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Timber Scaling for Tony Ray

On 26 and 27 May 2023, I scaled the Francis J. Chase Trust property north and south of Frontier Road northwest of Beattie, Kansas (Figure). I numbered 100 walnut trees (17,120 boardfeet) with orange paint (see Spreadsheet). Due to logistic constraints and challenges associated with dense vegetation I estimate there may have been an additional 15 trees (>15 inches in diameter) not included in this survey. There were approximately 30 trees 14 to 15 inches in diameter that might be commercially viable, but from a sustainability and future value perspective I consider it best to not mark them for sale at this time. In general, the trees I marked were above average in size and quality (averaged 170 BF/tree). I conservatively identified 9 trees with butt logs (prime) of exceptional quality and 2 trees (Orange #5 and 34) tabletop size (>26 inches diameter). The value of timber is largely dependent upon the logistics associated with the logging process and the different markets accessed by the buyer. The stumpage rate (landowner payment) for the vast majority of your walnut timber is valued at approximately $1.15/BF to $1.35/BF, or conservatively $21,400 for the 100 trees I marked. There is likely another 15 trees (2000 BF) not marked. However, because of the logistic challenge of marking all trees, it would be prudent to consider selling your timber on a 60/40 (landowner/logger) ratio. This is typical of relatively large sales when it is difficult to identify and look at all trees before the actual harvest. The logs are displayed at the end of the harvest to potential buyers, and the landowner receives 60% of the sale

The harvest of trees on the property has several considerations. Logging operations should be conducted only during favorable weather conditions. Care needs to be taken (1) to minimize damage to smaller trees resulting from felling and skidding, and (2) when and where creeks and small drainages are crossed. Loggers using best management practices and appropriate equipment should have no problem with these issues. Your property is logistically challenging because of the many creeks and drainages and the limited access the timber due to crops. Likewise, you should discuss (1) where the logs will be staged, (2) where creeks will be crossed, (3) sensitive areas to avoid, (4) when logging operations should be conducted (after crop harvest and before spring planting), and (5) how slash should be handled (spread out, left in place, piled up). All of these considerations can be explicitly stated in a contract.

There are extensive areas with very little regeneration of walnut and oak due to a dense and closed canopy. However, there are several pockets with 12-to-15-inch walnut trees that will provide another harvest of about 6000 boardfeet in 15 years. There are numerous large bur oak trees throughout the property that could be of interest to loggers/buyers when harvesting walnut trees. The current market and cost of hauling logs renders only oak trees with a clear butt log 12 feet in length and 20 inches in diameter (192 BF) commercially viable. The stumpage rate on bur oak is currently $0.30 to $0.40/BF. I estimate there are at least 7000 BF of harvestable bur oak. The slash associated with oak harvest is much greater and more persistent than walnut. I also saw an abundance of large hackberry and ash trees. Unfortunately, these are of relatively no value in the current commercial market. Moreover, the ash trees appeared in the initial stages of infestation with emerald ash borer.

At this time the timber needs an aggressive harvest to open the canopy and stimulate natural regeneration of shade intolerant species such as walnut, bur oak and smoothbark hickory. This would also benefit deer and turkey. To do nothing will result in limited openings created by the eventual loss of mature walnut and oak from blowdowns, and the loss of ash due to emerald

