

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA



Shortleaf pine management with heavy loblolly pine competition

Project Description & Management History

Jordan Lake Experimental State Forest is one of the newest additions to the NC Educational State Forest system. The Forest, located between the Piedmont and Coastal Plains, contains both hardwood and pine forest ecosystems. A young, shortleaf pine stand, located near the Low Lands Trail, contains 10 acres of shortleaf pine that were planted in 2007. The soil type observed within the stand is the Creedmoor-Green Level Complex, a silt loam or fine sandy loam. Slopes range from 5% to 15%, sloping towards Jordan Lake to the east.

Mature loblolly pine forests surround the 10 acre shortleaf stand and have successfully regenerated within the 10 acre shortleaf stand. Due to personnel turnover at the forest, no management was conducted on the shortleaf stand for several years, which resulted in dense stands with significant loblolly competition. Currently, the Forest is pre-commercially thinning the stand (cutting the small trees down and leaving them). The trees had grown too close together to become commercially viable in a reasonable time.

Once thinned, the remaining trees were so widely spaced that they were susceptible to wind and snow damage. Many trees now lean as a result. This site demonstrates the challenges shortleaf has with intense loblolly competition and how insufficient management at a critical growth stage for shortleaf can cause problems in a stand of young shortleaf.



Trail map indicating location of shortleaf stand (Low Lands Trail outlined in pink). Credit: Jordan Lake Reservoir

Project Contact

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Shortleaf Pine Management Area (SMA) fact sheets highlight regional shortleaf pine management or research projects. Please inquire with project contact/ partners to learn more about a specific management area. For general questions concerning SMAs or the www.shortleafpine.net website, please contact: **Holly Campbell**, hcampbell@sref.info

The Shortleaf Pine Initiative represents a broad range of federal, state, and private agencies and organizations currently working to promote shortleaf pine ecosystem restoration. For more information about shortleaf restoration or the Initiative, please visit: www.shortleafpine.net



Shortleaf pine at Jordan Lake. Credit: Andrew Snyder



A shortleaf sapling released from heavy loblolly competition following thinning of the shortleaf stand at Jordan Lake. Credit: Andrew Snyder



Shortleaf stand after thinning at Jordan Lake. Credit: Andrew Snyder.



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