EASTERN REGION

STATE FOREST LANDS

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2027

Prepared: _____ _____
(Forest Manager) Date

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A. FOREST OVERVIEW

CHESAPEAKE FOREST AND POCOMOKE STATE FOREST

The Chesapeake Forest which is owned by the State of Maryland and managed by the Maryland Forest Service through the Department of Natural Resources originally consisted of 58,000 acres of forest land. These lands were part of a 1999 divestment by the Chesapeake Forest Products Corporation. At that time, a partnership between the State of Maryland, The Conservation Fund, and Hancock Timber Resources Group moved to purchase the forests. The original 1999 plan was prepared by a 10-person technical team assembled by The Sampson Group, Inc. Oversight and decision making for the technical team was provided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from Maryland Department of Natural Resources, The Conservation Fund, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the local forest industry.

The Chesapeake Forest currently consists of 78,006 acres divided into 186 Management Units distributed across six counties. Chesapeake Forest also includes the Seth Demonstration Forest in Talbot County, Wicomico Demonstration Forest in Wicomico County, and Fred W. Besley Demonstration Forest in Dorchester County. In spite of this scattered character, the forests include some of the last large segments of unbroken forest in a region that is largely agricultural in nature. Chesapeake Forest Lands include more than 6,000 acres of wetlands or swamps and comprise portions of 23 separate watersheds, many of which have been given a high priority for conservation action under the Maryland Clean Water Action Plan. They contain established populations of threatened and endangered species, including the Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*), bald eagle, and some 150 other species that have been identified as rare, threatened, or endangered in the region. Abundant populations of deer, turkey, and waterfowl create the basis for extensive hunting opportunities and other recreational activities on the land.

The 18,492-acre Pocomoke State Forest is almost entirely contained within Worcester County, except for 388 acres in Somerset County and 154 acres in Wicomico County. The Chesapeake Forest has 19,978 acres within Worcester County, and several tracts from both Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest adjoin each other offering greater habitat and recreational management opportunities. In addition, since both forests contain similar forest types, many of the same management guidelines and principles are used. There are differences between the two forests, however. Pocomoke State Forest contains many older tracts of forestland still in their natural state, nearly 5,000 acres of cypress and hardwood forest that borders a state scenic river, and areas of state designated Wildlands.

For additional information about Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest, including long-term planning, please visit their respective web pages located at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/mdforests.aspx.

HISTORIC FOREST CONDITIONS AND THE ROLE OF FIRE

The average pre-European-settlement fire frequency was on the order of 7-12 years for forests of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, with higher frequencies of 4-6 years in the southeastern Maryland counties of Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, and Dorchester (Frost, 1998). These frequencies are high compared to most areas of the Northeast. Since it is unlikely that lightning was a significant contributor to these fires, Native American populations must have been. A conclusion is that fire in the Northeast was predominantly a phenomenon associated with human activity (Pyne, 1982).

The forest that covered the Eastern Shore in pre-colonial times was primarily a hardwood one, though increasingly mixed with pine to the southward (Rountree & Davidson, 1997). The large patches of pine-dominated woods today are largely second growth, the result of extensive clearing in historic times. In aboriginal times, the woods of the Eastern Shore were likely to be oak-hickory, oak-gum, or oak-pine types, all of which still exist in second-growth form.

Captain John Smith said in the early seventeenth century, "A man may gallop a horse amongst these woods any waie, but where the creekes or Rivers shall hinder". Father Andrew White wrote that the woods around St. Mary's were so free of underbrush that a "coach and fower horses" could be driven through them (Rountree & Davidson, 1997). The open conditions could be partly attributed to the closed canopies of these mature forests, which shaded out undergrowth, but it is also likely that periodic fire helped to maintain the park-like conditions.

It is reasonable to assume that Eastern Shore tribes also used fire to periodically burn the marshes that were important sources of mollusks, fish, furbearers, waterfowl, edible tubers, and reeds for housing. Fire would have been useful for herding game, enhancing visibility or access, or retarding invasion of woody growth. More often than not, these fires would have spread into adjacent woodlands and, if of sufficient intensity, created the open seedbed conditions conducive to establishment of loblolly pine. Even today the pattern of loblolly pine "islands" and "stringers" in and adjacent to marshes of the lower Eastern Shore is common.