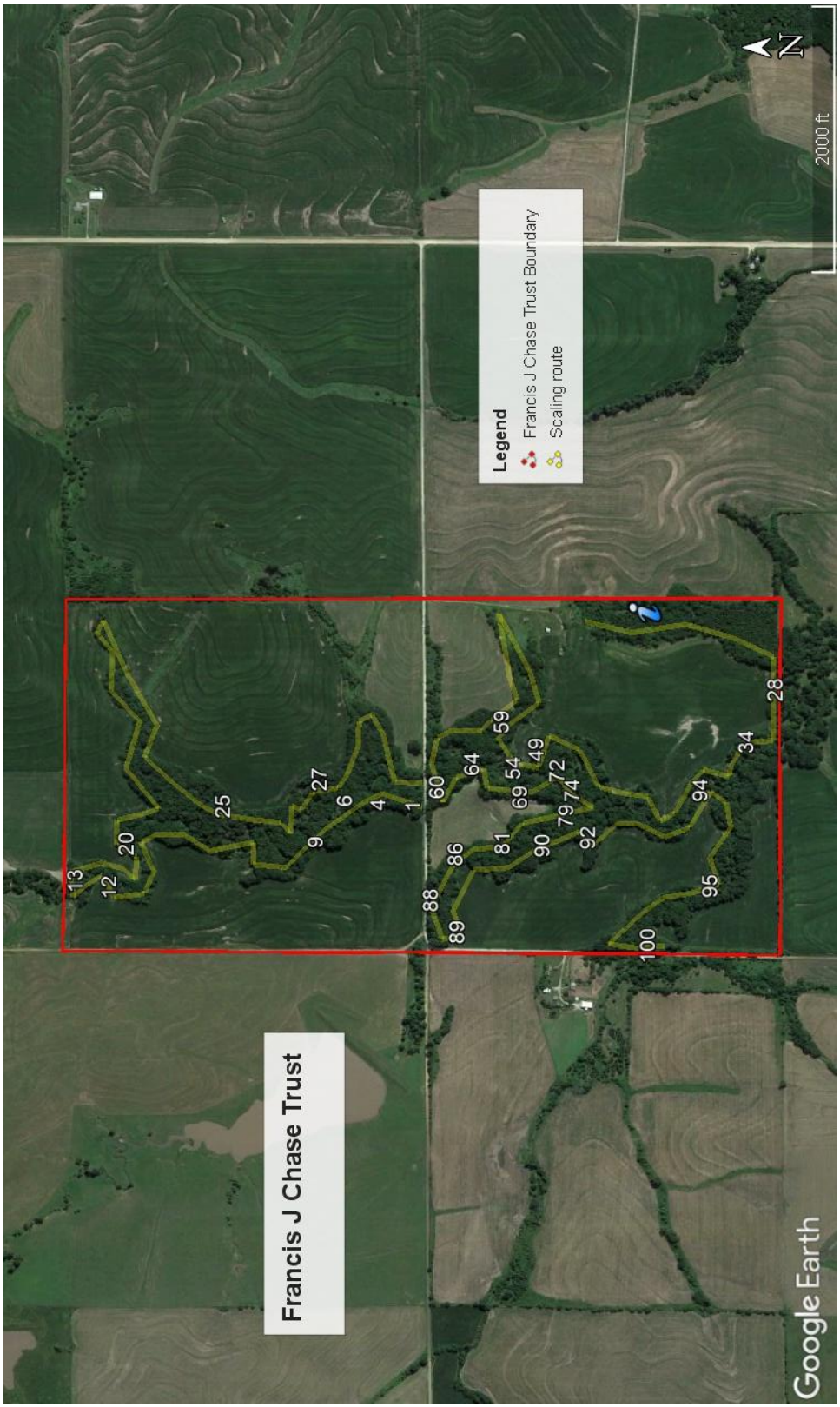
ash borer. However, natural loss will not result in a sustainable stand of mixed-age diverse species.

Assuming favorable weather, you can expect the harvest of marked trees on your property to take about a week. The logger/buyer currently working near Beattie, Kansas is Barrow Logging. They are the largest and most diverse logging operation in Kansas. I have worked with Dan and Charlie Barrow Logging (785-364-7898) of Ottawa, Kansas and found them to be honest and respectful. They are familiar with the way I mark timber and will likely want to look at your trees. I would be available to facilitate the sale by showing the trees to potential logger/buyers.

It was a pleasure getting together and walking your beautiful property. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be any further assistance.

Kevin Church

Figure: Francis J. Chase Trust, scaling route and trees marked.



