Wood For Multiple Products?



Sawmill



Biomass Energy



Pulpmill

# Native Forest

Growth rates in natural forests of the world average about 0.7 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr. At this level of productivity about 4.7 billion ha of forest land would be required to produce the wood currently consumed worldwide. However, there are only about 3 billion ha of forest land in the world (Binkley, 1997)

# Planted Forests

If managed planted forests could produce  $10 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$  (a growth rate already achieved in most high yield plantations) then only 0.15 billion ha of plantations would be required to meet the current demand for industrial round wood in the world (Sedjo, 1997)

**Intensively managed plantations will have to play  
a significant role in the world if we  
are going to meet the increasing demand for  
forest products without negative impacts to the  
remaining natural forests of the region and the world**



# Overview of Planted Forests in North America



## Planted Forest Area (ha)

Canada: 425,000  
US Pacific Northwest: 5,515,000  
US North: 1,748,000  
US South: 14,150,000  
Mexico: 50,000  
Total: 21,888,000

## Total Forest Area (million ha)

Canada: 418  
US: 302  
Mexico: 55  
Total: 775

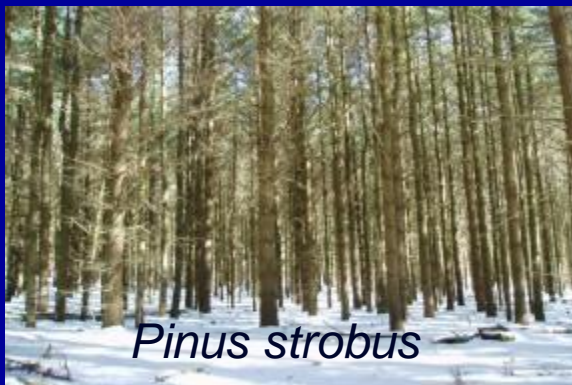
# Overview of Plantations in North America



Rotation Ages: 30-45 yr  
MAI = 15 - 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr



Rotation Ages: 7-10 yr  
MAI = 20-30 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr

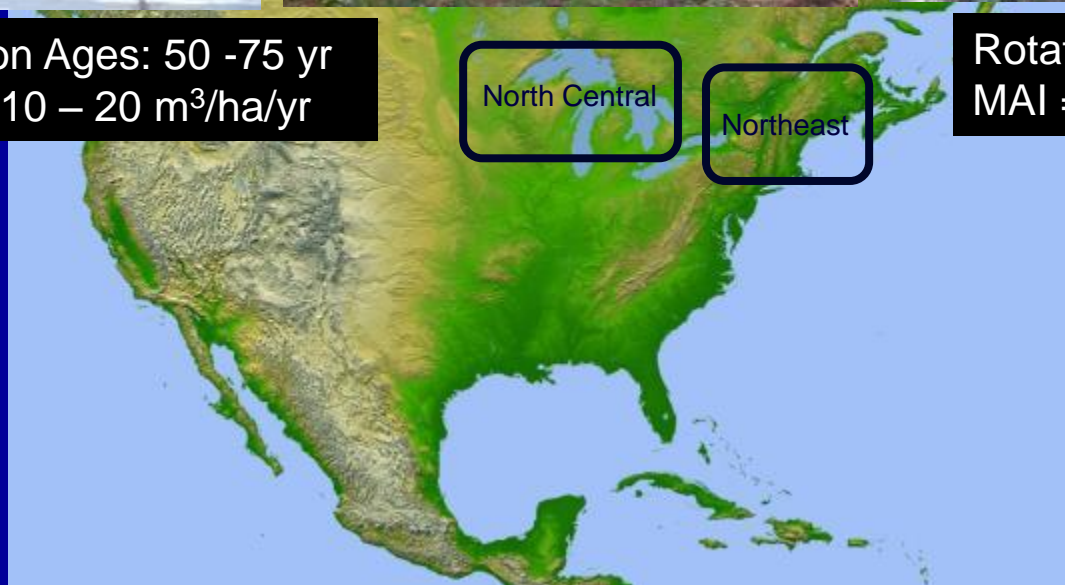


Rotation Ages: 50 -75 yr  
MAI = 10 – 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr

