
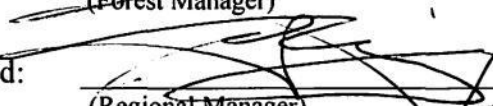
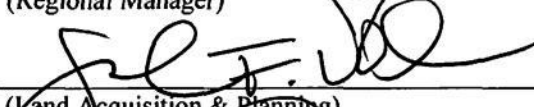



GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2019

Prepared:	 _____ (Forest Manager)	<u>7/2/18</u> Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Regional Manager)	<u>7/12/18</u> Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Land Acquisition & Planning)	<u>7/26/18</u> Date
Approved:	 _____ (Environmental Specialist)	<u>7/30/18</u> Date

Forest Overview

Green Ridge State Forest is located in eastern Allegany County. It is the only State Forest located in the Ridge and Valley province. Green Ridge receives the least amount of rainfall in Maryland, averaging 36 inches annually. Consisting of 48,839 acres, Green Ridge is the largest contiguous block of forestland in Maryland within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It accounts for about 30% of the State Forest System and approximately 12% of all DNR land in Maryland.

The general geographic boundaries of Green Ridge are Town Creek to the west and Sideling Hill Creek to the east. The northern boundary extends to the Mason-Dixon Line. The southern boundary parallels the Potomac River.

Elevations range from 500 feet above sea level on the Potomac River to 2,000 feet on Town Hill.

Three Major highways traverse the forest in an east to west direction: Route 144, Maryland Route 51, and Interstate 68.

In the early 1800's, Richard Caton and William Carroll in partnership owned much of the land that is Green Ridge State Forest today. Richard Caton was the son-in-law to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. William Carroll was the grandson of Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, a framer of the United States Constitution. The land was originally patented from vacant lands during the 1820-1840 period for inclusion into various timber and mining interests, primarily the Town Hill Mining, Manufacturing, and Timber Company. This business venture was financed by the estate of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The crumbling stone structure known as the Carroll Chimney, part of the steam-powered sawmill built in 1836, is the only known surviving structure of that period.

In the 1880-1912 era, most of the remaining virgin forest was cut and a period of neglect resulted in numerous wildfires. During the early 1900's, the Mertens family of Cumberland attempted to convert the forest into apple orchards and promoted it as "The Largest Apple Orchard in the Universe."

The orchard was subdivided into 10-acre parcels and sold to individuals as investment properties. Five acres of each property parcel was cleared, burned, and planted into apple trees. The remaining five acres had the best trees cut and the poorer trees were left standing. The orchard company went into bankruptcy in 1918. The interests of the corporation were acquired by the State Department of Forestry in 1931.

The first forest management activities at Green Ridge were performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's. Their main focus was fire control. Other work consisted of building roads, trails, recreation enhancements, and the management of existing forest for its future timber and wildlife potential.

During World War II, the CCC camp at Fifteen Mile Creek housed German prisoners of war who were required to cut pulpwood in the forest. As the forest grew it became popular with outdoor enthusiasts, especially hunters. It also contributed more and more to the local wood products industry.

Today, Green Ridge is a diverse forest consisting primarily of a 110 year old even-aged mixed oak forest, mixed with a wide variety of age classes resulting from various silviculture activities beginning in the late 1960's.

The oak consists of a variety of species, including black oak, white oak, red oak, scarlet oak, and chestnut oak. Five native pines grow at Green Ridge: white pine, Virginia pine, pitch pine, table-mountain pine, and shortleaf pine. Flowering dogwood, redbud, and serviceberry are common understory trees.

Upland animals found in abundant numbers on the forest are white-tailed deer, fox and gray squirrel, raccoons, red fox, and cottontail rabbits. Other animals include muskrat, beaver, mink, chipmunks, mice, flying squirrels, weasels, skunks, opossums, bobcat, and black bear.

Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and woodcock are popular game birds on Green Ridge. Other birds include the pileated woodpecker, red-tailed hawk, and the barred owl. A wide variety of neo-tropical migrants and songbirds also occur on the forest.

Wildflowers such as mayapple, coltsfoot, spring beauty, trillium, bloodroot, and spiderwort flourish at Green Ridge.

Green Ridge State Forest

Fiscal Year 2019

AWP Summary

This work plan includes silviculture proposals for a total of 221 managed acres within the 20,000 acre general management zone in which area based sustainable forest management is practiced. Of these managed acres, harvests are proposed. There will be some variation between managed acres and actual harvest acres to provide for various buffers and/or retention areas. Under area based management, the annual target is 200 managed acres.

The silviculture proposals within this plan include 119 acres of variable retention harvests for an estimated 509mbf of hardwood.

In addition to the above silviculture projects, other maintenance, recreation, ecosystem restoration, watershed improvement, monitoring, and special projects are included in this plan. Specific projects are described within the following pages.

Maintenance Projects

General Maintenance will continue such as maintaining 100 primitive campsites, hazardous tree removal, pole gate installations as needed, mowing and maintenance of handicap access hunting areas, and general maintenance of headquarters complex, shooting range, and outbuildings.

