

The Fate of Forest Seed

Chris Schnepf

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- *Threat of brush?* How quickly is brush likely to dominate the site after disturbance? How have similar, neighboring properties behaved after disturbance? If heavy brush is likely, you may want to consider planting seedlings to ensure that trees get a head start, or plan on suppressing the brush with herbicides in the event the brush begins choking naturally regenerated seedlings.
 - *Seed Trees?* Since conifer seed stored in the forest floor is usually not adequate, do you have enough seed trees within or at the edges of the unit?
 - *Seed Source Quality?* Natural seeding may be desirable, but do you *want* seed from the trees left on or near the site? Are they the right species for the site? Do they have good growth and form characteristics, or are they the leftovers from a

- harvest which took the best genetic material?
- *Suitable Seed Bed?* Seed requires a suitable seed bed to successfully germinate. Historically, bare mineral soil was most commonly created by wildfire. Now it's also done through prescribed burning or with mechanical equipment (often in conjunction with logging). If you rely on the latter methods, try to balance between creating a good seed bed and minimizing soil erosion, compaction, or displacement.

This information first appeared in Woodland NOTES, Vol. 8, No. 1.
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