North Central

Northeast

Rotation Ages: 50 -75 yr  
MAI = 3 -5 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr





# Overview of Planted Forests in No



*Salix spp.*

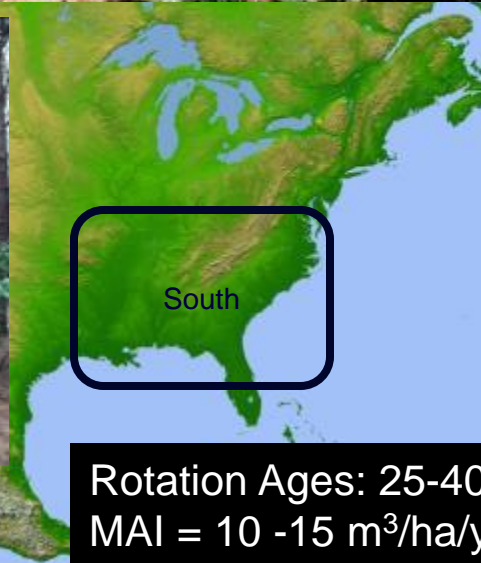
Rotation Ages: 3 -4 yr  
Yield = 20 - 35 odt/ha

# Overview of P



Rotation Ages: 15-25 yr  
MAI = 15-20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr

Rotation Ages: 15-25 yr  
MAI = 15-25 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr



Rotation Ages: 25-40 yr  
MAI = 10 -15 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr

*Pinus palustris*



Rotation Ages: 15-25 yr  
MAI = 10-15 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr

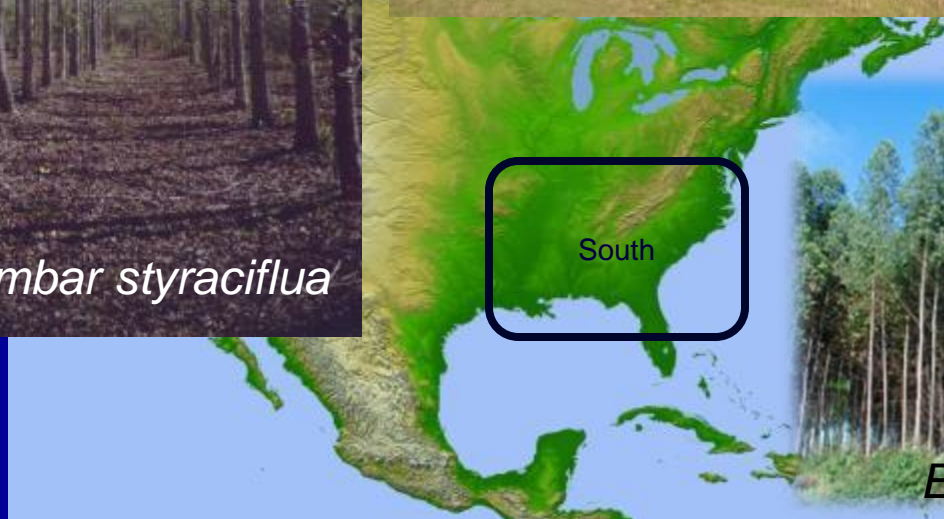


E

Rotation Ages: 7-10 yr  
MAI = 10 - 20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr



Rotation Ages: 7-10 yr  
MAI = 30-40 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr



# Overview of Planted Forests in Mexico

Rotation Ages: 7-10 yr  
MAI = 30-40 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr



*Tectona grandis*



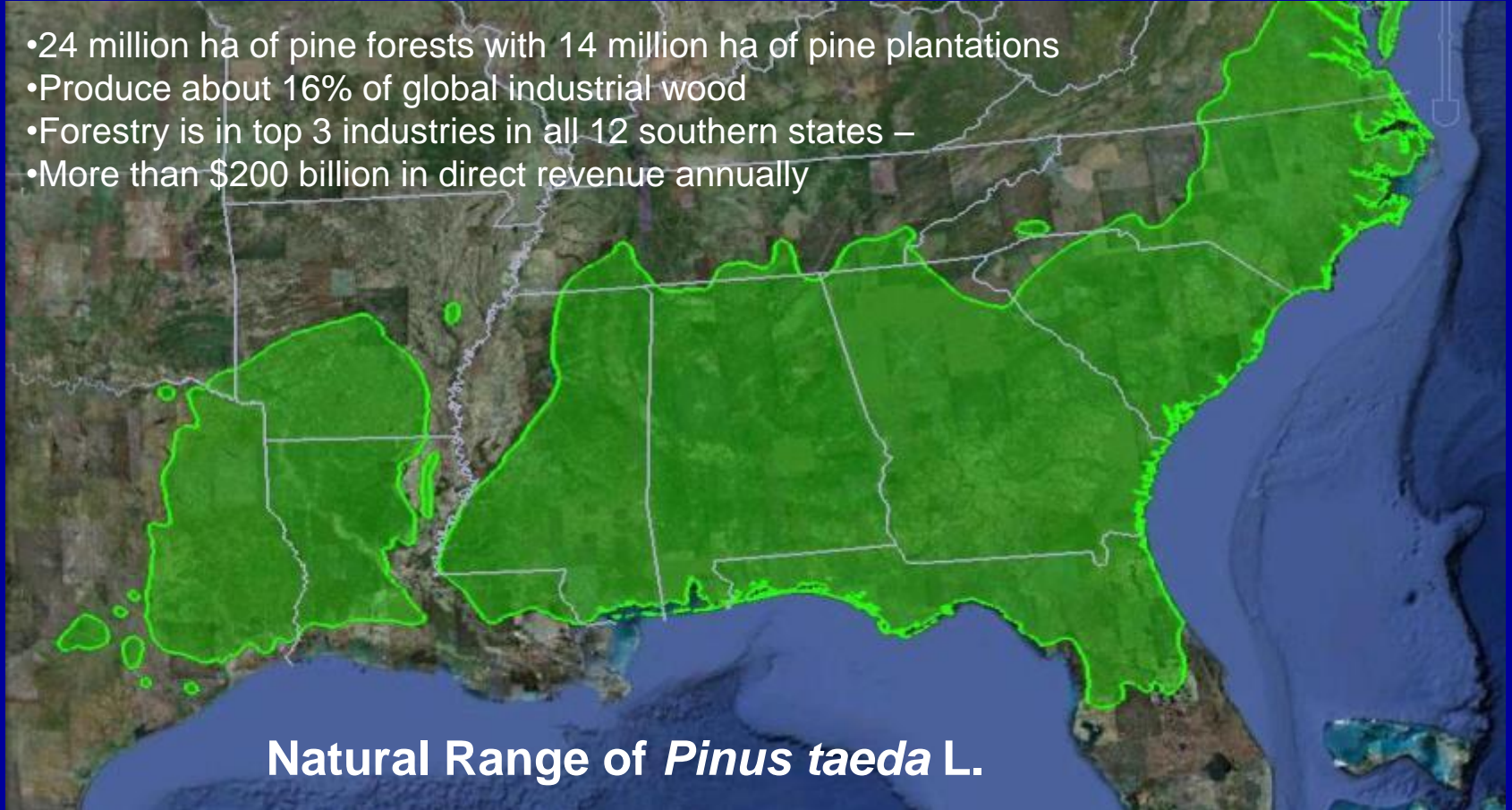
*Eucalyptus grandis*

Mexico



# Southern Pine Forests in the US

- 24 million ha of pine forests with 14 million ha of pine plantations
- Produce about 16% of global industrial wood
- Forestry is in top 3 industries in all 12 southern states –
- More than \$200 billion in direct revenue annually



**Natural Range of *Pinus taeda* L.**





Fertilization



Weed Control

***DEVELOP SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES  
THAT INCREASE GROWTH AND IMPROVE  
FINANCIAL RETURNS  
OF FOREST PLANTATIONS THAT  
INTEGRATE GAINES FROM GENETIC  
IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES***



