

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Forest Renewal: a Young Forest Pictorial



Growing a Forest: the First 18 Years
June 2013



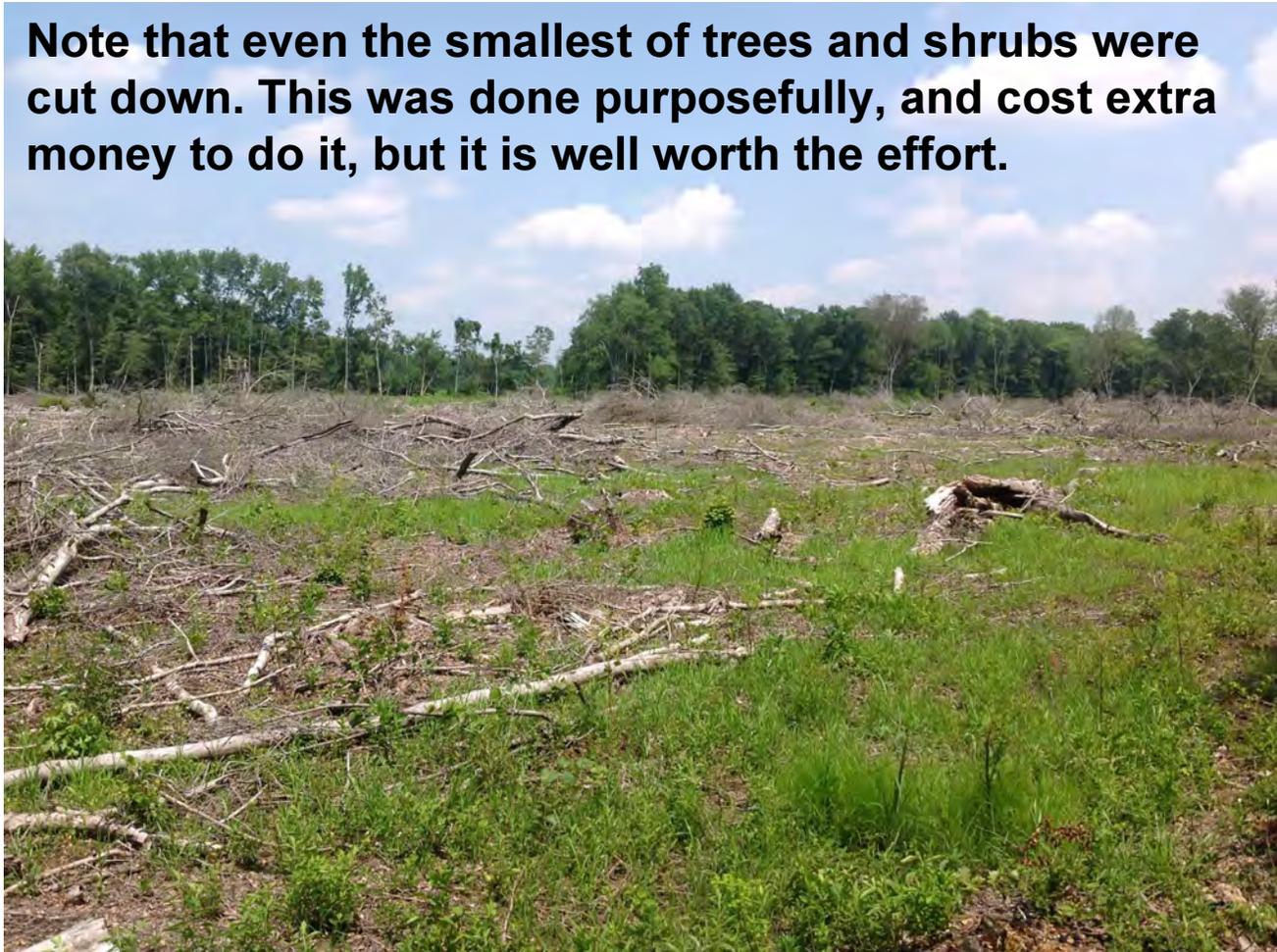
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Everything has a beginning. Including a forest.

These pictures track the early growth stages of Eastern Shore forests following regeneration harvests, commonly known as “clearcuts”.

The landowners of the forests pictured here chose to favor pines for their lands. While the same growth patterns occur for hardwoods, this pictorial follows the growth of just the pine forest so you can compare its progress over time.

