

# THE VALUE OF LONG-TERM SILVICULTURE RESEARCH FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF LANDOWNERS, LARGE AND SMALL, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC

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The value of long-term research is that individual people do not live as long as trees and therefore are unable to watch, learn, and understand the growth and regeneration processes. Even foresters who are supposed to be aware of this fact often get distracted by life's other issues. This leads to forgetting what you know and trying to relearn it.

Long-term silviculture research actually includes any study longer than 10 years. History shows that this type of work needs to be done by a governmental or educational organization. Private industry or landowners almost never have the commitment to carry through. Many projects are started and few are finished.

Results from long-term research must be implemented by foresters working with landowners to be of any use at all. This applies to all categories of landowners.

Long-term research on regeneration and site productivity are of particular value. Foresters make decisions daily that they believe to be science-based. They think they understand issues related to regeneration and productivity, but often do not.

Only a few foresters and research efforts have had the luck, interest, and fortitude to accomplish long-term research. All foresters talk about it but few actually do it. In my opinion, Bill Leak and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station epitomize this wonderful combination of circumstances.