

SUSTAINING BIODIVERSITY IN MIDWESTERN WOODLANDS

Douglas Ladd¹

Abstract: Woodland ecosystems in the Midwestern United States provide habitat for an impressive array of biodiversity, including endemic organisms. Sustainable conservation of high quality woodland landscapes must consider the genesis, process regimes, and ecological dynamics of these systems, both in contemporary and presettlement time frames. An essential goal of conservation efforts must be to retain diverse aggregations of native biota. To this end, organismal considerations are requisite for implementing and monitoring woodland ecosystem management from a biodiversity standpoint. Examples of woodland restoration and management are presented and discussed, with particular emphasis on fire ecology and biodiversity impacts.

¹The Nature Conservancy, 2800 S. Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63144.