



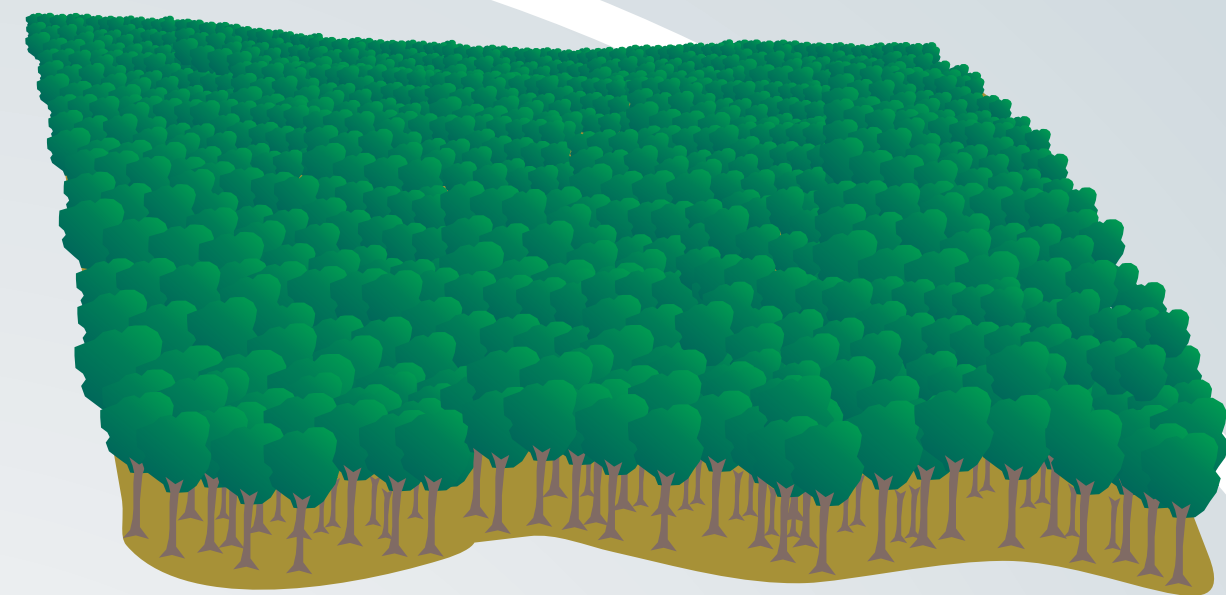
The Clearcut System



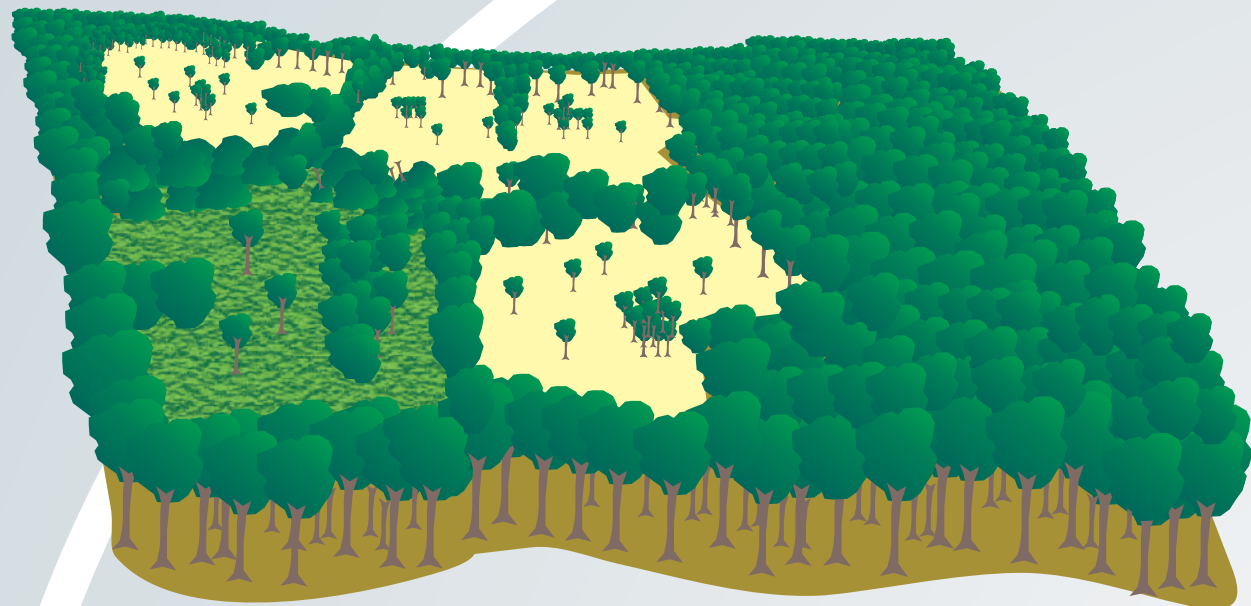
Shade-intolerant

species of trees are those that require full sunlight to thrive. They are sometimes called pioneer species because they are the first to become established on large, open, disturbed sites. They include poplar, white birch, jack pine and red pine. Stands of these trees tend to be “even-aged” (all the trees are about the same age), reflecting the fact that all the trees became established at the same time, usually after a major disturbance such as fire.

