Principles of Silviculture  
FWF 312  
Jan. 15/16, 2020

Lab #1 --- Scientific Writing

a. Requirements  
b. Getting it Right  
c. Practicing

Good writing skills are essential in communicating with employers, colleagues and landowners. FWF 312 is also considered part of the UT general education requirement for writing. A requirement for this class is to submit a number of abstracts and lab reports throughout the semester. Constant improvement of your writing skills is expected as the semester progresses.

Written reports for the Lab Exercises

1. Abstracts  
   a. Scientific Writing ---- Present Lab  
   b. Stand Description  
   c. Best Management Practices

2. Extended Abstract ---- Bent Creek Field Trip

3. Lab Reports  
   a. Regeneration Survey and Prediction  
   b. Thinning Exercise  
   c. Silvicultural Prescription Exercise

Abstract and lab report grades will be based on both content and format (refer to grading sheet)
Today’s Assignment

For this exercise, a lab abstract is required based on the following publication.


The publication (2 pages) is on the class website. Read the publication, determine the relevant subject matter and then summarize its contents in the following format.

**Abstract is due next week in lab, January 22/23.**

**Lab Abstract Example**

The abstract should be a short synopsis of what you learned for a particular exercise, field trip, or reading. The abstract should still include the **who, what, where and when**, similar to the formal lab report, but in a shortened form. Headings are not needed. Abstracts should be 3 or 4 paragraphs or no more 2 pages long, double spaced. The extended abstract for the Bent Creek Field Trip will be longer, depending on the number of tour stops.

Abstracts should still include many of the aspects of the formal lab report: Subject, objectives, study area, speaker, what you learned and a summary or conclusion. An example of a brief abstract follows.

__________________________________

**Crop Tree Release**

**An Abstract for xxx Lab Assignment**

Name
FWF 312, Wednesday PM Lab
Date

The crop tree release field trip was conducted at the Sewanee Experimental Forest on the Domain of the University of the South, near Sewanee, TN. The site was a broad ridge of an upland hardwood stand composed primarily of oak and hickory. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate crop tree release as an intermediate treatment to improve wildlife and timber values in hardwood stands. Joe Forester, who manages the experimental forest, was our speaker for this tour.
Crop tree release practice assumes that there is enough acceptable growing stock that released trees will increase in value over some period of time. If there is not adequate acceptable growing stock present, then the stand should be regenerated. Crop trees are spaced at an average of a 35’ by 35’ spacing, such that about 36 released trees remain per acre. Released trees are selected based on species, form, crown characteristics and potential to increase the rate of diameter growth.

Crop trees can also be selected based on objectives other than timber. If a landowner has wildlife considerations, then trees can be selected for release that will benefit wildlife. For example, a persimmon tree that may not have much timber value, could be left for wildlife because of the fruit it produces.

Crop tree release is a viable intermediate treatment to increase growth and improve the species composition in many hardwood stands. A common misconception is that all the trees are harvested except for the 36 or so remaining crop trees per acre. The treatment is applied in such a way that only the trees affecting or touching the crowns of the crop trees are removed. Otherwise, the expense of removing all unmerchantable or undesirable trees would be excessive.

Write complete thoughts and sentences. Do not simply produce headings and incomplete sentences (outlines) for the content of the abstract. What did you gain in reading the publication?