Dry Mesic Oak-Hickory in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

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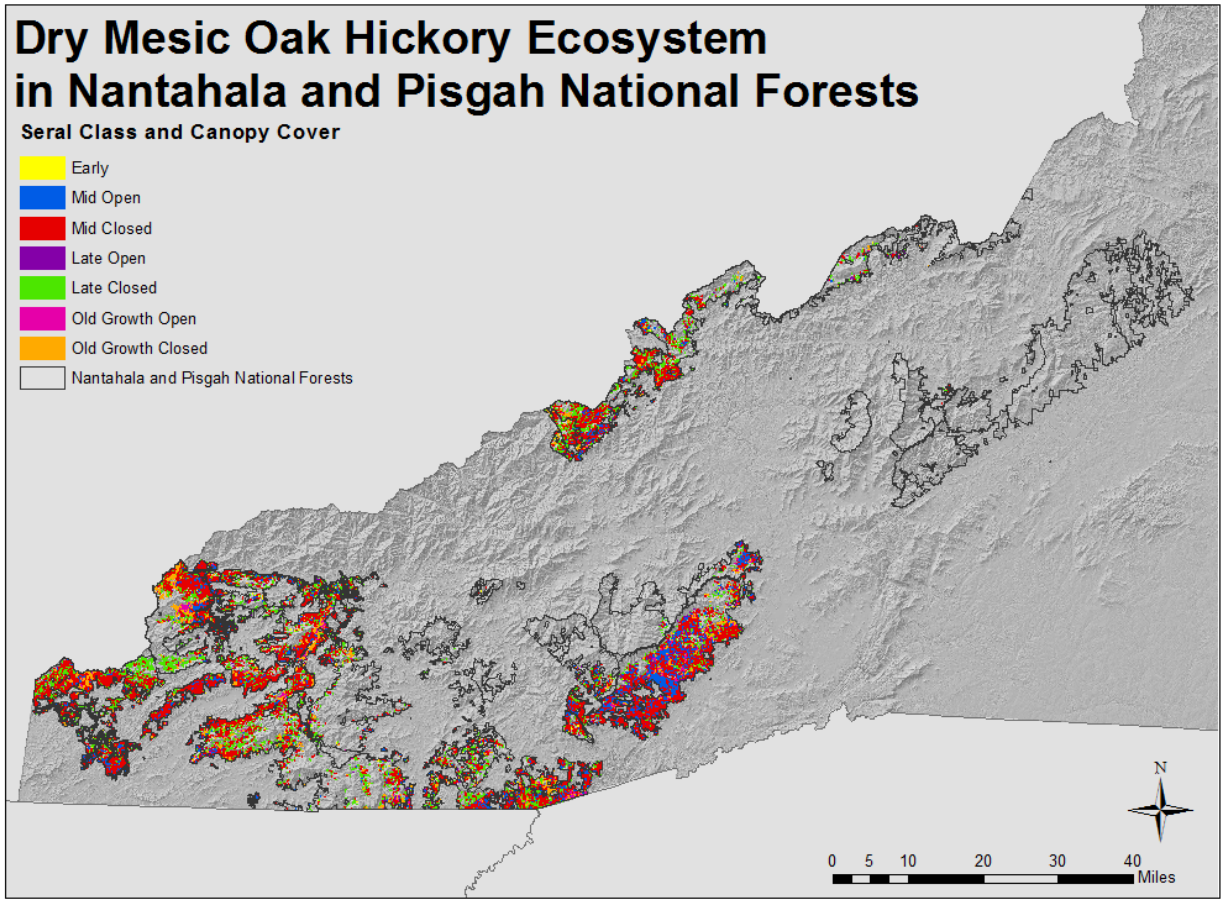
1. Does the ecological departure analysis appropriately identify major structural needs of this system?

2. Are both fire and mechanical treatment appropriate in this system? Are there other specialized treatments that need to be considered?

3. Of the deficit conditions for this system which ones are most important to address?

4. How many acres are desirable to restore/maintain within this system in the next 20 years? What is a realistic goal?



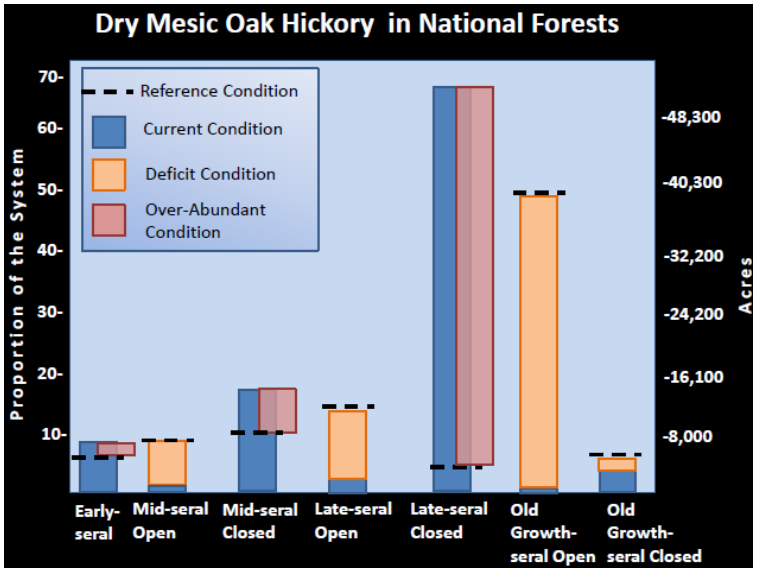


Table 1. Comparison of current forest condition to Natural Range in Variation (NRV) in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Forest stages in red identified as in need of active restoration

Stage	Current NF Acres	% of Ecosystem in NF	NRV %	NRV NF Acres
Early	6455	8.02%	5.90%	4751.388
Mid Open	808	1.00%	9.60%	7731.072
Mid Closed	13486	16.75%	10.20%	8214.264
Late Open	2468	3.06%	13.60%	10952.352
Late Closed	53821	66.83%	5.30%	4268.196
Old-Growth Open	176	0.22%	49.30%	39702.276
Old-Growth Closed	3318	4.12%	6.10%	4912.452
Total	80532			80532

Table 2. Example proposal of restoration goals in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests courtesy of Josh Kelly

Ecosystem	Potential Acres on NF	% of Acres Convert to Open	Increase in Early Acres Needed for NRV
Shortleaf Pine/Oak	44,541	20% - 8,908	9,799
Pine-Oak/Heath	101,275	20% - 20,250	3,118
High Elevation Red Oak	38,637	10% - 3,864	386
Mesic Oak-Hickory	186,131	10% -18,613	NA
Dry Mesic Oak-Hickory	105,991	10% -10,599	NA
Dry Oak	59,677	20% - 11,934	596
Total		74,168 Acres	13,899

Table 3. Evaluation of early successional habitat in Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

Ecozone	ESH % of NF Acres	Early Development % of NF Acres	Proportion of ED qualifying as ESH
Spruce	14.1%	17.5%	80.6%
NH Slope	9.0%	12.3%	73.2%
NH Cove	1.4%	5.4%	25.9%
High Elevation Red Oak	3.0%	3.8%	78.9%
Acidic Cove Forest*	2.1%	4.6%	45.7%
Rich Cove Forest*	1.3%	6.9%	18.8%
Mesic Oak Forest	1.9%	7.1%	26.8%
Dry Mesic Oak Forest	2.1%	8%	26.3%
Dry Oak Forest	2.5%	4.7%	53.2%
Shortleaf Pine - Oak	5%	10.3%	48.5%
Pine-Oak/Heath	2.9%	4.7%	61.7%