1. Identify and mark all new acquisition boundaries & re-blaze 20 miles of existing state forest boundary.
2. Continue to maintain 100 primitive camp sites.
3. Continue to maintain public shooting range.
4. Continue to maintain viewsheds on 5 overlooks.
5. Continue to maintain 4 handicap hunter access roads.

Recreation Projects

- 1. Maintain approximately 60 miles of trails including 50 miles of hiking trails and 12 miles of mountain bike trail.**
- 2. Continue to enhance upland game hunting opportunities by enhancing early successional wildlife habitat at Kirk Orchard, Bull Ring Ranch, Anthony's Ridge, and Kasecamp Bottomlands.**
- 3. Provide 2-4 guided interpretive tours on the forest to share management principles and practices with the public.**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. Forest Regeneration Inventory:

A Critical part of achieving long term sustainable forestry is monitoring and measuring the outcomes or responses to the management. Since the Stand delineation and inventory project was completed in 2017, these technician resources will be available to focus on inventory of the regeneration and response to management. This work will include collecting regeneration inventory data under the Silvah protocol and all stands will be sampled 3-5 years post regeneration harvest.

B. Continue to Network with Partners:

GRSF is committed to being a “teaching forest” and strives to reconnect people to the land through providing forest management tours for the general public, hosting training sessions and forest resource-based events, service learning projects, and serving as natural laboratory for schools and universities.

1. Maintain working relationship with Garrett College – Forestry classes use forest as training laboratory and implement practices directed by Forest Manager.
2. Maintain working relationship with Allegany College of Maryland-Forestry Program will use GRSF for forestry lab and site for their Summer Harvesting Course. GRSF will provide a site where timber can be extracted as part of harvesting course in return for in-kind services.
3. Continue participation with Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) Continue partnership with the Ridge and Valley Stream Keepers (RVSK). GRSF provides meeting room and shares information in return RVSK monitor water quality in the streams within GRSF.
4. Continue partnership with Wildlife Institute and RGS to work on enhancing early succession wildlife habitat on the forest.
5. Continue to support and collaborate with Volunteer groups to facilitate the spirit of service on the forest and reconnect people to the land.
6. Continue to participate in I&E Programs including Home Ground, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Natural Resources Careers Camp, etc..

Green Ridge State Forest Fiscal Year 2019 Silviculture Projects Summary

Proposal Name	Compartment	Managed Ac.	Harvest Ac.	Est (mbf)	Prescription
1 Malcolm Road	62	142	68	260	VR
2 Howard Road	50	58	51	177	VR
3 Stafford Road	53	21	21	N/A	TSI

*Total 221 149 437mbf

Abbreviations for prescriptions:
 TSI Timber Stand Improvement
 VR Variable Retention

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Malcolm Rd

Managed Area: 142 Acres

Harvest Area: 68 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 102 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

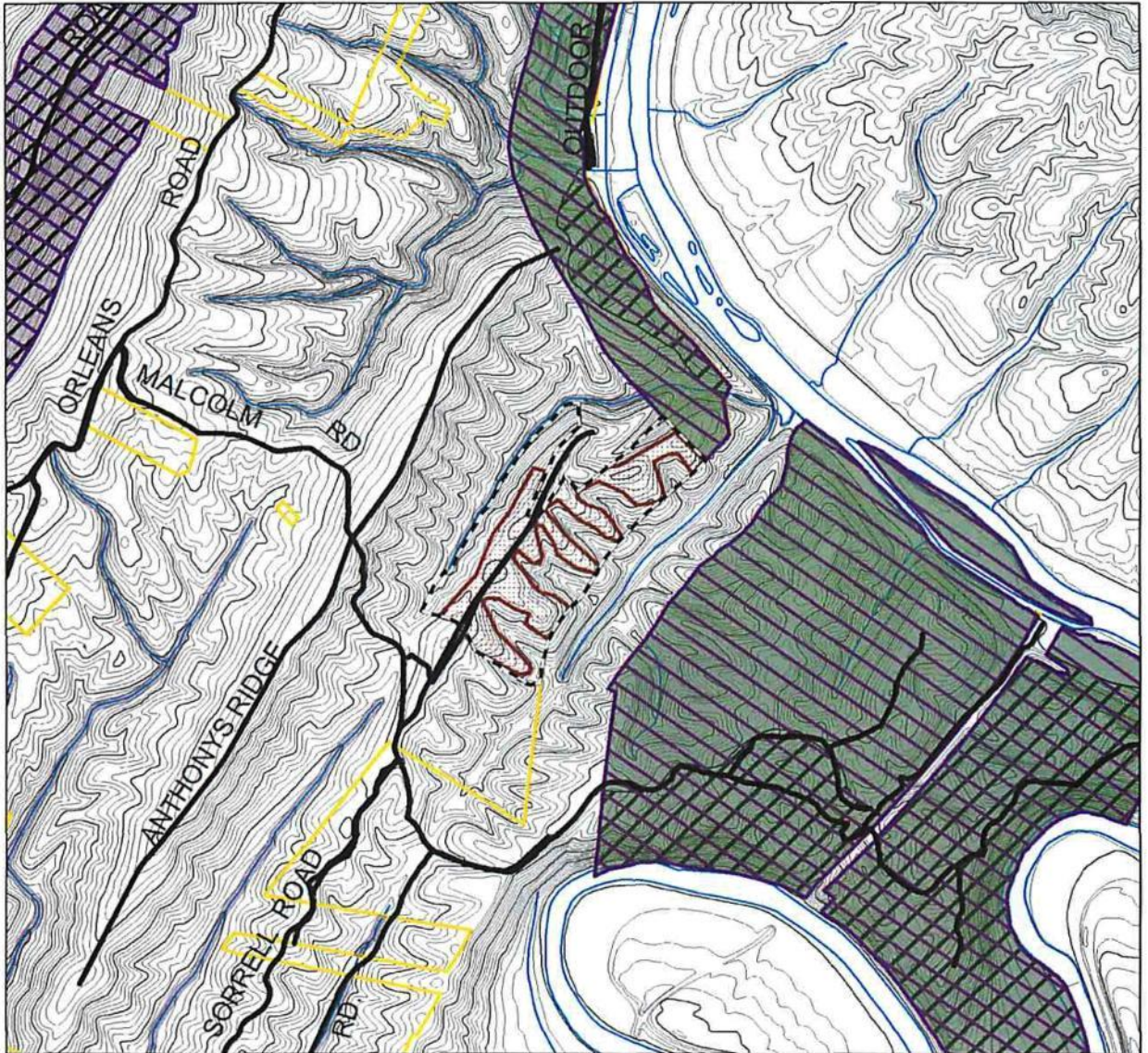
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