Cycle
Continues

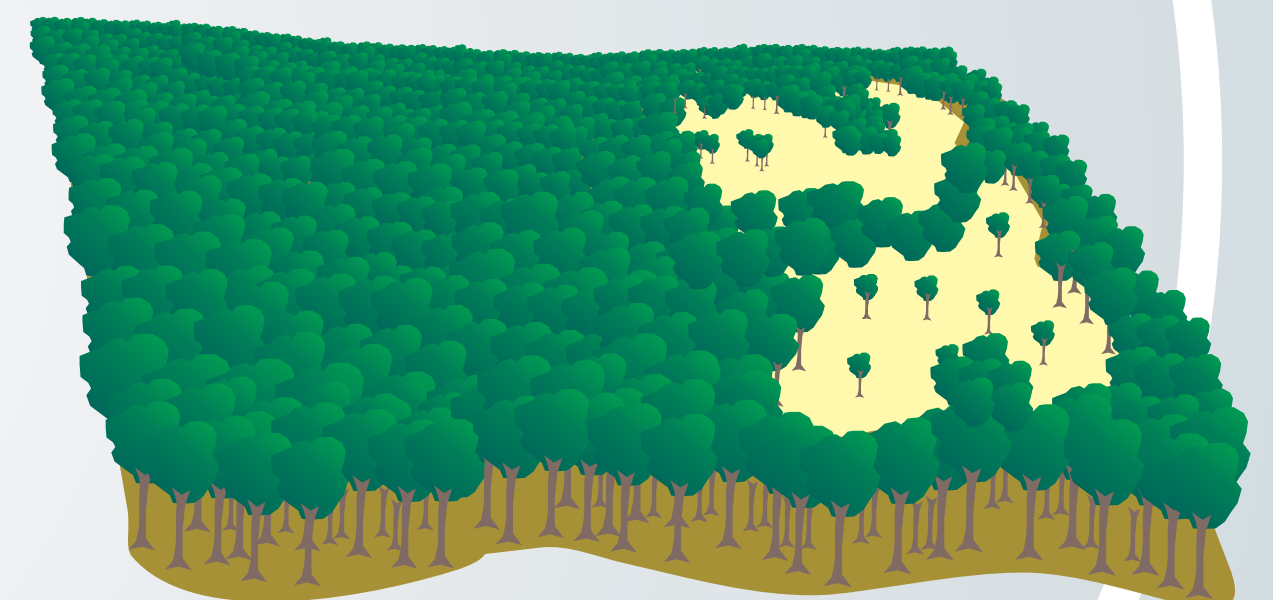


A stand of mature, “shade-intolerant” trees.



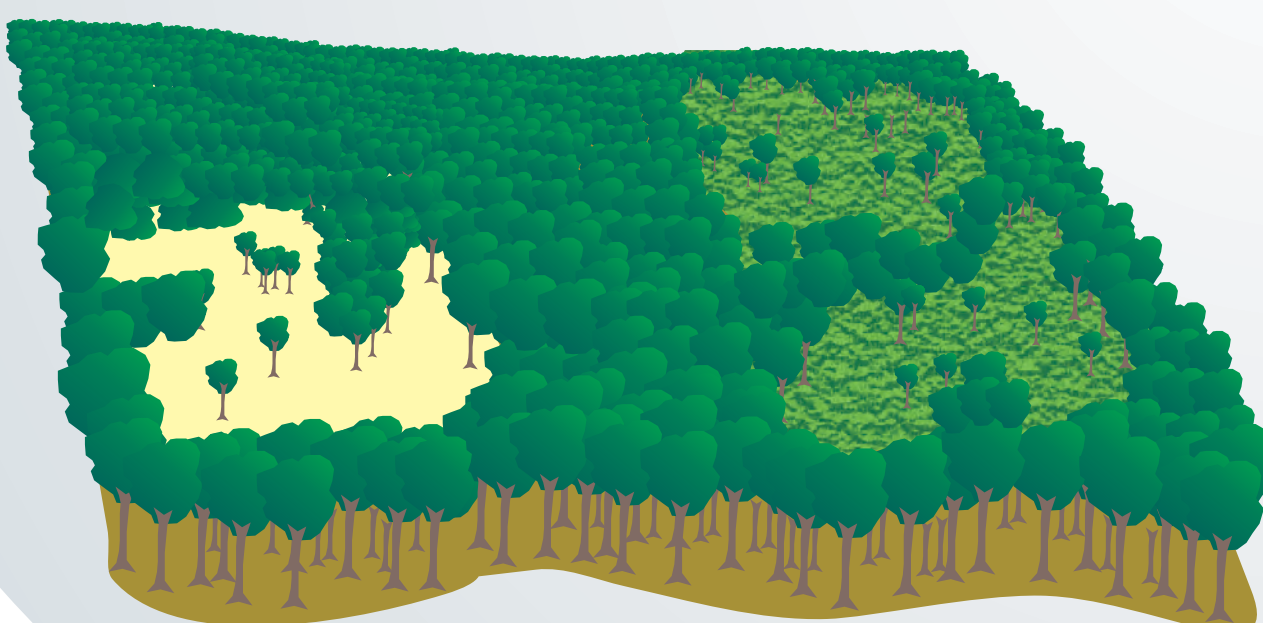
Regeneration is Complete

The trees on the site of the original clearcut near maturity after 60-80 years. The stand will soon be ready for another harvest.



Clearcut

Most of the trees in a selected area are removed.



Regeneration Continues

More clearcuts are performed in subsequent years, as the regeneration continues in the previously cut areas. Overall disturbance sizes are monitored and measured.

The clearcut silvicultural system

is used for stands of shade-intolerant trees. In clearcutting, all or most of the trees are removed in one cut. The size, shape and pattern of the cuts on the overall landscape emulate the effects of large, natural disturbances such as fire. Residual features, such as internal patches, individual trees, snags and downed woody debris, mimic the stand level structural diversity of areas disturbed by fire. The cut areas may be replanted, or left to naturally regenerate with shade-intolerant species. Although the individual stands of trees are even-aged, all ages may be represented on the landscape at any one time.

