

Forest Management- Clear Cutting vs. Selective Cutting

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My research contributed to debates that consider the different effects of clear cutting and selective cutting. I investigated which type of cutting would produce the healthiest forest in the years to come. My study area was on some family hunting land located in Newnan, Georgia, in two different areas. One area was clear cut, while the other area was selective cut. Both of these cutting methods were done 4 years ago, and that is plenty of time for new species to start growing. The majority of my data analysis came from Landsat imagery. I examined the NDVI of the areas to see how dense the vegetation is in the different areas. The areas that show the highest vegetation density were the areas that produced the healthiest forest. I also physically examined the two different areas and took notes of the different species. My results were surprising, I noticed significantly more growth in the clear cut areas rather than the selective cut areas. In conclusion, my initial hypothesis was incorrect. I felt that selective cutting an area would produce a much healthier forest in the following years, but it was actually clear cutting which produced the healthier forest. Although the initial stages of clear cutting has some detrimental effects on the environment, after a few years it produces the healthiest forest for all species.