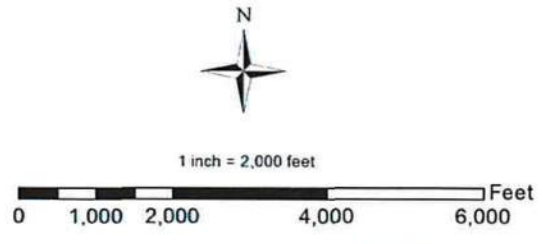
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 102 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchards afterwards. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2019 Proposed Harvest Malcolm Rd



Compartment - 62
 Managed Area - 142 Acres
 Harvest Area - 68 Acres
 Age - 102
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 228
 AGS - 85 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 108%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Weikert
 Site Index - 50
 Composition - CO- 30%
 SO- 22%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Howard Rd

Managed Area: 58 Acres

Harvest Area: 51 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand has reached maturity at 100 years. Furthermore, it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

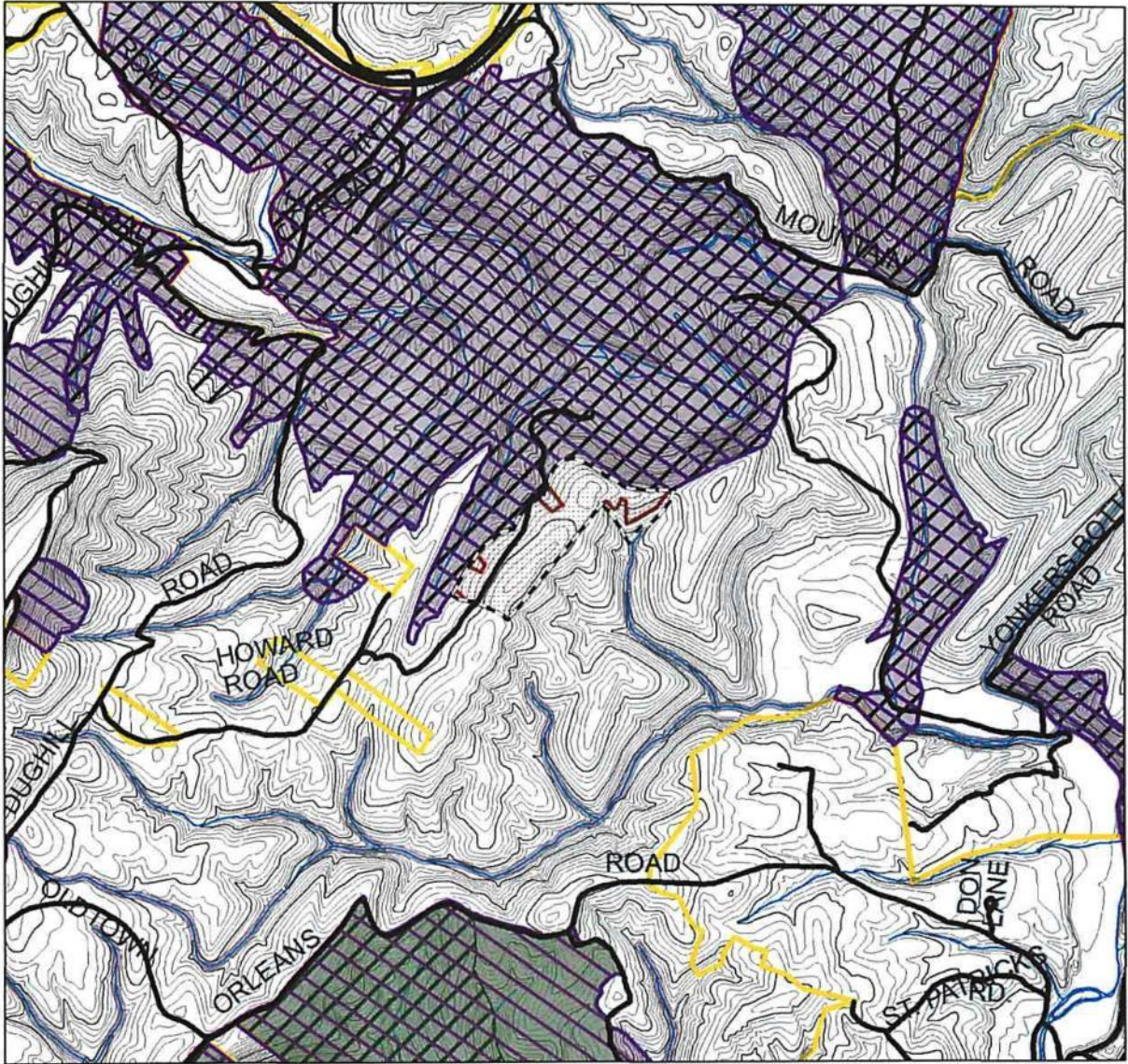
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HC VF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

