

Woodland Valley Charcoal

181-43

with Paul Misko

6/13/16

Site	p	Ap	Δe	e calc	e map	time	R
(A) Snyder Hollow Switch	30.50	0.00	(R1=1.000)		850'		$R_1 = \frac{1450' - 850'}{30.50' - 29.10'} = \frac{600'}{0.60''} = 1.00$
(B) below Misko Cabin	29.90	0.60	600	1450 ✓	1450'	10:35	
(C) burnt shanty	29.52	0.98	980	1830	CALC - 1852* MEDIAN	12:10	
(D) cross 1st bark road	29.40	1.10	1110	1960		1:35	
(E) 2nd road bends	29.29	1.21	1210	2060		2:00	
(F) 2nd & 3rd bark road junction	29.18	1.32	1320	2170	Median 2154'	2:10	
(G) cross 4th road	29.22	1.22	1247	2097		—	
(H) follow 5th road	29.28	1.16	1186	2036		2:45	
(I) base steep on 5th rd.	29.34	1.10	1124	1974		3:00	
(J) confluence	29.54	0.90	920	1770 ✓	1770'	3:35	
(B) below Misko Cabin	29.83	0.61	623	1473	1450'	4:30	$R_2 = \frac{1770' - 850'}{30.44' - 29.54'} = \frac{920'}{0.90''} = 1.022$
(A) Snyder Hollow Switch	30.44	0.00	(R2=1.022)		850'	—	

* Calculated elevs from 3 previous hikes = 1824', 1852', 1876', median 1852

Bark roads now ending in all-hardwood stands:

In addition to site (J) of 8/28/07 (pages 181-24+25), Paul says we noted another bark road ending in an all-hardwood site in Morehouse Valley (see site (N) of 9/13/09 on pages 181-31+32).

Site (F) this hike ends in an almost → all-hardwood stand of yellow birch dominant with some beech. Only 3 hemlocks in understory, visible + Charcoal and a hemlock knot on ground.

The explanation? A mature to decadent hemlock stand could have been barked between 1860 (Burroughs) date of shanty burn (continued)

$$R_1 = \frac{1770' - 850'}{30.44' - 29.54'} = \frac{920'}{0.90''} = 1.022$$

and 1870 (when Simpson Tannery closed) without much reproduction at all - hence the lack of hemlock today.

Paul thinks few hardwood in the original 1860s hemlock grove

En route to the Burnt Shanty, between B + C:

SUB-RM-ASH followed the banking, now up to 24". Beech understory abundant. Hemlocks scattered in the valley bottom - not common. Ground cover, not particularly dense, consists of:

MO, SINT, OST, ADIV, V ROT, RA, VMACK?, OX, HAMOM, LL.

Seedlings of SUB, ASH, KM, Hemlock.

Do a ring count on a broken hardwood next time at a mill crossing.

Above Burnt Shanty C 1830:

Charcoal is only to the right (west) above the shanty site, not to the left (east). Most, but not all, charcoal is next to hemlock knot clusters.

Forest on this steep slope is PB-ASH-B-MO-SUB.

Could standing or felled hemlocks have burned, or both?

D 1960' Cross 1st bank road (obscure) on a gentler slope. BASS clump. Two 8" hemlocks to the east

D to E 2060' Up 2nd steep pitch with possible ledge exposed. 2nd bank road

(obvious)

Swerve around the nose of the spur above Slide Brook. Scattered young hemlocks to 6" on PB talus. Charcoal continues.

F 2154' Reverse junction of 2nd & 3rd roads. End hike & start down west toward Slide Brook. PB dominant with B. Only 3 hemlocks (understory) visible. Charcoal & more hemlock knots.

Begin descent

G 2097' Cross road #4.

H 2036' Turn onto road #5 obscure and follow it down. Scattered hem saplings in a B-PB forest.

I 1974' Base of steep grade of road #5. Tom Clark & MK might have missed this road on 10/13/13 (see pp 181-38 to 40)

Dead mature hemlock along Slide Brook.

OX & Medeola common.

Loose #5 road, then find obvious #6 road & follow it down to Cornell Brook.

K Peat 12" deep collected from a small dried pool approx. across from Movehouse Valley Stream.