If, as Rountree and Davidson suggest, oaks were the most prevalent species in pre-settlement times, then the possible role of fire in maintaining these forest types must also be considered. Frost stated, "Light, understory fires may have been the norm for millions of hectares of eastern hardwood forest..." (Frost, 1998). Oak species range from slightly tolerant to intolerant of shade, indicating that disturbance is desirable to promote regeneration and growth. Furthermore, acorn germination and initial seedling establishment are most successful where light understory burns have scarified the seedbed and reduced competition (Burns & Honkala, 1990). The extensive presence of oaks on the Shore was an indicator that low-intensity understory fires were common, either intentionally set by Native Americans to create "open woods" or drive game, or the incidental result of land-clearing.

Natural stands of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) became much more widespread around the turn of the 20th Century, particularly in the counties south of the Choptank River, largely due to the influence of economic factors. First was the abandonment of agricultural fields as farmers moved to more lucrative jobs in the towns and cities. Loblolly pine is an opportunistic species, which found the recently abandoned fields prime sites for reproduction by natural seeding. The second factor was the rise of large-scale commercial lumbering. Steam locomotives, often used to haul logs from the woods, were notorious for throwing sparks along the tracks and starting fires. Both the clearing of the forests by large-scale logging and the subsequent fires resulted in large areas of open, scarified land suitable for pine regeneration. By the middle of the twentieth century, loblolly pine had become the predominant forest cover type in the lower counties of the Eastern Shore.

FOREST TYPES AND SIZE CLASSES

Young loblolly pine forests mostly established since the early 1980's are what characterize a high proportion of the Chesapeake Forest. Mixed pine and hardwood forests still occupy some of the lands, and many riparian areas and flood plains contain stands of mixed hardwoods. In general, the mixed pine-hardwood and hardwood stands are older, mature forests.

Mature mixed pine-hardwood, bottomland hardwood, and bald-cypress forests comprise the majority of the Pocomoke State Forest. In general, the mixed pine-hardwood, hardwood, and bald cypress stands are older, mature forests, while loblolly pine stands are more evenly distributed across all age classes.

Table 1 provides a habitat diversity matrix of both Eastern Region State Forests that provides a current baseline from which future changes in age structure or forest type diversity can be assessed for potential habitat or biodiversity effects.

Table 1. Forest Diversity Analysis

Acres of forest type and forest structure by structural groups, with percent of total area in each forest type/structure group combination.

Forest type	Structure Stage							Total Area
	Open	Sapling	Growing	Maturing	Mature	Big Trees	Uneven Aged	
	0 - 5 yrs	6 - 15 yrs	16 - 25 yrs	26 - 50 yrs	51 - 90 yrs	91+ yrs		
Loblolly Pine	278	1,714	9,801	40,201	6,803	358	291	**59,446**
(Percent)	0.29%	1.82%	10.38%	42.56%	7.20%	0.38%	0.31%	62.94%
Shortleaf Pine	0	12	0	12	227	109	17	**378**
(Percent)	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.24%	0.12%	0.02%	0.40%
Mixed Pine (Pond, Pitch, Virginia, etc.)	0	20	0	0	15	87	75	**198**
(Percent)	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.09%	0.08%	0.21%
Atlantic White Cedar	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	**12**
(Percent)	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
Mixed Pine/Hardwood	43	966	1,342	2,829	5,988	4,108	187	**15,462**
(Percent)	0.05%	1.02%	1.42%	3.00%	6.34%	4.35%	0.20%	16.37%
Bottomland/Mixed Hardwoods	0	169	364	523	6,009	3,762	6	**10,834**
(Percent)	0.00%	0.18%	0.39%	0.55%	6.36%	3.98%	0.01%	11.47%
Bottomland Hardwoods/Bald Cypress	0	0	0	0	18	3,842	0	**3,860**
(Percent)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	4.07%	0.00%	4.09%
Cut/Marsh/Field/ Powerline/Road	4,257	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4,257**
(*Percent*)	4.51%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.51%
Total	**4,578**	**2,891**	**11,510**	**43,566**	**19,059**	**12,267**	**576**	**94,446**
(Percent)	4.85%	3.06%	12.19%	46.13%	20.18%	12.99%	0.61%	***100.00%***

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

The desired future conditions of Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest reflect a transition between the former industrial forest management and the future multiple-purpose management under State ownership. Some of the changes between the former forests and the future forests will be subtle, and many will take decades to emerge.