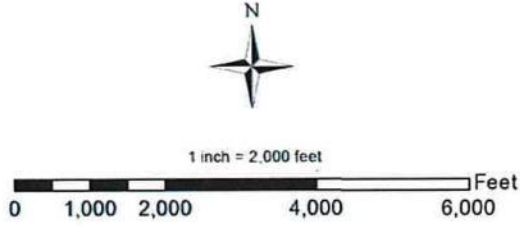
Historic Conditions: This stand, like most of GRSF, likely developed on its own over the past 100 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchards afterwards. Historically, this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2019 Proposed Harvest Howard Rd



Compartment - 50
 Managed Area - 58 Acres
 Harvest Area - 51 Acres
 Age - 100
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 233
 AGS - 59 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 105%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Weikert
 Site Index - 52
 Composition - CO- 29%
 WO- 26%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Stafford Road

Managed Area: 21 Acres

Harvest Area: 21 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

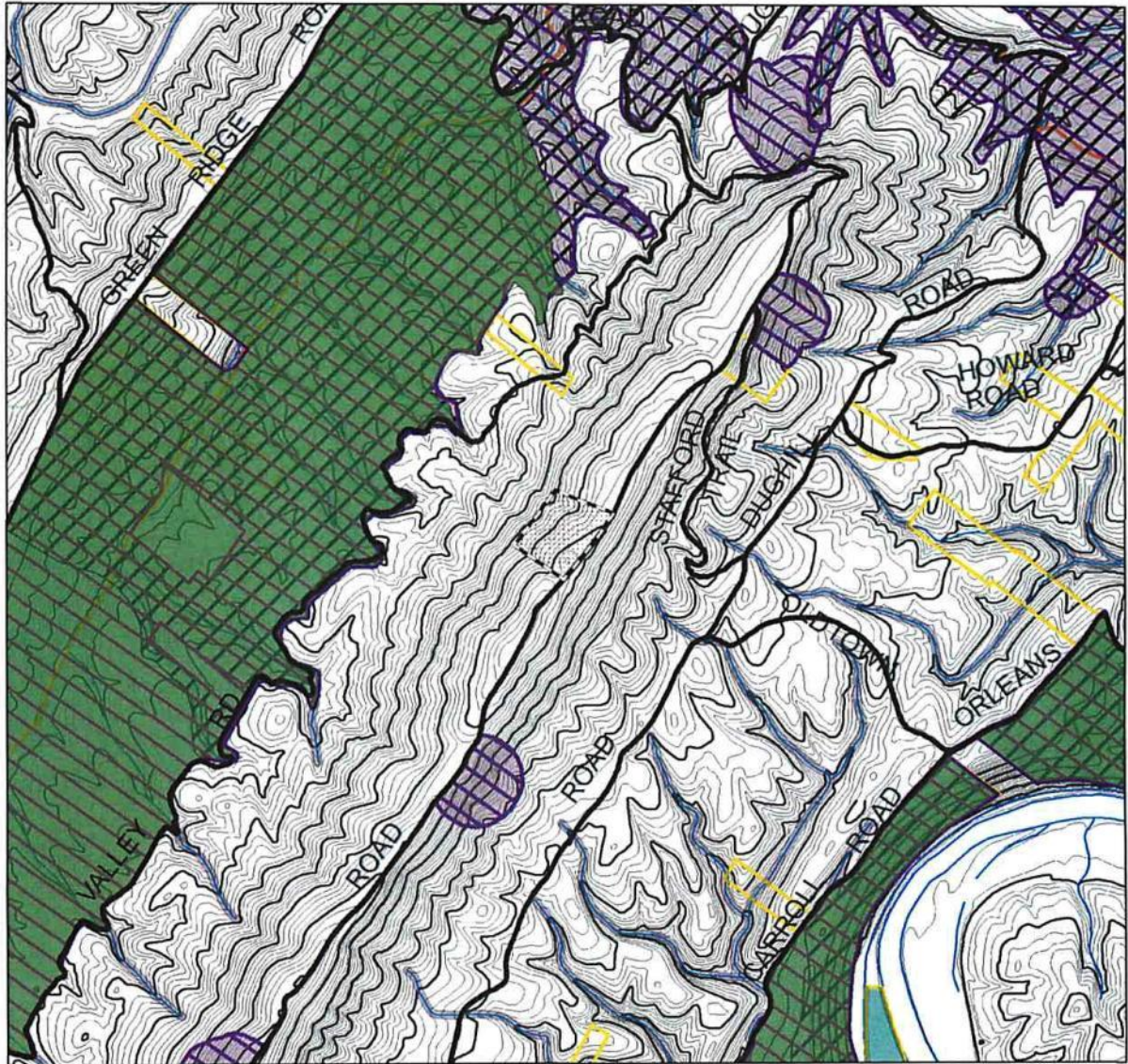
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

