



# ASCC Workshop

Comments from **Iowa**

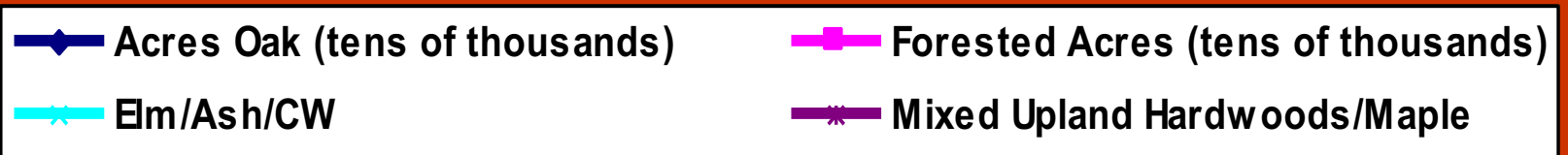
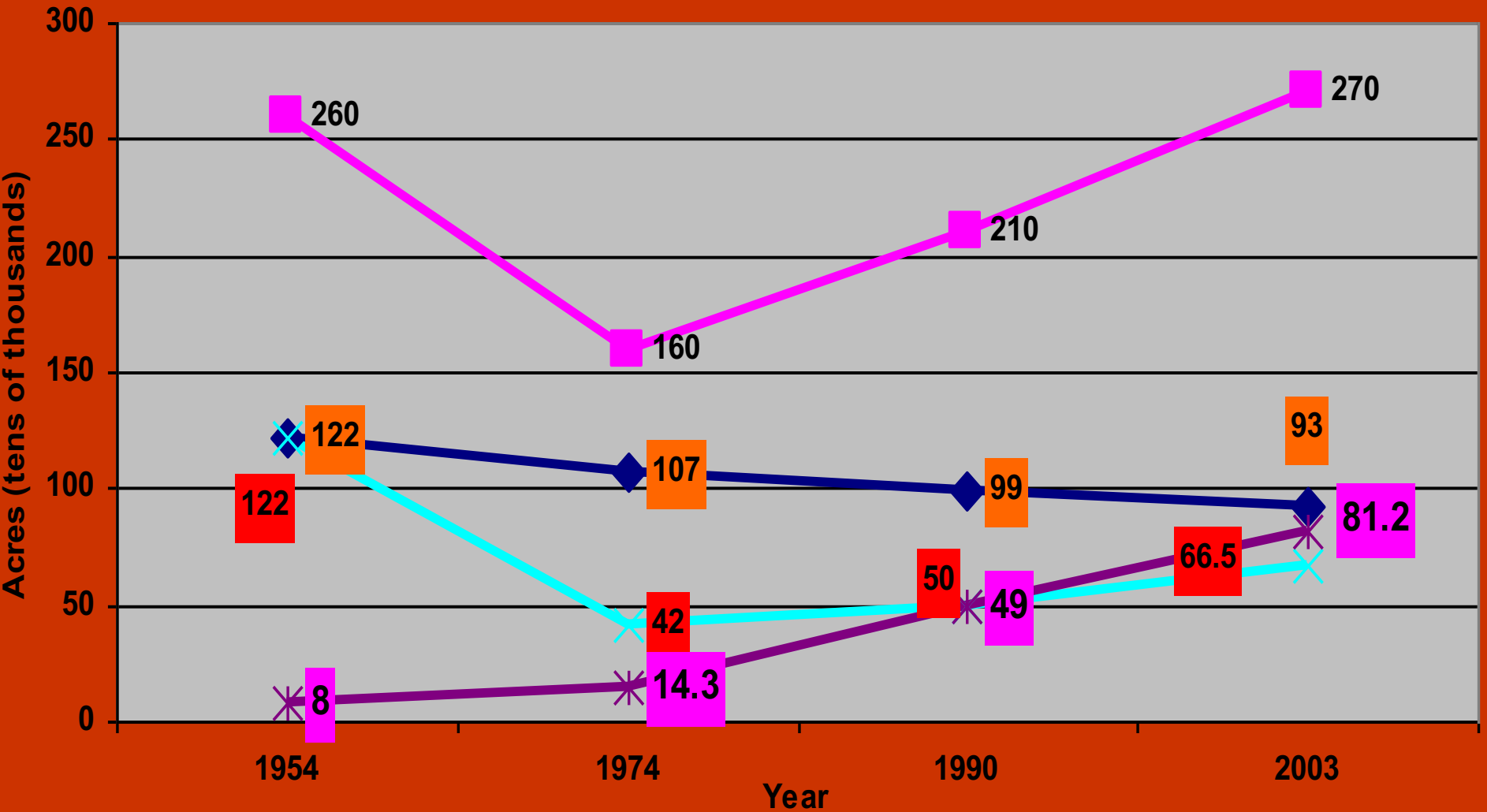
*By Bruce Blair*



Fact: Oak-Hickory Forest is  
Important.

*(We in the Driftless are not doing enough to keep oak  
on our landscape.)*

Comparison of Forest Types 1954-2003 (FIA)



# Factors leading to oak-hickory decline

- Ecological Succession: (*Kotar identifies most of the Driftless Region in Iowa as Acer/Tilia/Desmodium*)
- Lack of the right kinds of disturbances.
- Mesification: (*need to take more seriously*)
- High Grade or Diameter Limit logging: (*pressure to harvest when land changes hands.*)
- Too many whitetails



# Carrying Capacity

- Biological CC: >200-300 deer/sq.mi. habitat
- Cultural CC: ~40 deer/sq.mi. habitat (Iowa)
- Ecosystem CC: 20-30 deer/sq.mi. habitat
- Oak Regen CC: 5-15 deer/sq.mi. habitat

# What we do at YRSF

- Clearcutting with scarification + planting large seedling stock: *(follow the oak wilt)*
- Shelterwood with modifications: *(mostly fire, underplanting, adaptive approach)*
- Converting Open Fields to Mixed Oak:
- Early entry CTR to rescue the oak in our clearcuts: *(first entry as early as 6 years).*



# Private Lands

## *Factors impacting Iowa*

- Most Forest Land is Selectively Harvested: >90%? Implications?
- Fire as a Management Tool is Difficult
- Professional Assistance: District Foresters & ISU Extension
- Assistance Programs: Cost-share Programs & Grants
- Forest Reserve Tax Program



