Evaluating Stands:

DON’T RUSH YOUR JUDGEMENT IT’S PROBABLY NOT AS BAD AS YOUR INITIAL ESTIMATE! Stand edges will be more heavily damaged than the interior making damage appear worse than it actually is. An intensive survey is an important first step to estimating damage. Make sure to evaluate all areas of the stand appropriately. To use the rapid assessment report, establish plots or points across the site and evaluate the trees assigning a Tree Damage Classification for each tree. Record the percentage of all trees in each class on the rapid assessment report form. It may help to use the blocks to record dot tallies of trees by Damage Class. Use the Tree Damage Class tally results to guide your selection of the Stand Damage Category and record it on the form. For heavy or lightly damaged stands a walk through may be all that is necessary to estimate Tree Damage Classifications and Stand Damage Categories.

Assessing Ice Damaged Trees

Will Recover
> 75% crown intact

Good chance of recovery
50 – 75% crown intact

Low chance of recovery
<50% crown intact

< 20-degree bend — will recover
< 60-degree bend — good chance of recovery
> 60-degree bend — low chance of recover
**Tree Damage Classifications:**

None
- No visible damage

Light
- Crown intact (>75% of original crown intact)
  
  OR
- < 20 degree bend in stem or < 15 degree lean (from vertical)

Moderate
- Broken mid-crown (50 – 75% of crown intact)
  
  OR
- < 60 degree bend in stem or 15-30 degree lean

Heavy
- Broken below crown (<50% of crown intact) and > 3 live limbs in crown
  
  OR
- > 60 degree bend or > 45 degree lean

Severe
- Top out (< 3 live limbs in crown)
  
  OR
- Root Sprung
  
  OR
- Broken Stem

**Stand Damage Categories:**

None
- Less than 10% of crop trees with damage

Light
- Immature stands (< 5 years or < 15' total height) with no moderate or heavier crown damage
  
  OR
- < 20% of crop trees with moderate + damage classification

Moderate
- > 20% of crop trees with moderate + damage classification
  
  AND < 30% of crop trees with heavy or severe damage classification

Heavy
- > 50% of crop trees with moderate + damage classification
  
  AND > 30% of crop tree with heavy or severe damage classification

**Management Implications:**

- Stand in No or Light damage category should require little follow up to recover.
- Stands in Moderate category may warrant Timber Improvement Cuts or no follow up depending on the % of trees in heavy or severe damage classes and spatial arrangement of damage in the stand. Stands in Moderate category should retain adequate (maybe slightly understocked) healthy or WILL RECOVER trees after thinning.
- Stand in Heavy category may warrant Timber Improvement Cut or Salvage Harvest depending on the % of trees in heavy or severe damage classes.

**NOTE:** For CRP acres minimum residual basal area post thinning is 50 square feet per acre. If the BA of healthy or “will recover” is less than 50 liquidate the stand (a variance may be available from FSA if requested).