

Daniel W. Edwards, Consulting Forester P.A.

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Phil Johnson
1329 Hal Johnson Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

June 25, 2022

Dear Phil:

I walked over the 2018 planted pine area yesterday (+/- 33.7 acres planted) southwest of your home off Hal Clark Road, Chatham County, NC. The pines are in their 5th growing season.

The 3rd generation genetically improved loblolly pines are growing well and are healthy. I believe that the stocking level likely averages about 300 trees per acre, with a range of 100-500 per acre. We have the contractor attempt to plant approximately 500 trees per acre, and an optimum survival level is 400 per acre, and so I believe your average is below this. The debris left after logging likely caused the planting crew to plant wider between the trees than desired, as they had to look for clear soil between the tree tops. However, there is still a very sufficient stand of free-to-grow pines for excellent timber production over the coming 25-28 years. This pine stand is clearly a successfully reforested site which will produce high quality timber.

We had a "release" application of herbicide aerially applied following planting, in the fall of 2018. This action eliminated much of the hardwood competition and has allowed the pines to survive and grow larger in height and diameter than would have been possible without the herbicide Arsenal. The blackberry briars, remaining poplar and redbud which I observed will not be serious competition for the pines. The pines are clearly taller than these woody & herbaceous species. As the pines close canopy, the briars will virtually disappear as shade replaces the direct sunlight. The redbuds are short trees and not very competitive, while the poplar trees will either be cut during the first thinning or left to contribute to the future timber value as miscellaneous sawtimber & pulpwood.

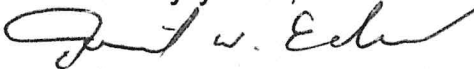
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The pines will likely be ready for a commercial thinning operation at age 18, possibly two years earlier or later, subject to a forester's inspection at that time. It is reasonable to believe that, using today's prices, the thinning will generate \$200-270 per acre. Because the pine survival was about 100 trees per acre less than optimal, the corridors required to be cut during the thinning operation should be spaced at least 45 feet apart, not 25-35 feet apart as is often done. A final harvest at age 30-33 should generate approximately \$3,000 per acre based on present prices.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel W. Edwards".

Daniel W. Edwards, N.C. Registered Forester #612 and
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