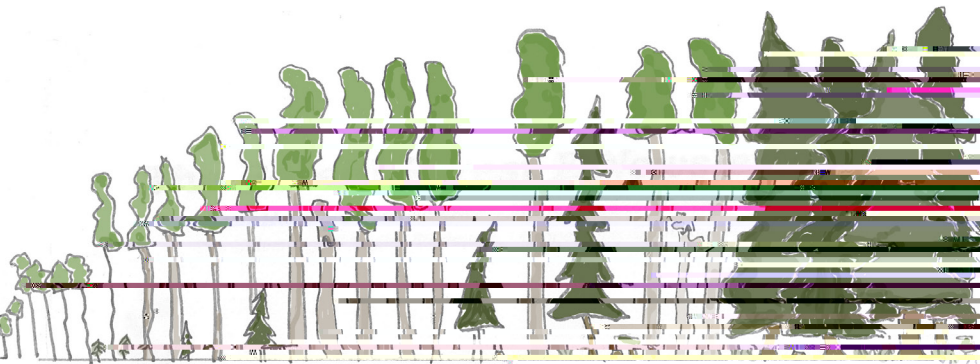




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Many Alaskans own forest land or live on a treed lot because they appreciate a woodland setting. Increasingly, Alaskans are interested in what they can do to manage their forest for a variety of reasons. Many are interested in maintaining or improving their forest to meet a variety of individual goals.

Forestry is defined by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Web Dictionary as the science and craft of creating, managing, using, conserving and repairing forests and associated resources to meet desired goals, needs and values for human benefits. The science of forestry has elements that belong to the biological, physical, social, political and managerial sciences.

Wikipedia goes on to say that modern forestry embraces a broad range of concerns that encompass multiple-use management, including the provision of timber for wood products and revenue, fuel wood, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, landscape and community protection, employment opportunities, aesthetically appealing landscapes, biodiversity, watershed management, erosion control, fire and wind protection, protection from insect infestations and, lately, preserving forests as “sinks” for atmospheric carbon dioxide. A practitioner of forestry is known as a forester. A forester may specialize in a number of areas listed above.

Forest management is defined by the SAF as a branch of forestry concerned with overall administrative, economic, legal, social, scientific and technical aspects. Some of those include silviculture, protection, enhancement, rehabilitation, restoration and forest regulation.

Land is often owned as a hedge against inflation. Some own forestland to facilitate increased monetary opportunity with an eye to the future. Most small private forest landowners in Alaska are less interested in producing a timber crop than they are in improving other attributes.

Small forest landowner objectives may include an array of personal interests including personal space, privacy, peace and quiet, personal use timber and rewood, forest health, wildlife habitat, water quality, biodiversity, aesthetics, recreation and trails, wildlife defensible space, berries and other wild edibles, subsistence resources and a combination of opportunities. Often people in Alaska are interested in what they can do to improve their forest, for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.



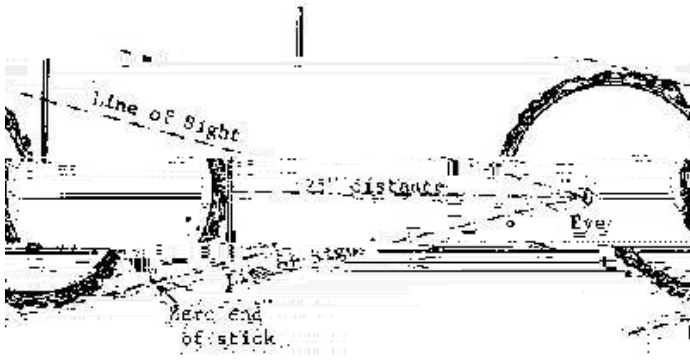
Forest improvement may include the use of a chainsaw to harvest poor trees or create wildlife defensible space and the use of a shovel to plant additional trees for the future. We will present and discuss several means and methods of tending your small private forested ownership in future newsletters.



basis. Often this less economically feasible harvest may benefit winter range habitat for Sitka black-tailed deer, which are important for subsistence.

The best scenario is that selective harvesting improves healthy trees in all age classes. Improperly applied, this method looks like a “cull tree release” and the forest is devalued economically for many years in the future.

Timber stand outcome must be anticipated to determine whether the forest will successfully regenerate under any of these harvest methods. Using the selective or single-tree harvest method, the landowner should decide whether the small trees left in the forest are sufficiently undamaged after harvest and are



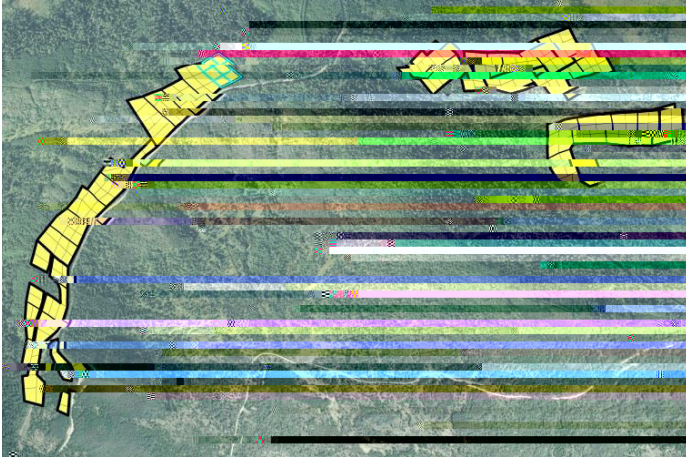
The user's perspective is compensated for by the DBH graduations (inch marks get shorter as tree diameter increases) making it possible to measure a 40-inch diameter tree. Most commercially purchased Biltmore sticks are calibrated for using at a distance of 25 feet.