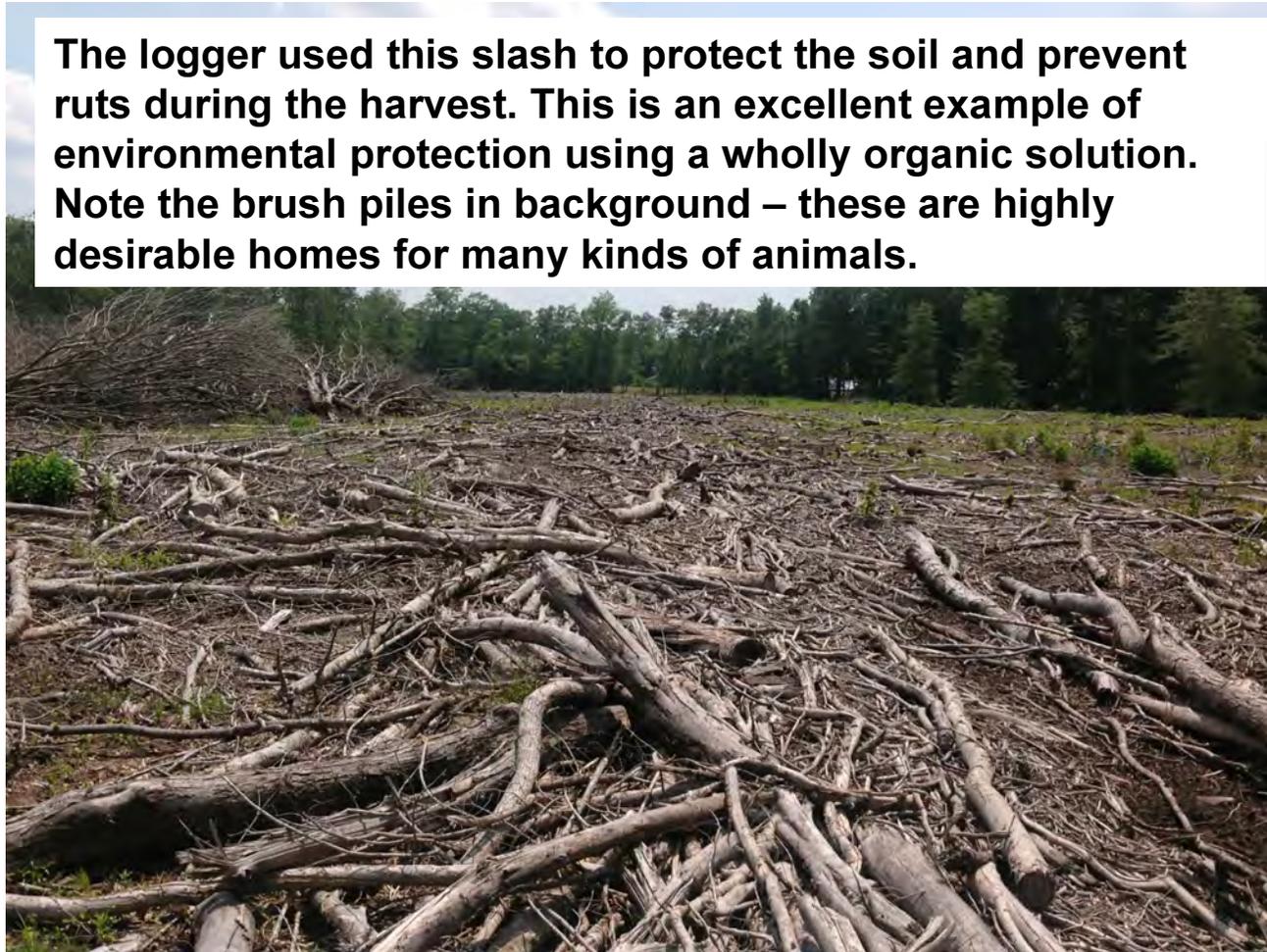
Note that even the smallest of trees and shrubs were cut down. This was done purposefully, and cost extra money to do it, but it is well worth the effort.



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The logger used this slash to protect the soil and prevent ruts during the harvest. This is an excellent example of environmental protection using a wholly organic solution. Note the brush piles in background – these are highly desirable homes for many kinds of animals.



Leftover logging slash is used by birds, amphibians and other small animals for cover, nesting and feeding areas.



The Wildlife Management Institute is concerned about the decline of 43 wildlife species in Maryland that rely on young forests for survival. This clearcut might look bad to you, but it's gorgeous to warblers, whip-poor-wills and box turtles.

