ABSTRACT.—Silvicultural assessment is important to determine the present condition of a developing stand. It allows resource managers to verify the success or failure of the regeneration and the availability of habitat features that may have been prescribed for the site. This information confirms if the stand is on target with the predicted future condition that may have been prescribed for a site from the area's forest management plan.

The STARS program is a computer program designed to simplify the assessment, data collection and analysis processes. It is a flexible program that allows users to select from several sampling options or to input their own sampling methodology. The assessment program allows the user to collect regeneration, competition and overstory tree information. It also allows the user to collect data on logging damage, Forest Ecosystem Classification information, soil variables, downed woody debris and crown closure at the option of the forest manager.

Data can be collected with hand-held data entry recorders or on paper tally sheets. The hand-held data recorders loaded with STARS allows the user to determine the sample size required to obtain a desired level of precision while in the field.

The compilation program analyzes the data and produces summarized information on regeneration success, competition level, and overstory description. It also provides optional summaries of logging damage to residual trees, regeneration, and site, amount of down woody debris, number of live cavity trees, snags, tree quality and volume, and crown closure.

A manual accompanies the STARS computer program. It provides information necessary to establish field plots, measure the vegetation, and the procedure for entering data into the STARS program. It also provides information necessary to compile and process the data after the field session has been completed.