Elite Genotypes

# Genetics and Tree Improvement





# Growth of Elite Loblolly Pine Genotypes

## Age 4 Clonal Loblolly Pine



Courtesy of Cellfor

# Site Specific Silvicultural Practices Are Needed To Achieve Optimal Growth

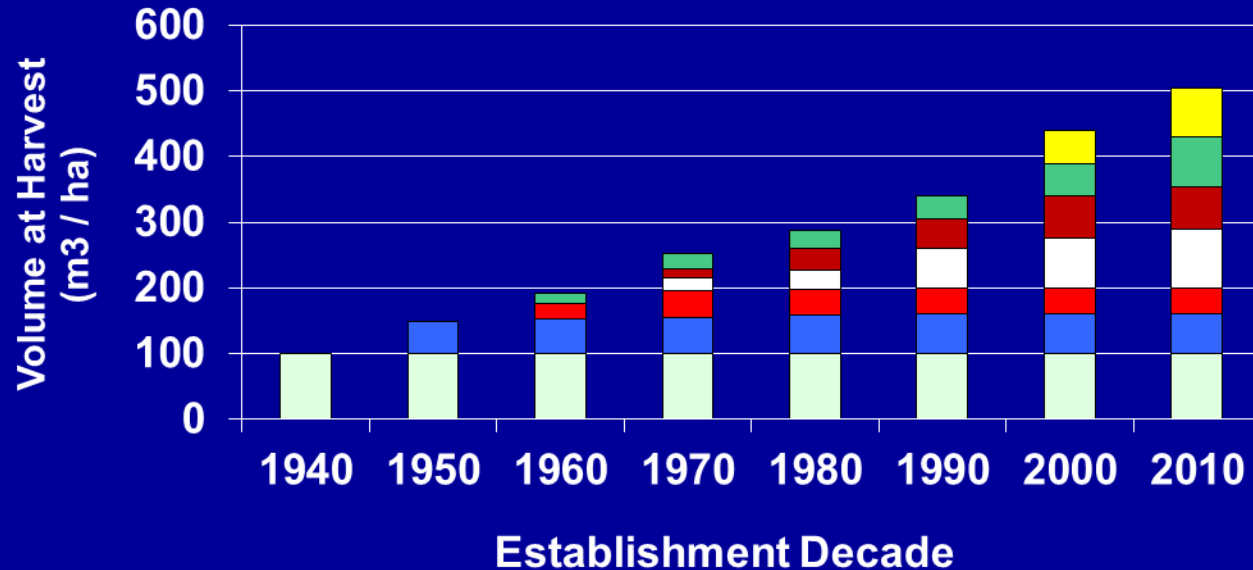


# Impact of Weed Control and Fertilization on Growth of Loblolly Pine in Georgia





# Contribution of Silvicultural Practices to Productivity Improvements in Pine Plantation in the Southern USA



■ Natural Stand

■ Planting

■ Site Prep

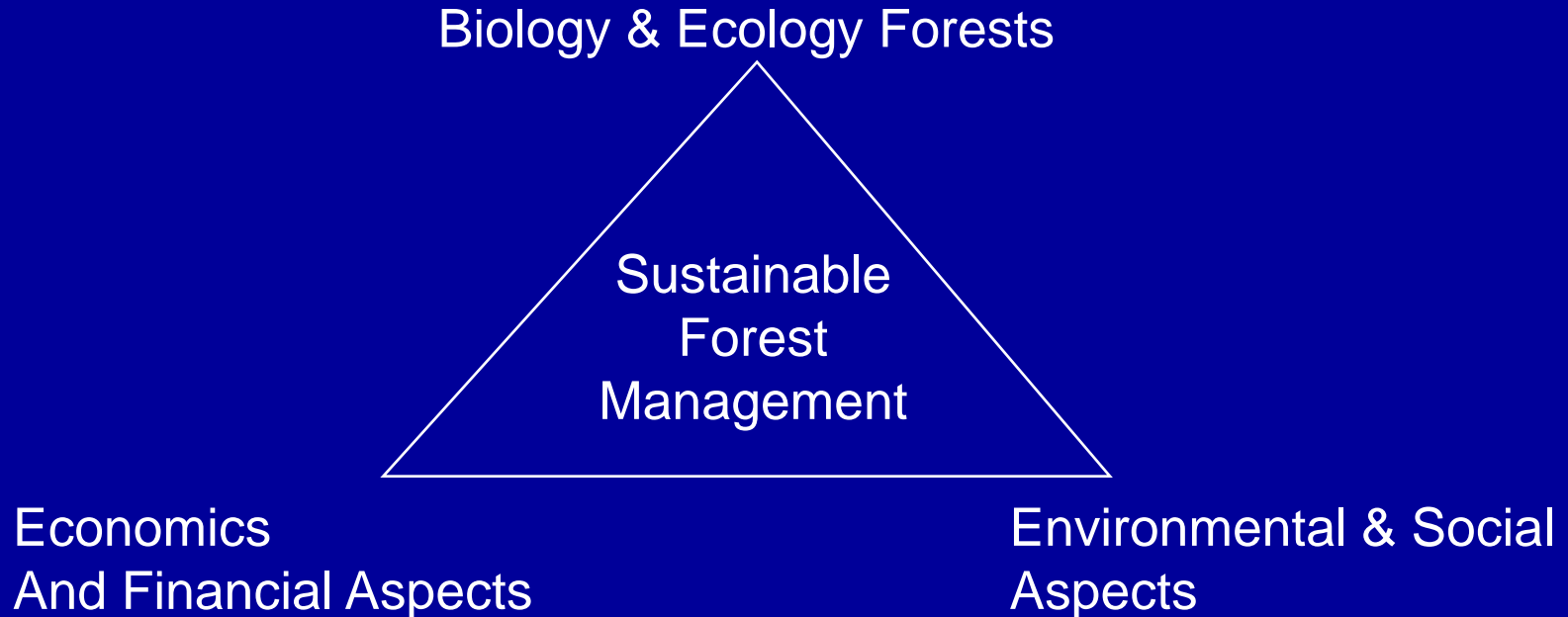
■ Fertilization

■ Weed Control

■ Tree Improve

■ Biotech/Clonal

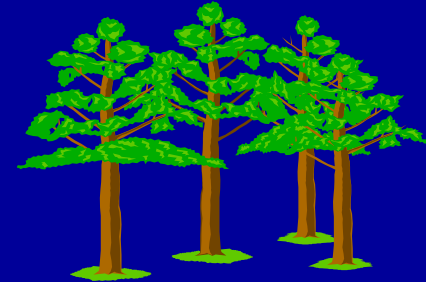
Our goal is to develop sustainable forest management regimes based on forest biology and ecology that are environmentally & socially acceptable and that generate acceptable financial returns from the forest



# **To Meet Stewardship Responsibilities and to Achieve Acceptable Financial Returns from the Landbase, Site-Specific Management Regimes Must be Implemented**

---

- Intensively Managed Plantations
- Extensively Managed Plantations
- Stands Managed Using Natural Regeneration
- Stands Managed Primarily for Objectives  
Other Than Timber Production (SMZ's)

