05/06/2025
Chuck Schwager
125 South 2nd
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Dear Chuck,

I have walked and completed an inventory of the property located south of Baldwin, Iowa. The property was recently surveyed with a total of 4.38 acres. Of this, the county road right away is 0.69 acres with a net total acres of 3.69. Of the 3.69 acres, approximately 0.47 acres is water, which includes Bear Creek and a small tributary stream that drains into Bear Creek. There are three separate land parcels separated by Bear Creek and the feeder creek.

The west side of the property was planted to trees approximately 25 years ago. The site was planted with walnut, ash, and bur oak. The ash have died from emerald ash disease, and the site is mostly dominated with walnut and a few cottonwood, elm, box elder, and mulberry. A handful of the planted bur oak are also present on the site. This portion of the property is dominated with 6-14 inch diameter walnut that are medium to good quality. The stand is overstocked and should be thinned to give the better walnut more room to grow. This would be completed by removing poor formed walnut, cottonwood, box elder, mulberry, and elm that are over topping the better walnut. I would also prune the lower dead limbs on the walnut to improve the quality of the wood. Most of the trees in this site, if thinned are approximately 20 years from maturity.

The east side of Bear Creek contains two parcels of land that are also dominated with walnut, cottonwood, box elder, elm, and mulberry. The ash have died in this stand and the understory is dominated with grasses and annual weeds. The walnut on this side are a little larger and average 15 inches in diameter.

I would estimate the current volume of walnut at 4,300 board feet of lumber with a current timber value of $11,400. The highest priority to manage this stand would be to complete the thinning to improve the growth rate of the existing trees. There would also be some areas that could be planted to more desirable native trees to include pecan, sycamore, pin oak, swamp white oak, bottomland bur oak, river birch, and other native trees.

Prepared by: Kevin Oetken

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