



Illinois
Department of
Conservation
life and land together

news

56-78

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ANNOUNCE PLAN TO HARVEST DAMAGED TREES AT PERE MARQUETTE

SPRINGFIELD, IL., May 10, 1978---Dead or damaged--but still usable--trees in a 345-acre Pere Marquette State Park tract hit by a forest fire in 1974 will be harvested sometime this summer or next fall, Conservation Director David Kenney announced.

Kenney said plans for the selective cutting call for protection of the area's recreational, environmental and all other forest-related values.

Purposes of the project include sanitation and rehabilitation. The salvage operation will aid in returning the forest to its original species composition, while making use of severely damaged trees. To help maintain wildlife populations, damaged trees that are being used or are likely to be used as dens or nesting sites will not be removed, Director Kenney explained.

Removal of rotting timber will reduce forest fire fuels and lessen the potential for insect or disease outbreaks, said State Forester Al Mickelson. Openings in the forest created by the cutting operation will promote 'understory' growth and help re-establish the areas, natural vegetative cover, Mickelson pointed out. If necessary, the Department of Conservation later will reinforce natural production with plantings.

The project was formulated cooperatively by the Conservation Department's Forestry, Wildlife Resources and Land divisions. Trees to be cut will be marked by foresters in coming months, then bids will be sought from loggers for the actual harvesting.

The harvest area lies north of and adjacent to the former ski jump site, on the park's eastern perimeter.

Rehabilitation of several other Conservation Department properties through scientific management already is underway or is being planned. Among these sites are Sand Ridge State Forest, Baldwin Lake Wildlife Management Area, Trail of Tears State Forest, and others.