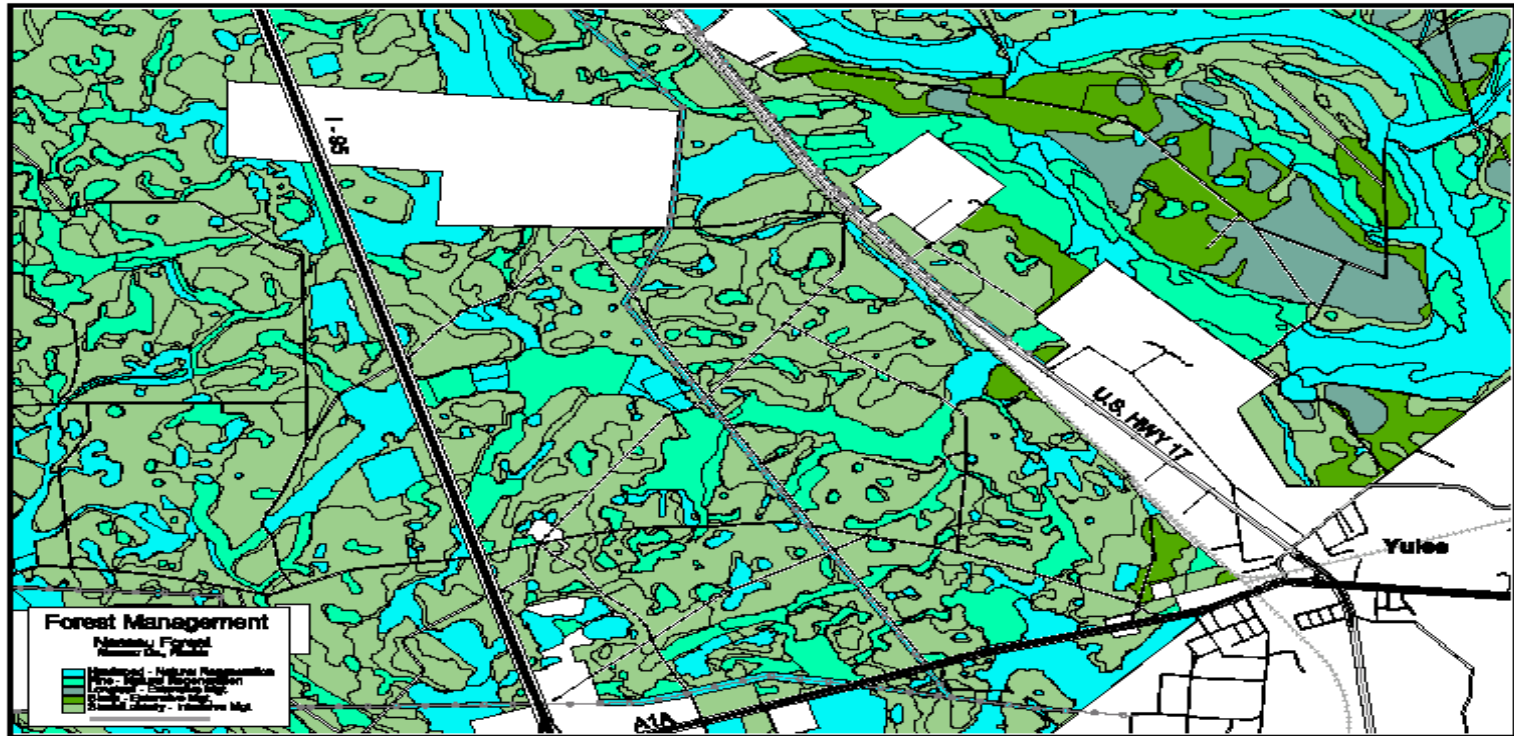




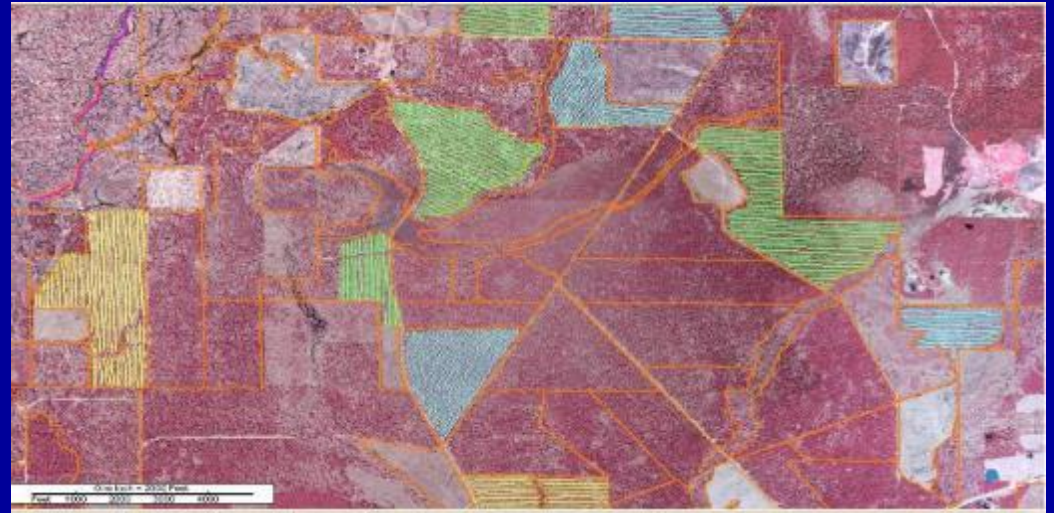
## Soil Variability



# Soil Based Management Guidelines for Forest Management



# Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS Technology for Precision Silviculture





# Planted Forests and Natural Forest Both Have Values and Complement One Another on the Landscape