average). Log volumes for different diameters and lengths from 8 to 16 feet can be read on the flat side of the stick marked "log scale".

If you have a 16-foot log that averaged 16 inches on the small end, looking at the log scale where these numbers correspond you would read 159 board feet Scribner Scale for that log.

Logs over 16 feet long are scaled as two logs, allowing for taper on logs 22 feet or longer. A 20-foot log, for example, 15 inches in diameter, would be scaled as two 10-foot logs, each 15 inches in diameter.

A Biltmore stick is a helpful tool to determine gross rough estimates of tree and log volume. Percent defect may need to be deducted to determine an estimate of merchantable volume.



G., H., Ea, A a a, UAF C, a,
E, S, a a

grass cut short around structures. Water your home and surroundings with a hose or sprinkler before the fire gets there or the power goes out.

Contact the Alaska Division of Forestry or your local Fire Department and ask them for a wildfire FIREWISE evaluation. Maintain defensible space. Find out what else you can do to prevent wildfire from destroying your property.

For more information on how you can create and maintain defensible space go to the Alaska State Forestry's link.

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/wildfire/firewise>

few species of trees, the introduction of a single exotic pest could dramatically change our landscape and lifestyles. Imagine your community without birch or spruce trees. Chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease are two examples of exotic pests that have virtually eliminated their entire host species from America's landscape.

Firewood movement is a well-established source of spreading insects and disease. Each year visitors bring firewood with them when camping, and commercial firewood bundles are brought from out of state by the pallet. It is illegal to transport firewood to or from Canada unless it has been heat-treated and inspected. Commercial firewood from other states should be treated the same. But as many as half of tested firewood samples transported harbor living wood borers or bark beetles. The Alaska Division of Agriculture

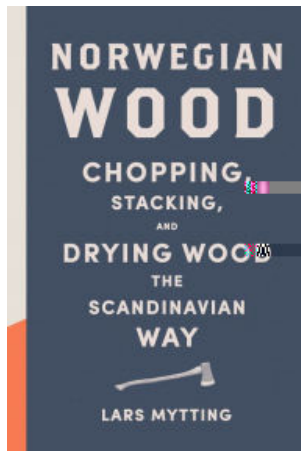
You

Alaska, with its majestic landscapes, is home to more than 120 million acres of our nation's forests. With endless trees in the Interior and towering rain forests along the coast, it seems strange to many Alaskans that firewood is being brought or transported from outside. But every year firewood makes its way to Alaska, and it often brings unwelcome visitors along with it.

Tree-killing insects and diseases can lurk in firewood. These insects and diseases can't move far on their own, but when people move firewood they can jump hundreds of miles. Alaska is partially protected by geographic isolation. But because we have so

few species of trees, the introduction of a single exotic pest could dramatically change our landscape and lifestyles. Imagine your community without birch or spruce trees. Chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease are two examples of exotic pests that have virtually eliminated their entire host species from America's landscape.

A *book*, *by* *Lars Mytting*, *at* *BARNESANDNOBLEREVIEW.COM*



In his new book, *Norwegian Wood*, Lars Mytting mixes the practical with the art and science of burning rewood from a cultural European, Norwegian perspective.

“The woodcutter who attunes himself to the ways of nature and the passing seasons will quickly find his reward. The annual growth cycle of trees means that the best time to fell them is in the winter or spring, well before the leaves have started to bud.” Mytting continues, “One of rewood’s most attractive qualities is that it burns up and disappears.”

There are chapters on the subjectivity of the chopping block and the evolution of the wood stove and a special section, wisely given its own space, of “cold facts.”

Sections in the book deal with the environmental soundness of wood burning (managed properly, argues Mytting, it is a carbon-neutral renewable); the amount of Btus by species; comparative weights per

hive-style kilns. These systems are inefficient and labor intensive and create significant smoke particulate pollution. Modern technology is computerized

May 16, 1-5 p.m.

Tree plantings and landscaping at Big I Bar, Tanana Valley Watershed Association

May 16, Time TBA

Raven Landing Retirement Community will plant a 10-foot tamarack/larch

Contact Richie Musick at ritchiemusick@gci.net for further information on events and participation.

Go to [http://py9\(p\(h\)4.1\(e63\(, TL Tmci\)-9.9\(t\)-5\(2i\)-\)7ET\(le](http://py9(p(h)4.1(e63(, TL Tmci)-9.9(t)-5(2i)-)7ET(le)