

WOODLAND SUITABILITY GROUP 5

These soils have high site index, mostly severe but some moderate equipment limitations, moderate pest and disease hazard, and slight or moderate windthrow hazard. They have a slight limitation for growing Christmas trees.

The soils in this group are suited to medium intensity management, but management is more difficult than for soils in most other groups, mostly due to steeper slopes. Tree growth rates are moderate and economic returns cannot be expected as soon as for Groups 1, 2, and 3. Thinning should be done at an early age and trees should be pruned before they reach a diameter of 15 inches at breast height. Damage from insect pests can be expected on some soils in most years, but it should not be excessive, except in extremely dry years.

Logging is more difficult on the soils in this unit than on the soils in Group 4 because of steepness. In places, logging during wet weather can cause compaction. Soil compaction can affect germination and future stand densities. Logging wet soils can cause ruts. The ruts can be the beginning of gullies.

Locating and building roads is fairly difficult, but only on a few soils will roads need to be graveled for year-round use. Roads and skid trails should be protected from runoff.

Main roads need bridges, ditches, and culverts. Temporary or minor roads need to be outsloped and grades need to be sloped downward toward the watercourse for a short distance on both sides where they cross creeks and draws. Grades should not exceed those considered safe in existing design standards and construction practices. Adequate erosion-control measures are needed.

Fire is difficult to control because slopes are steep.

Areas where trees have been removed by fire or other causes can be prepared for planting only with difficulty. If planting is done by machine, the steeper soils should be terraced (slightly out-sloped). A planting machine is impractical where there is cobblestone or rock.