Some of the changes that will occur over time include:

- Maintenance or enhancement of water quality
- Protection of natural resources, including biological diversity
- Contribution to the local resource-based economy
- Providing opportunities for appropriate low-impact, resource-based public use
- Widening of Riparian Forest and Wetland Buffers to protect and enhance water quality, as well as provide mature forest habitat for species that need such conditions;
- More mixed hardwoods and hardwood/pine forests associated with the buffers, in which timber harvesting maintains a mature forest stand after it is achieved;
- Longer pine plantation rotations, particularly in areas where wildlife habitat relies on large pine trees. These will be harvested, but at older, larger sizes, which has implications for the future timber industry on the Shore.
- Less intensive methods of forest regeneration, including the use of natural pine regeneration whenever and wherever it can succeed. This has been shown to result in somewhat slower tree growth for the first 2-4 years compared to the more intensive methods of soil preparation and planted seedlings, but those early differences disappear later in the rotation. As a result, when forests are being managed for longer rotations, the less intensive regeneration methods should not result in a loss of productivity. They do, however, reduce up-front costs significantly as well as produce less soil and site disturbance.

Changes that may take years to emerge and may be almost imperceptible for a long time include:

- The planned shift to longer rotations for additional saw logs will emerge slowly as today's young stands reach larger sizes. The emphasis on thinning will produce significant amounts of pulpwood and forest-based jobs.
- The development of riparian forest buffers in areas now planted to young pine plantations will take time. These areas must grow into buffers, so for the near future, there may be more pine pulpwood produced from buffer zones than from outside them, as additional pines are removed to create openings for hardwoods.
- Measurable improvements in stream water quality may come slowly. Much of the water flowing across these forests comes from agricultural and developed areas. Efforts will be made to create areas that can trap nutrients, but the measured progress is likely to be slow to emerge.
- Major impacts on the wildlife habitat depending on large trees will not occur until today's young forests have time to grow. Improved Delmarva fox squirrel habitat will emerge rapidly after about 20 years, but not before.
- Changing recreational patterns will require time for the Department to assess all the tracts, assure public safety and landowner relationships. Some of this assessment has already occurred and Public Use of several tracts has been implemented.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ZONES

Due to the large size and diverse landscape of the lands in this project, the planning team identified specific areas based on physical attributes that need to dominate future management decisions. The following are brief descriptions of the management zones. Additional information of each management zone type can be found in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

GENERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AREAS

General Forest Management areas are those sites unconstrained by other more demanding management restrictions. It is important to note that production of forest products in no way precludes the contribution from these lands to other forest functions such as recreation, habitat, and water quality. In the general management

areas, the loblolly pine forest will be managed on a 30-40 year rotation for a mixture of saw logs and pulpwood. In the early years of implementing this plan, it may be necessary to harvest some younger stands, as this is the only way to re-distribute stand ages so that the current preponderance of 5-25 year-old stands does not become a recurring problem in future management rotations.

Loblolly pine forest within the general management areas will be managed to produce a rapidly growing, vigorous and healthy forest while supporting local natural resource based industries and at the same time protecting water quality through adherence to Best Management Practices. In this forest type, wildlife habitat will be early and mid-succession habitat that provides structural diversity within the array of mixed forest stands and riparian, wetland, and wildlife buffers.

ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS (ESA)

Sites containing rare plant and or animal communities will be identified and managed for their special qualities. The DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will be involved in assuring that special sites are properly inventoried, marked, and managed, and that adequate records are created and maintained for each site. Specific prescriptive management recommendations have been developed for each site by the Heritage Division.

Portions of a number of the ESA management areas overlap DFS, FIDS and the Riparian areas, however, management prescriptions will focus on enhancing and protecting the designated ESA. Each ESA area has been broken down into as many as three zones with specific management prescriptions for each zone.

FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Minimum three hundred foot (300 ft.) riparian forest buffers or wetland buffers will be marked, established and maintained according to the guidelines listed in. 50 feet from the stream bank is a no-cut area to avoid destabilizing stream banks. All management activities within these areas will be designed to protect or improve their ecological functions in protecting or enhancing water quality. The long-term goal is to achieve and maintain a mature mixed forest stand. Where the current forest is a pine plantation, the shaping of the riparian forest buffers will generally commence at the time of the first silvicultural activity on the adjoining stands. Management will generally focus on thinning pines to encourage hardwood growth, marking boundaries so that field personnel and contractors can conduct operations properly, and closely monitoring activities to prevent soil disruption or damage and protect stream bank and wetland integrity. In these areas where young pine plantations currently exist, the desired forest conditions may take several decades (and appropriate treatments) to emerge.

DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL (DFS) HABITAT

DFS Core Areas are defined as a complex of Chesapeake Forest Lands currently occupied by Delmarva Fox Squirrels. DFS Future Core areas are defined as a complex of Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest lands where location, vegetative composition and structure appear suitable for translocation of DFS.

In all designated DFS management areas, the forest will be managed on longer rotations while encouraging an additional hardwood component in the over story. The goal is to grow an older forest with larger mature trees that are held on the landscape for a longer period of time. This will be accomplished through a regiment of pre-commercial and commercial thinning operations to increase growth rates of the residual trees. Thinning operations will favor retaining larger diameter trees including hardwood mast trees. A minimum basal area of 70 to 80 sq. ft. per acre will be retained in order to maintain adequate canopy closure. The plan requires that DFS

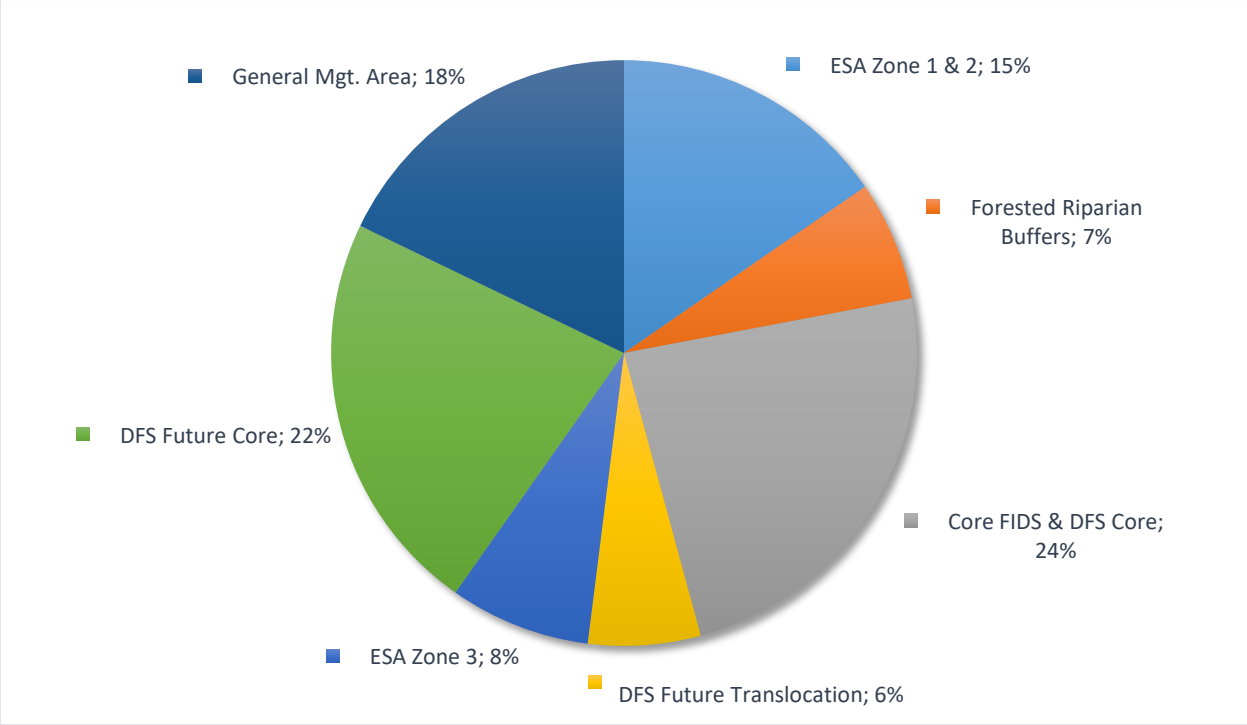
Core management areas at any point in time must retain 50% of the forest in “suitable DFS habitat”, which is defined as stands that are 40 years old. The individual stands designated as suitable DFS habitat will be retained on the landscape for 20 years, setting a requirement for a minimum rotation length of 60 years.

