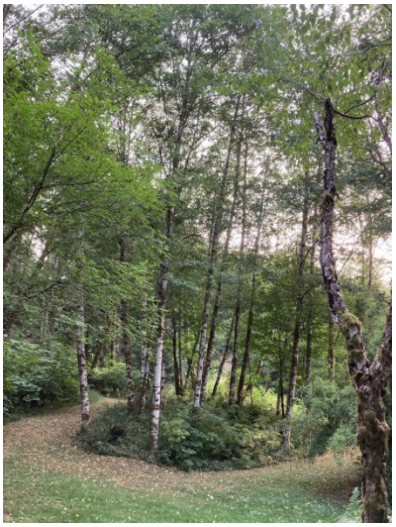
Wild Thyme Farm – Lewis County WFFA Annual Picnic and Twilight Tour – July 15, 2025

Site #1: Senescent alder on the right (> 70 years old), (already dead & removed on the left), replaced by Bigleaf maple in the background and planted Port Orford cedar in the foreground. Cannot regenerate conifers in riparian zone below until rule waiver allows alder harvesting. Tried and failed to underplant in the ravine below.

Site #2: First thinned alder stand (~45 years old, thinned at ~20yrs). May grow out another 10-15 years before harvest to increase value of veneer logs. Hand and self-pruned more than 15 years ago. More success with understory planting with more light from the "edge effect."

Site #3: Mature hardwood stand (< 20% conifer) showing average spacing of more than 20 feet between trees (< 100 TPA), with fully closed canopy. "Perfect" alder in foreground with top veneer grade up to about 30'.



Site #4: Measured alder in 1/8-acre stand (~45 years old, thinned at ~25yrs). High site index for alder (>100). DBH measured in 2007 and 2021, showing basal area growth of 65% in that period. Average DBH 2007: 11.7", 2021: 15.1". Estimated currently 184 TPA, 227sf BA. Demonstrates that productive stand size < 1 acre is possible.

Site #5: Multi-species, multi-age stand complexity in the Central Ravine, including large maple snag. Replanting will mostly be cedar and hemlock in the openings provided by fallen/dying legacy maples on the steep north-facing slope.

Site #6: "Banyan" Cedar. An artifact of silvopasturing, in which decades of cattle grazing around an open-grown cedar protected by a thicket of blackberry allowed the branches to "layer" on the ground and re-root, producing a ring of younger cedars encircling the mother tree.

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S**ite #7:** Closed canopy stand with low stocking level and poor-quality hardwoods due to legacy coppice maple hogging the available sunlight on a steep, north-facing slope. Will require a full re-set harvest of little value to make productive again. Perhaps a maple syrup site as an alternative?

S**ite #8:** West Ravine: Great Ice Storm - December 1996, with delayed restoration as of 2021. Coastal redwoods and Giant Sequoia mixed in. Surviving legacy alder farther up the ravine has impeded further restoration due to heavy shade in north-facing ravine. Another example of where a severe disturbance (like a clearcut) can spur a faster recovery with more desirable stand conditions. Partial disturbance and allowing alder to decline encourages brush holes that are extremely difficult to recover. Hemlock and cedar are best candidates to eventually push up through brush. Shade-intolerant Doug fir and alder will be crushed.

Up top on the Westside: 2018 Post-harvest result of prescription to remove all alder and poor-quality maple, retaining all conifer. Replanted primarily with Doug fir plus small patches of Western White and Willamette Ponderosa pine. Cedar and some hemlock in shadier sites. Planted at ~300 TPA to accommodate natural regeneration, favoring alder where it fits best.

S**ite #9:** Afforestation via the Conservation Reserve Program in old cattle pasture along north (right) side of salmon-bearing Garrard Creek. Initially planted in 2000, and re-planted numerous times due to beaver, vole, and other depredation. Much more difficult getting trees to grow in grass versus a clear-cut, requiring regular mowing for several years and other protective measures. Experimented with nearly all native tree species, and current species composition has evolved significantly from original specifications. Green pasture on the south (left) side of the creek shows the “before” condition. Black cottonwood, Oregon ash and WR cedar have been planted in a narrow strip along the south edge, and they must be caged permanently to prevent beaver depredation.