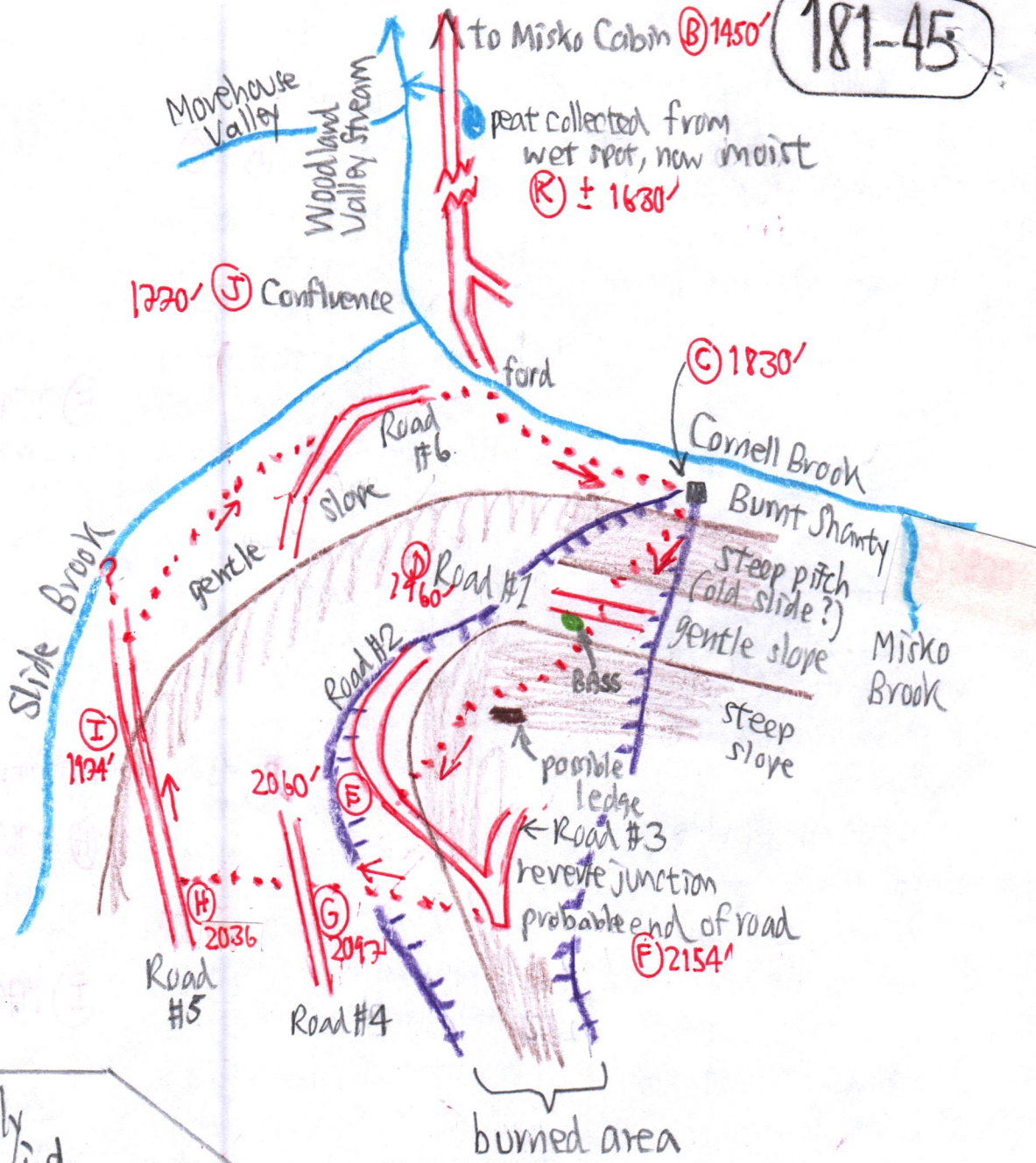
Low density ground cover

In the eastern Catskills could be because of 2 factors:

① extremely bouldery slopes and---

② presence of ground-cover-free hemlock mature stands that were barked. It has taken this long for ground cover to slowly come back.

181-45



Charcoal Tally of specimens i.d. Under microscope

Site	#hemlock	#yellow birch	#unknown	total	Comments
Ascent (C)(D)(E)(F)	28	7	0	35	← Hemlock growth rings very slow, 1 to 3 /mm. Were burned logs on ground felled by bark peelers or fell because of burn? Both? Slow growth suggests old trees
Descent (F)(G)	6	0	0	6	
Total	34	7	0	41	