	Indipidual Log			Tree	Log
Tree #	Length (ft)	Diameter (in)	Boardfeet	Boardfeet	Coment*
1	10	20	160	160	
2	10	22	203	316	
	8	19	113		
3	10	19	141	226	p
	8	17	85		
4	8	24	200	362	fence
	8	22	162		
5	8	27	265	363	tt
	8	18	98		
6	10	19	141	141	
7	12	20	192	192	p
8	10	22	203	331	
	8	20	128		
9	12	18	147	147	
10	8	22	162	162	
11	12	21	217	217	
12	10	16	90	90	
13	10	17	106	106	
14	10	18	123	123	
15	8	23	181	181	
16	8	17	85	85	
17	12	17	127	127	
18	8	15	61	61	
19	8	16	72	72	
20	10	17	106	106	
21	10	19	141	141	
22	12	19	169	241	
	8	16	72		
23	8	17	85	157	
	8	16	72		
24	14	17	148	148	
25	8	22	162	285	

	10	18	123		
26	10	16	90	90	
27	10	23	226	371	
	8	21	145		
28	12	14	75	75	
29	8	18	98	98	
30	8	16	72	72	
31	8	16	72	135	
	10	14	63		
32	10	23	226	332	p
	10	17	106		
33	8	18	98	148	
	8	14	50		
34	8	27	265	468	tt
	10	22	203		
35	12	13	61	61	
36	9	18	110	110	
37	10	20	160	232	
	8	16	72		
38	9	17	95	183	
	14	14	88		
39	8	15	61	209	
	12	12	48		
40	12	16	108	108	
41	10	20	160	160	
42	12	17	127	127	
43	8	15	61	109	
	12	12	48		
44	8	16	72	72	
45	8	16	72	160	p
	14	14	88		
46	12	18	147	295	
	14	17	148		
47	12	12	48	96	
	12	12	48		
48	8	15	61	136	
	12	14	75		

49	9	28	324	516	
	12	20	192		
50	11	21	199	249	
	8	14	50		
51	8	25	221	505	p
	14	22	284		
52	10	20	160	283	
	10	18	123		
53	8	16	72	113	
	8	13	41		
54	8	13	41	41	
55	8	16	72	123	
	10	13	51		
56	8	16	72	72	
57	8	17	85	170	
	8	17	85		
58	8	17	85	193	
	12	16	108		
59	10	16	90	122	
	8	12	32		
60	8	17	85	170	
	8	17	85		
61	10	16	90	166	p
	10	15	76		
62	8	17	85	176	
	12	15	91		
63	8	16	72	122	
	8	14	50		
64	8	18	98	172	
	7	17	74		
65	7	16	63	104	
	8	13	41		
66	10	16	90	140	
	8	14	50		
67	8	17	85	211	
	14	16	126		
68	10	16	90	90	

69	8	18	98	229	
	10	16	90		
	8	13	41		
70	12	18	147	210	
	10	14	63		
71	8	18	98	206	
	12	16	108		
72	10	17	106	106	
73	8	17	85	175	
	10	16	90		
74	8	16	72	148	p
	10	15	76		
75	12	18	147	273	p
	14	16	126		
76	8	18	98	231	
	8	16	72		
	8	15	61		
77	8	14	50	50	
78	8	16	72	122	
	8	14	50		
79	12	17	127	233	p
	14	15	106		
80	10	16	90	90	
81	8	17	85	157	
	8	16	72		
82	14	16	126	126	
83	10	15	76	178	
	10	13	51		
	10	13	51		
84	10	20	160	210	
	8	14	50		
85	8	16	72	133	
	8	15	61		
86	12	17	127	127	
87	10	17	106	191	
	8	17	85		
88	9	17	95	145	

	8	14	50	
89	10	16	90	90
90	8	16	72	148
	10	15	76	
91	9	16	81	131
	8	14	50	
92	12	21	217	258
	8	13	41	
93	9	16	81	125
	7	14	44	
94	10	23	226	226
95	8	17	85	193
	12	16	108	
96	12	16	108	108
97	7	16	63	113
	8	14	50	
98	14	15	106	106
99	9	16	81	81
100	10	18	123	208
	8	17	85	
Total			17120	

*p = prime grade and tt = tabletop size (>25" diameter)