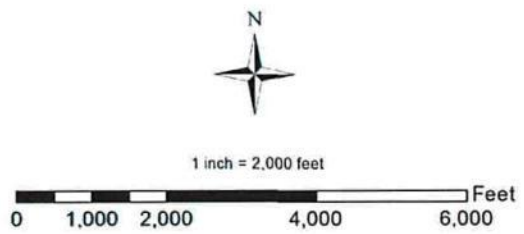
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF was likely clearcut and the ground was converted to fruit orchard over 100 years ago. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape. The stand was then commercially clearcut approximately 40 years ago and left to naturally regenerate into the stand it is today.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to do a TSI Thinning and remove 65 sq. ft. of basal area to achieve B-level stocking. Red Maple and other undesirable species will be targeted for removal. Reducing the stocking will reduce stress and enhance growth of the residual stand of mixed oaks. Any snags and large cavity trees will be retained for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2019 Proposed Thinning Stafford Rd



Compartment - 53
 Managed Area - 21 Acres
 Harvest Area - 21 Acres
 Age - 40
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 516
 AGS - 90 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 125%+
 Growth Rate - 2%
 Soil Type - Dekalb
 Site Index - 63
 Composition - NRO- 44%
 CO- 35%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Continue to establish and enhance riparian buffers along Town Creek with volunteer tree planting projects. Non invasive tree and shrub species will be planted to establish forest buffers and enhance wildlife habitat.

SPECIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS

1. Continue Implementation of the Kirk Orchard, Anthony's Ridge, and Kasecamp Bottoms, and Town Creek Special Wildlife Habitat Plans.
2. Continue Rotational mowing and brush management in approved grasslands and other wildlife openings.
3. Create and manage a 2 acre pollinator meadow in the Town Creek Special Wildlife Habitat Area to serve as a demonstration area for pollinator management.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS

1. Work will continue to suppress ailanthus populations on the forest. Focus will be put on roadside populations, Special Wildlife Habitat areas, and individuals found within harvest proposal areas. Research has shown that suppression of ailanthus is most successful when using basal bark or cut surface treatments prior to harvest.

MONITORING PROJECTS

1. MD DNR Fisheries will continue to monitor aquatic populations in Town Creek and the Potomac River. The Ridge and Valley Stream Keepers will also continue to monitor water quality in the streams within the region.
2. GRSF staff will monitor regeneration of stands by completing post harvest regeneration inventories on all final rotation harvests during 2nd & 5th growing season.
3. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Division will continue to monitor 2 GRSF resident black bear sows and cubs that are collared and gps equipped.
4. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to research and monitor T&E species on the forest including wood turtle, timber rattlesnake, and several lepidoptra species.
5. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to monitor big game harvest on the State Forest via required hunter harvest check in system.
6. GRSF staff will continue to monitor and document all timber operations within the forest on a weekly basis.
7. Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will continue to monitor gypsy moth, hemlock wooly adelgid, and other insect pest populations on the forest.
8. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to monitor whip-poor-will populations with annual spring nightjar survey.
9. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will coordinate monitoring of GWWA population with spring surveys.

Operational Management

1. Introduction

This section of the plan is designed to cover the annual cost and revenues associated with the operational management of Green Ridge State Forest. It is the Department's intent that most of the revenues generated from the GRSF will be used to pay for the management and operation of the Forest. As stated in Chapter 1 of this plan, "*The primary goal of the Green Ridge State Forest Sustainable Management Plan is to demonstrate that an environmentally sound, sustainably managed forest can contribute to local and regional economies while at the same time protecting significant or unique natural communities and elements of biological diversity.*"

The numbers expressed in this section are only estimates and averages of annual expenses and revenues. These numbers will fluctuate each year based on management prescriptions, economic conditions and public use of the forest.

The following information is a breakdown on Revenues and Operational costs associated with the Green Ridge State Forest. These figures are only estimates that are based on projected revenues and operational expenses. Yearly changes in the timber markets and weather conditions can severely affect revenues. Also weather can greatly affect recreation revenue. Operational expenses will vary from year to year mainly based on costs associated with proposed projects. For many special projects other sources of revenues such as matching grants will be sought to help offset the cost to the Department.