FOREST INTERIOR DWELLING SPECIES (FIDS) HABITAT

In the designated Core FIDS areas, the goal is to improve the stocking of hardwood species so as thinning operations occur, basal areas will not to fall below 70 square feet per acre. Long rotation ages greater than 100 years will be the goal and the preferred harvest method will be singletree selection. Mixed stands of pine and hardwoods will be encouraged, and the use of herbicides will be avoided except to control invasive species and for research.

CHESAPEAKE FOREST & POCOMOKE STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT ZONES

The following graph depicts the percentage of acres in each forest management zone for both Eastern Region forests.



UNIQUE COMMUNITY TYPES

INLAND SAND DUNE AND RIDGE WOODLANDS

This natural community occurs on dry, sandy dunes and ridges of the coastal plain. These landforms developed during the late Pleistocene when colder climate processes associated with Wisconsin glaciation influenced much of the region. At the time, prevailing northwest winds transported surficial sands across the Delmarva and deposited them on the east sides of the Nanticoke, Wicomico, and Pocomoke rivers and formed “dune fields” on uplands in

the central part of the peninsula. Today, these landforms support woodland vegetation of pine and oak, as well as a variety of rare and threatened plant and animal species. Currently, there are two globally rare natural community types associated with inland sand dunes and ridges. One characterized by shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) and another dominated by a mixture of hardwoods such as white oak *(Quercus alba),* black oak *(Quercus velutina),* and southern red oak *(Quercus falcata)*. Both community types share many common associates such as Pitch pine *(Pinus rigida),* post oak *(Quercus stellata),* sand hickory *(Carya pallida),* and a variety of ericaceous shrubs. In general, the herbaceous layer is sparse and consists primarily of light-demanding species tolerant of dry, sandy conditions. Examples of these species include yellow false indigo *(Baptisia tinctoria)* and the State threatened sundial lupine *(Lupinus perennis)*. Frequent low-intensity fire is important in maintaining these natural communities and the distribution of species that depend upon them.

NON-RIVERINE SWAMPS

This natural community includes seasonally flooded "flatwoods" and depressions of the coastal plain. These habitats develop on flat, ancient estuarine terraces and shallow depressions with seasonally perched water tables. This results in standing water throughout the early part of the growing season followed by a period of drawdown. Hydroperiods are variable between swamps and largely dependent on rainfall and drought cycles. The forested canopy structure of flatwoods and depression swamps range from open to closed with composition ranging from hardwood dominated to a mixtures of hardwoods and pines. Swamps dominated by oak species such as willow oak *(Quercus phellos)*, pin oak *(Quercus palustris)*, swamp chestnut oak *(Quercus michauxii)*, and cherrybark oak *(Quercus pagoda)* are considered highly rare because most have been logged and subsequently invaded by successional hardwoods such as red maple *(Acer rubrum)*, sweetgum *(Liquidambar styraciflua)*, and black gum *(Nyssa sylvatica)*. Pond pine (*Pinus serotina*) and loblolly pine *(Pinus taeda)* are prominent components of many flatwoods on the lower Coastal Plain. Nonriverine Swamps have been greatly reduced in Maryland through ditching, draining, logging, and conversion to agriculture.

ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR SWAMPS

Atlantic white cedar *(Chamaecyparis thyoides)* swamps occur discontinuously along the Nanticoke, Wicomico, and Pocomoke Rivers. They are best developed above regular tidal influence between tidal swamp forests and sandy uplands where groundwater discharge and the accumulation peat over time provide favorable growing conditions. A few examples have also been documented from seasonally saturated to flooded basin wetlands associated with ancient estuarine terraces in the Pocomoke River watershed. Atlantic white cedar *(Chamaecyparis thyoides)*, swamp tupelo *(Nyssa biflora)*, pond pine *(Pinus serotina)*, and sweetbay magnolia *(Magnolia virginiana)* often comprise the tree canopy. In the understory, shrubs and vines are common but variable, often including an abundance of common greenbrier *(Smilax rotundifolia)*. The herbaceous layer is often sparse and may include species of sedges, manna-grasses, and rushes. Slightly elevated hummocks of sphagnum mosses *(Sphagnum* spp.) frequently form large patches. The extent of Atlantic white cedar has been greatly reduced over the past 200 years by logging. Today, remaining stands exist as patches representing only a fraction of historical estimates. All natural community types classified as Atlantic white cedar swamps are considered globally and state rare.

