

WOODLAND SUITABILITY GROUP 3

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

The soils in this group are excellent forest soils, but because of dominantly steep slopes, they are suited to only moderately intensive management. Trees grow rapidly and reasonable economic returns can be expected at an early age. Thinning and pruning can be started even after the trees have become fairly large. Seedlings become established fairly easily after logging if a seed source is near. Logging is difficult because of steepness.

In places, logging during wet weather can cause soil compaction which 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 difficult, but most roads do not need to be graveled for year-round use except in some places. Roads and skid trails should be protected from runoff water. Main roads need bridges, ditches, and culverts. Temporary or minor roads should be out-sloped, and grades should be sloped downward toward the watercourse for a short distance on both sides, where the road crosses creeks or draws. Grades should not exceed those considered safe in existing designs standards and construction practices. When constructing roads, adequate erosion control measures are needed.

Fire is difficult to control because of steepness of soils. The soils in areas where trees have been removed by fire or other causes are difficult to prepare for planting. Planting is by machine on gentle slopes when the soils are not adversely affected by the use of machinery.