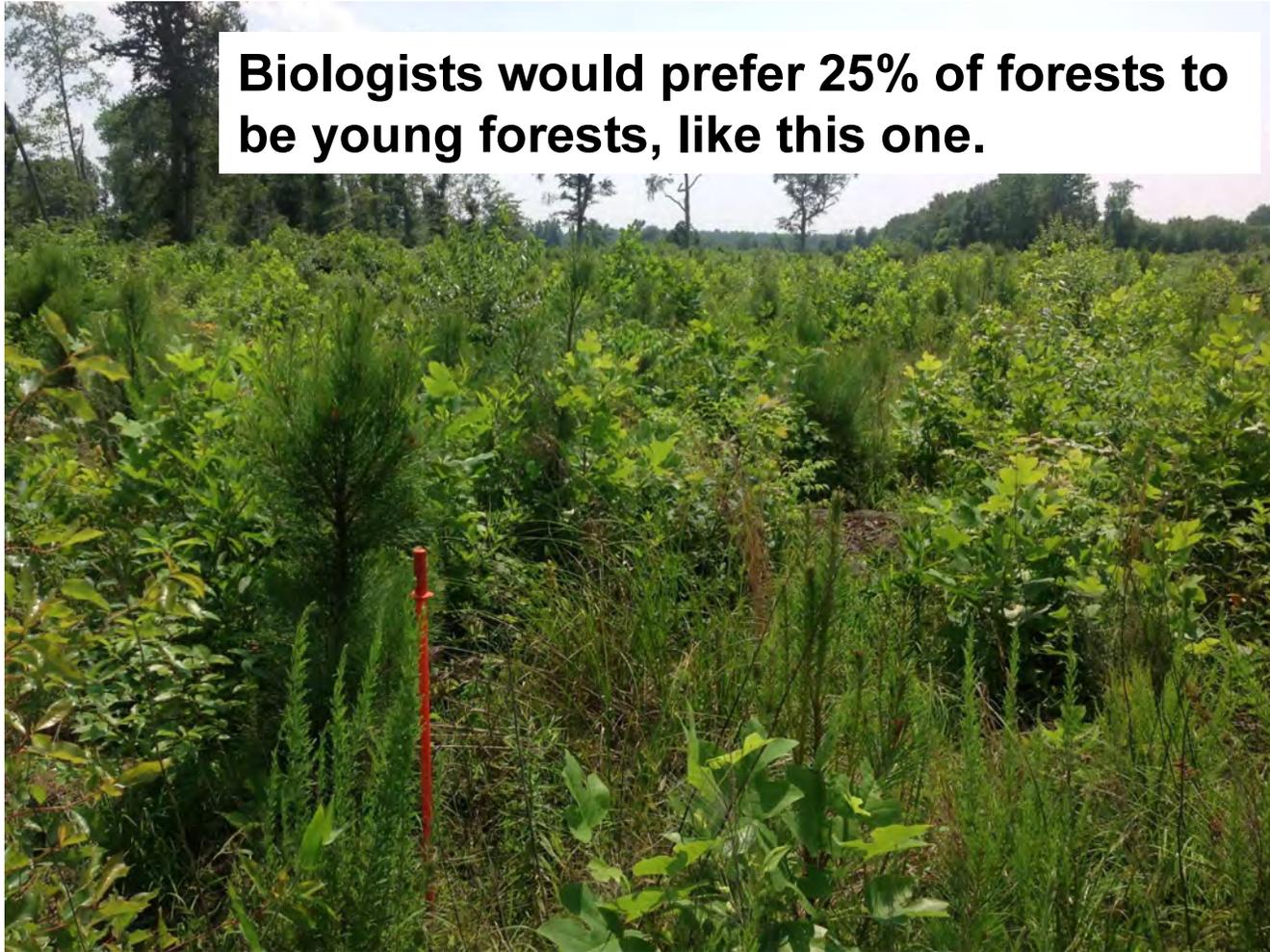


TWO YEARS OLD





Biologists would prefer 25% of forests to be young forests, like this one.



FIVE YEARS OLD



Only 10% of Maryland forests are in this early growth stage.



FIVE YEARS OLD. Note the orange staff.





SEVEN YEARS OLD

- Even forests managed for pine exhibit high diversity.



SEVEN YEARS OLD

- Most people will tell you this is a beautiful forest. And, they're right.



SEVEN YEARS OLD

- Look for the orange staff. You can't see through this thick forest. Some people value a thick forest like this for the privacy it offers.



TEN YEARS OLD

- Young trees grow in height faster than they do in diameter.
- Note the patchy sunlight on the forest floor. This is good for grasses and forbes eaten by animals.



TEN YEARS OLD

- This forest is already starting to show signs of developing a complex structure, which is good for lots of wildlife.



FIFTEEN YEARS OLD

- Before our kids are allowed to drive, this old clearcut has turned into a forest.



FIFTEEN YEARS OLD

- Keeping a diversity of forests in our landscapes is the right thing to do.
- A mosaic of forest ages is needed to keep our landscape healthy.



EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD

- This forest needs to be thinned to let in more sunlight. Thinning a forest is hard work and costs a lot of money.
- Fortunately, the Eastern Shore has markets for wood made from thinning.
- Without markets for wood, this forest would continue to stagnate and become very poor wildlife habitat.



EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD

- Forests support communities of people too. Over 40,000 people in Maryland have jobs somehow connected to forests or wood.
- The wood made from this forest will be touched by many hands and can likely end up in places all over the world.



Q: *What is the most abundant forest dependent species in Maryland?*

A: *People.*



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- For more information about why people value young forests, check out www.youngforest.org
- To see how Maryland wildlife could benefit from landowners taking action, see the Maryland Wildlife Action Plan at: [http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Plants Wildlife/WLDP/divplan_final.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/WLDP/divplan_final.asp)
- Maryland forests cover over 2 million acres and $\frac{3}{4}$ of this vast acreage is owned by families and private individuals like you. To see how the Maryland Forest Service provides value to both the privately- and publicly-owned forests, visit our Forest Action Plan webpage: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/>



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PHOTO CREDITS

- Each of the photos in this presentation were created by Jim Harris, DNR's Service Forester serving the residents and tending the forests of Caroline and Talbot Counties, Maryland.
- Each of the photos display actual field conditions of various private lands on June 26, 2013 in Caroline County, Maryland.