DELMARVA BAYS

Delmarva Bays are seasonally flooded wetland depressions on Maryland's coastal plain. They developed from ancient interdunal depressions approximately 16,000 years ago when the climate of the Coastal Plain was very cold and windy and supported an extensive sand dune ecosystem. The majority of Delmarva Bays have been shaped by

these wind and erosional processes into circular depressions up to one meter in depth with prominent sand rims. A perched water table and seasonal fluctuations in groundwater recharge and precipitation cause these wetlands to be irregularly flooded or seasonally inundated. During very dry seasons, surface water may be absent or limited to the deepest point within the bay. Likewise, during very wet years when rainfall is abundant, bays may retain water throughout the entire growing season. Depth and duration of seasonal inundation are apparently the most important factors influencing plant communities and the degree to which woody species become established. Dry-season fires in adjacent uplands may spread into Bays and may be another factor limiting the invasion of woody species, although fire frequencies throughout the region have been much reduced in recent decades. The vegetation of Delmarva Bays is closely linked to its hydrologic regime. As water levels draw down or recede during the growing season, plant communities typically develop concentric rings from the outer edge towards the center or deepest point in the bay. Outer rings of a bay may include shrubs of buttonbush *(Cephalanthus occidentalis)*, fetterbush *(Leucothoe racemosa)*, swamp loosestrife *(Lysimachia terrestris)*, and sweet pepper-bush *(Clethra alnifolia)* or nearly monospecific stands of Walter's sedge *(Carex striata)*, maidencane *(Panicum hemitomon)*, and Virginia chain fern *(Woodwardia virginica)*. Interior portions of Bays may include species such as Eaton's panic-grass *(Dichanthelium spretum)*, warty panicgrass *(Panicum verrucosum)*, and Virginia meadow-beauty *(Rhexia virginica)*. Many of these species grade into the "draw down pocket" or lowest portion of a bay, which is the last to desiccate during the growing season. Common to this zone are slender fimbry *(Fimbristylis autumnalis)* and flood tolerant shrubs like buttonbush *(Cephalanthus occidentalis)*. Many plants and animals considered rare in Maryland are known to occur in Delmarva Bays. Delmarva bays and their associated life zones have their own ESA designations identified and mapped.

BALD CYPRESS SWAMPS

Bald cypress swamps are forested wetlands that contain bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) as a dominant species in the canopy. In addition to bald cypress, swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*) and pumpkin ash *(Fraxinus profunda)* are also characteristic in the canopy. Bald cypress swamps occur in the tidal and upper non-tidal reaches of the Pocomoke River in Maryland. These habitats are mostly freshwater and are periodically flooded by lunar tides. Stands are found in low floodplains, forming a corridor between open tidal marsh and non-tidal habitats. Due to flooding, these stands typically contain hummocks and hollows where the hollows are frequently flooded and hummocks are occasionally flooded. Due to the "drier" nature of the hummocks, they often support a diversity of woody and herbaceous species.

VERNAL POOLS

Vernal pools are small (~0.1-2 ha), non-tidal palustrine forested wetlands. They exhibit a well-defined, discrete basin and lack a permanent, above-ground outlet. The basin overlies a clay hardpan or some other impermeable soil or rock layer that impedes drainage. As the water table rises in fall and winter, the basin fills forming a shallow pool. By spring, the pool typically reaches maximum depth (~0.5-2.5 m) following snowmelt and the onset of spring rains. By mid- to late summer, the pool usually dries up completely, although some surface water may persist in relatively deep basins, especially in years with above average precipitation. This periodic seasonal drying prevents fish populations from becoming established, an important biotic feature of vernal pools. Many species have evolved to use these temporary, fish-free wetlands. Some are obligate vernal pool species, so-called because they require a vernal pool to complete all or part of their life cycle. vernal pools occur throughout the state as scattered, isolated habitats. They are most numerous on the lower coastal plain, especially on the mid to upper eastern shore, and uncommon west of the fall line. They are typically situated in low areas or depressions in a forest, but they can also occur in floodplain forests as isolated floodwaters, among backwaters of old beaver

