

Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast

Ken Smith

University of the South, Sewanee, TN



- During 2011, the Forest Guild convened 20 foresters from around the southeast and representing 15 organizations to discuss these topics among others:
- How many snags should be left on a site after a biomass harvest?
- What percent of dead woody debris should be left on a site?
- How does soil nutrient status, harvest intensity, and frequency of harvests affect the amount of biomass to be left on a site?



Objectives:

- To provide a complement to state BMPs, particularly for NIPFLs
- To focus on post-harvest conditions
- To provide information to land managers, private forest owners, policy makers, and the environmental community related to biomass retention on harvested sites

Note:

- **the importance of professional judgment in practicing forestry and implementing these guidelines**
- **Specific numbers given in guidelines were not static targets to be maintained at all times in all places, but to be used as guideposts**

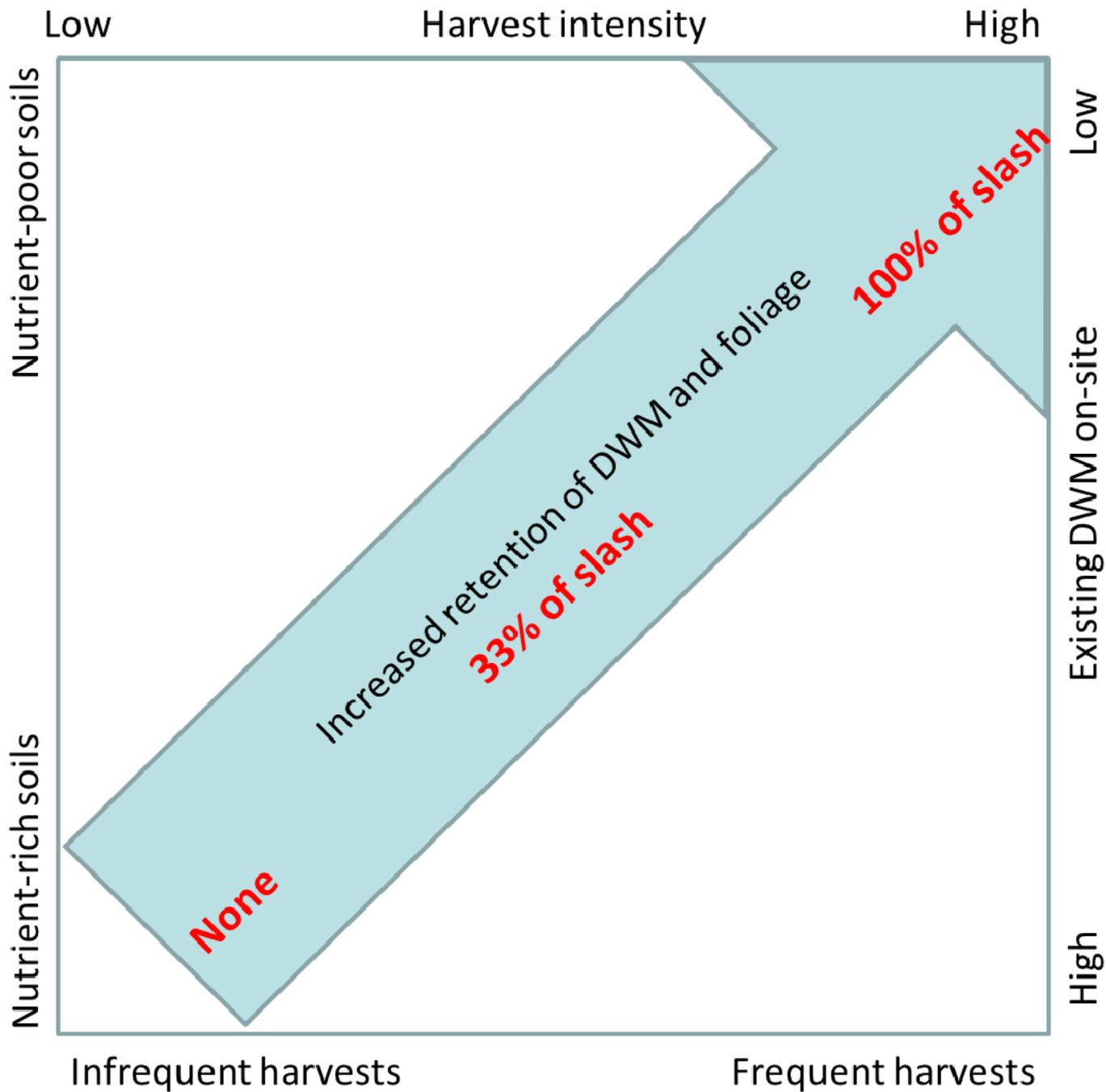
General guidelines included:

- Retention of pre-existing DWM of all sizes on-site, including FWM, CWM, and large downed logs.
- Ideally, slash should be distributed more or less evenly across the site.
- Leave and protect roots, stumps, and large downed woody material.
- Leave and protect live cavity trees, den trees, other live decaying trees, and snags
- Importance of large woody debris as habitat in upland and riparian systems



Specific guidelines:

- Leave 3 tons per acre of downed woody material on site
- Leave 5-17 snags per acre > 4" DBH when available
- Adjust amounts of residual logging slash to be left behind according to prior land use and future management intensity



Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast

by the Forest Guild Southeast Biomass Working Group



 forest GUILD

February 2012

<http://www.forestguild.org/Publications.html>