2. Green Ridge State Forest Revenue

Estimated: \$200,000 to \$225,000

Revenues that are generated from the Green Ridge State Forest are deposited into the Department's Forest Reserve Fund. In order to cover expenses out of this Fund, a Green Ridge Forest Budget must be developed a year in advance as part of the larger DNR budget. It then goes through the legislative approval/review process along with all other state operating budgets. Once adopted, the budget goes into effect the first day of the fiscal year (July 1st).

Forest Product Sale Revenue: Estimated: \$150,000 to \$175,000

This revenue is generated from the sale of forest products, which are identified in the Annual Work Plan. Traditional forest products include pulpwood and sawtimber from intermediate and regeneration harvests. This revenue is tied to forest harvest activities identified in the annual work plan and will vary each year. With the current age class distribution of the forest most revenue will be from regeneration final harvest operations.

Recreation Revenue: Estimated: \$75,000 to 125,000

This revenue is generated from the sale of camping permits, fuel wood permits, and shooting range permits.

Other Revenue/Funding Sources

Annual Amounts vary, Estimated: \$NA

Other budgetary funding that is utilized on an annual basis in the management of Green Ridge State Forest comes from a variety of sources including the Forest or Park Reserve Fund and General Funds.

Grants

Annual Amounts vary, Estimated for FY-2019: \$30,000

Other funding comes in the form of grants through state and federal sources and are primarily utilized in recreation, habitat and watershed restoration projects. These funds are project specific. Some funding will be obtained through partnerships and grants, such as National Recreation Trail Grants funds. Expenses include the installation recreation improvements, removing invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities and habitat. This year GRSF has applied for \$30,000 through the National Recreation Trail Grant program to fund labor for maintaining the Green Ridge Trail system.

3. OPERATIONAL COST:

Estimated total Annual Expenses: \$561,810

Operational expenses are those costs paid directly out of the GRSF operational budget by the State Forest Manager and vary based on approval of operational budgets. The Forest Manager prepares a proposed operational budget for the forest based on instructions provided approximately one year in advance of the fiscal year. The FY-2019 budget proposal was prepared in August of 2017.

Staffing Cost

Classified Salaries, Wages and Benefits, Estimated: \$261,810

This cost is associated with Departmental State Personnel classified salaries. This staff is responsible for developing and implementing annual work plans, managing the daily activities on the forest, including resource management, recreation program management, maintenance, and administration.

Contractual Staffing, Estimated: \$130,000

This cost is associated with contractual staffing associated with operations of the state forest. Contractual personnel are responsible for assisting classified personnel in conducting work outlined in the annual work plan, managing the daily activities on the forest, including boundary line work, maintenance of trails, forest roads, maintaining primitive campsites, a public shooting range, overlooks, wildlife habitat areas, and assist with implementing all maintenance, recreational, silviculture, and ecosystem restoration projects.

Land Operation Cost

Estimated: \$160,000

This includes expenses for office and field equipment, vehicles, gates, gravel, signs, boundary paint, roadwork contracts and construction, trash removal from illegal dumping, boundary line work & surveying, tree planting, site preparation, control of invasive species, pre-commercial thinning and other forest management practices. Some

of these costs will vary greatly from year to year based on the activities identified in the Annual Work Plan.

Forest Certification, Inventory & Monitoring Program

Estimated: \$10,000

This estimate reflects the annual cost of various on-going inventory and research projects on the forest. Expenses are directly tied to Forest Certification. The purpose of forest monitoring is to accurately evaluate forest health and the effects of specific management activities. Resource managers will use the information to make informed future management decisions (i.e. adaptive management). Cost would cover both forest resource and sensitive habitat inventories and monitoring the effects of various restoration projects.

Expenses for forest certification will vary from year to year and will be at their highest at the initial certification and then every five years when the re-certification is done. Routine audits are used to verify compliance with the various certification programs. The goal is to certify Green Ridge State Forest under both the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (SFC). Each certifying agency takes a slightly different look at what is needed for sustainable forest management. Expenses will include fees for audits and annual monitoring programs for compliance with the certification requirements.

Future plans include hiring additional staffing to cover wildlife management activities, restoration projects, recreation management, monitoring, and additional forestry related activities outlined in this Sustainable Resource Management Plan for Green Ridge State Forest.

4. Summary

This is the general breakdown on Revenues and Operational Cost associated with the Green Ridge State Forest for FY-2019. As described, these figures will vary from year to year. This generalization of the operating budget suggests the importance of maintaining income levels in order to achieve the goals set forth in the other portions of this plan (i.e. sustainability).

**Annual Work Plan Review
Summary of Review Comments
Green Ridge State Forest**

The following is a summary of the comments and actions taken in response to the three-part review process of the Green Ridge State Forest FY-19 Annual Work Plan. Comments were received through DNR ID Team review, Citizens Advisory Committee review, and the public review of the internet posted AWP.

Comments regarding specific proposals as listed in table of contents.

Sections A - E

ID TEAM: No specific comments

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific comments.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific comments.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposals as planned.

Section F Silvicultural Projects

COMPARTMENT #62– Malcolm Road

A 142 acre stand to regenerate approximately 68 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: No concerns from review team.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

COMPARTMENT #50 Howard Road

A 58 acre stand to regenerate approximately 51 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: No specific comments.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

COMPARTMENT #70 Stafford Road.

A 21 acre stand to thin approximately 21 acres TSI.

ID TEAM: No major concerns

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

Sections G - K

ID TEAM: No specific comments

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific comments.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific comments.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposals as planned.

Public Review Comments

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <boprow@aol.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 20, 2018 at 8:24 AM
Subject: State Forest Annual Work Plans
To: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

When planning for these forest's management I would like to see consideration for birds, especially at-risk species that depend on mature deciduous forests to have a successful nesting season. I also enjoy hiking and horse back riding when allowed and hope these activities will be continued. I think it's important to manage our forests in ways that not only benefit our human activities and needs but also sustain the wild plants and animals that make them their home.

Thank you,
Mary Prowell

----- Forwarded message -----

From: JESSICA <jepi10@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Feb 9, 2018 at 6:48 AM
Subject: Forest management
To: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

I wish there was more focus on providing habitat for upland birds

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App
Jessica c

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Robin Warren <rbnwar@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 4:40 PM
Subject: State Forest Annual Work Plans
To: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

Mr. Perdue,

I have read the State Forest Work Plans for GRSF, SRSF and PGSF and was surprised to see just how old many of these forests are. I would like to see a more aggressive approach to managing our forests, with at least 10% of each forest harvested yearly. We need new growth or succession forests to sustain much of the wildlife that require such.

I am an avid grouse and woodcock hunter and have noticed a steady decline in the number of grouse I have flushed in the last couple of years, especially in GRSF. In fact, this has been the worst year for grouse in Green Ridge with only two flushes in at least 20 hours of hunting. I log hunting my hours and flush/kill rates which I forward to Bob Long, the DNR Upland Manager.

We have a lot of potential here in Maryland for great grouse hunting if only our forestry management was

more aggressive.

Thank you,

Gene Warren,
Eldersburg, MD

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sidney Beddow** <sbeddow@zoominternet.net>
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 12:27 PM
Subject: Maryland State Forest Annual Work Plans FY 2019
To: Jack Perdue <jack.perdue@maryland.gov>

Dear Mr. Perdue,

It was with great interested that I reviewed the Green Ridge, Savage River and Potomac/Garrett State Forest plans for fiscal year 2019. My interest is primarily from that of a Maryland resident who also happens to be a Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock hunter.

Since the three plans amount to over 200 pages of documentation, much of which being rather technical in nature, I will have to admit that my forestry knowledge is limited so perhaps my comments will not be overly technical. That said I was pleased with the effort to enhance wildlife habitat that I found in each of the plans.

It is my understanding that forest conservation is facing the important challenges of unhealthy forest management practices, habitat loss and declining wildlife populations. Overcoming these challenges to forest conservation, and ensuring that protecting, restoring and creating early successional forests that provide habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and songbirds must be and important focus for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Habitat Management is Essential to the Future of Grouse and Woodcock Hunting. Grouse and woodcock habitat must be responsibly and intelligently managed to maintain or grow grouse populations, whether it be by private landowners or government agencies. Left unmanaged, even the best habitat will outgrow its ability to provide grouse with food, cover and protection from predators – and populations will decline.

These factors, combined with a general misunderstanding of the benefits of active forest management can generate negative public opinion about forest products and natural resources industries. While so-called "old growth" forests are both visually and emotionally appealing, they are no friends to wildlife, whether they be ruffed grouse, woodcock, whitetail deer, golden-winged warblers or the dozens of species of other songbirds and other forest creatures that rely on young forest habitats.

I would encourage the Forest Managers at Green Ridge, Savage River and Potomac/Garrett State Forests to continue to reach out to the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) for assistance in successional management practices. The RGS can provides technical and financial assistance to

public land management agencies to assist in the management of the lands they control for early successional wildlife, including grouse and woodcock habitat. Economic harvesting of timber is a major consideration of many public forest overseers. Because the benefit to grouse and woodcock is in small-block timber harvesting, and most timber harvesters prefer to harvest in large blocks, the Society assists public land managers in several ways. These include: providing funding to build timber harvest access roads through public forest lands, thereby reducing the costs and promoting small-block cutting; providing technical assistance via professionally trained personnel to help implement small-block cutting; helping to maintain timber access roads in readiness for future cutting by seeding to minimize erosion; and giving financial assistance to shearing alder brush to promote habitat suitable for ruffed grouse and woodcock. The RGS regional biologists working with local chapter representatives and the state wildlife and forestry agencies are responsible for setting up such projects.

I hunted all three of these forests this past grouse season. Unfortunately I did not flush any grouse. Perhaps next season.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions with what I have written.

Thanks,
Bill
Sidney W. Beddow II
The HR Connection LLC.
817 St Anne Drive
Street, MD 21154
410-937-0190

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Robert Gramzinski** <robert.gramzinski@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Public Comment on State Forrest Work Plans
To: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

Mr. Perdue,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on these plans.

Much of the forrest in our state and in these specific plans are mature forrest consisting of predominantly tall deciduous trees.

I encourage you to develop more plans to purposefully create clearcuts to give the opportunity for areas of young forests growth. These young forest help create the habitat that support game species such as woodcock, grouse, and deer. They also provide habitat for a wide variety of non-game species.

Sincerely,

Bob Gramzinski
From: **James R** <ktmcherokee@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 7:26 AM
Subject: Works plans comments
To: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

Jack,

I applaud the states efforts to expand ORV access over the last few years in the savage forest area. I strongly urge the state to continue this expansion in the area for multiple reasons, among the top 2 are economic benefits and sustainability. ORV tourism has proven to be a large part of rural economies if the right conditions are met for the industry to grow. That money is desperately needed in western MD. The sustainability aspect comes into play thru creation of legal trails. People familiar with public, as well as private, lands in western md are well aware of the hundreds of miles of illegal trails crossing thru the woods. Many of which cross, unchecked, thru sensitive areas. The only way to prevent this is to create a legal alternative that traverse the terrain in a sustainable way or the problem will continue to persist via outlaw riding.

Please seriously consider my comments.

Thanks,

James Ratino

Hello Jack,

I was researching thru the plans for Md forest and I noticed a common theme with all of the plans. Health of the forest was a big one. Increasing the tree canopy for the forest. Increasing the habitat for the existing wildlife. Invasive tree and weed control. Promoting good soil. Ensuring a good buffer near water areas. Another theme I noticed was wanting to get people involved with conservation of our forest. In order to accomplish this we need to get them out in the parks and educate them. Give them a reason to want to help and get involved.

Why not use goats for all of these things? Goats have been increasing in popularity for use in controlling invasives. They do this with little disturbance to the existing habitat with controlled grazing practices. It has been proven that they can eradicate some species with repeated applications. This would also be a perfect opportunity to study the effects on our forest. I believe that this would also get Marylanders interested in getting outdoors and seeing real conservation efforts in practice. This could also be conducted as a learning event where people could become familiar with the different trees in the forest, wildlife, ect.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to participate!

Jennifer Lemmon

Girl's Got Goats

16809 Yeoho Rd

Sparks Md 21152

443-750-0903

Hello,

As a Masters student at Frostburg State University in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology, the continued maintenance of our state forests is of utmost importance to me. Public lands - especially for western Maryland residents such as myself below the poverty line - are an irreplaceable facet of our culture that we value greatly. I am very happy to see that this upkeep is being continued and prioritized - thank you and the Maryland DNR for your vigilant work in crafting these astute land management plans.

Best regards,
Elizabeth Green

Elizabeth Green

Graduate Research Assistant

Frostburg State University

B.S. Biology | UMD 2017

(240) 321-4122

MD DNR FOREST SERVICE

STATE FORESTS

ANNUAL WORK PLAN CHECK LIST

Submittal of Annual Work Plans

1. The Department will prepare an Annual Work Plan for each State Forest or other Department property planning timber sales, for the coming fiscal year. Each Annual Work Plan will include a list of projects for that fiscal year.

2. Annual Work Plan Sections
 - (a) Work Plan Summary
 - (b) Maintenance Projects
 - (c) Recreation Projects
 - (d) Special Projects
 - (e) Watershed Improvement Projects
 - (f) Restoration Projects
 - (g) Monitoring Projects
 - (h) Ecosystem Restoration Projects
 - (i) Interdisciplinary Team Comments
 - (j) Advisory Committee Comments
 - (k) Public Comments
 - (l) Silvicultural Projects
 - (1) Area description, including:
 - (i) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated natural disturbance regimes
 - (ii) Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities),
 - (iii) Other habitats and species of management concerns
 - (iv) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions,
 - (v) Soil resources; and
 - (vi) Historic conditions related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.
 - (2) Estimate of acres to be harvested,
 - (3) Estimate of board foot volume,
 - (4) Regeneration plan,
 - (5) Silvicultural description, and
 - (6) Map highlighting the work area.
 - (m) Silvicultural Activity Summary (last ten years)

Note: Sustainable Forestry Initiative Performance Measure 1.1. - Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.

Indicator 1.1.2 - Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.

Silvicultural Activity Summary By Annual Work Plan

Workplan Activity	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		14 Year Total	
	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.
Final Harvests	168	168	136	136	130	130	182	182	161	161	61	61	112	112	123	123	70	70	257	181	277	279	297	290	182	247	200	-	2,356	2,140
Various Select Harvests &/or other treatments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thinning/TSI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	17	17	-	39	42	-	-	-	-	65	62	
Site Preparation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tree Planting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	
Regeneration Release	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grass Control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mid Rotation Release	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	16	-	-	120	-	16	-	27	-	-	80	-	-	-	96	283	
Fertilization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Natural Regeneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pre Commercial Thinning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Prescribed Fire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	30	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	60	
Boundary Maintenance*	-	4	-	4	-	-	20	30	20	42	20	8	20	3	20	3	20	20	20	3	20	30	20	18	20	39	20	-	220	205
Restoration Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Watershed Imp. Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	26	
Work within HCVF areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

* miles of boundary line repainted.