impoundments, old sinkholes, or as perched spring- or seep-fed basins along mountain slope benches, or at the base of slopes. vernal pools may persist in cleared areas such as cropland, pastures, and clearcuts, but usually in a highly degraded ecological state. Because vernal pools occur throughout the state in a variety of forest types and settings, the vegetation in and around these habitats varies considerably. However, many vernal pools exhibit similar vegetative structure. For example, pools tend to have a semi-open to closed forest canopy around them and the degree of canopy closure generally decreases with increasing pool size. The basin substrate consists of dense mats of submerged leaf litter and scattered, coarse woody debris. Herbaceous vegetation is usually absent to sparse in and around the basin, although small mossy patches frequently occur along the basin edge. A dense shrub layer may occur along the shoreline or in small patches within the basin, especially on the coastal plain, but many pools also lack a well-developed shrub layer.

SOILS

The region features flat topography, near-sea level elevations, and poorly drained soils. Soils are naturally low in fertility, but soil erosion and sediment runoff for forestry activities is seldom a problem, given reasonable management care. Seasonally wet conditions affect the timing and type of forest management activities. For management activities on the Forest, the soils in the region were classified into 5 Soil Management Groups (SMG), based on soil characteristics. See Appendix A for a listing of soil types by soil management group and a listing by county of symbols used by soil survey reports.

The Five (5) Groups (SMG's) were defined as follows:

- SMG 1 - wet soils with firm sub-soils that can physically support machines when wet.
- SMG 2 - wet soils with non-firm sub-soils that cannot support machines when wet.
- SMG 3 - soils that are less wet than either 1 or 2; highly productive forest sites.
- SMG 4 - very sandy, often dry soils that are generally not highly productive forest sites.
- SMG 5 - very wet, low-lying soils that are too wet for forestry operations.

To facilitate plan development and future management, digital soils data was utilized from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

B. ANNUAL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This section summarizes the proposed activities that will occur on all public forest lands (96,498 acres) managed by the Maryland Forest Service within the Eastern Region during the 2027 fiscal year. These lands include the Chesapeake Forest, Pocomoke State Forest, Wicomico Demonstration Forest, Seth Demonstration Forest, and Fred W. Besley Demonstration Forest. Fiscal Year 2027 runs from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. The following proposed activities are the results of a multi-agency effort. The multi-agency approach has ensured that all aspects of these lands have been addressed within the development of this plan.

All projects and proposals within this Plan have been developed to meet one or more of the Land Management Guidelines and Objectives as seen in the Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plans including:

- **Forest Economy** - management activities with a purpose to maintain an economically sustainable forest and contribute to the local economy through providing forest-related employment and products.
- **Forest Conservation** - management activities with a purpose to protect significant or unique natural communities and elements of biological diversity, including Ecologically Significant Areas, High Conservation Value Forests and old growth Forests. Old growth forest management serves to restore and/or enhance old growth forest structure and function.
- **Water Quality** - management activities designed to protect or improve ecological functions in protecting or enhancing water quality.
- **Wildlife Habitat** - management activities with a purpose to maintain and enhance the ecological needs of the diversity of wildlife species and habitat types.
- **Recreation and Cultural Heritage** - management activities with a purpose to maintain and enhance areas that serve as visual, public camping, designated trails, and other high public use areas.

NETWORKING WITH DNR AND OTHER AGENCIES

MARYLAND DNR AGENCIES:

- Wildlife & Heritage – Identify and develop restoration projects, report and map potential Ecological Significant Areas (ESA) as found during fieldwork, release programs for game and non-game species. Mapping will be done with Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Participates on the Inter-Disciplinary Team (ID Team) and assists in the development of a forest monitoring program.
- Natural Resource Police – Enforcement of natural resource laws on the forest.
- Land Acquisition & Planning – Provides assistance in the development of plans, facilitates meetings with various management groups, develops Geographic Information System (GIS) maps for public review, and conducts deed research and boundary recovery. Also participates on the ID Team.
- Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) – Assists in painting boundary lines, installing gates and trash removal.
- State Forest & Park Service – Participates on the ID Team.
- Watershed and Climate Services (formerly Chesapeake and Coastal Service) – Develops watershed improvement projects, assists in the development of a forest monitoring programs and participates on the ID Team.

OTHER AGENCIES:

- DNR Contract Manager – Assists the Forest Manager in the designs and implementation of management activities on the forest. Also participates on the ID Team.
- Third party forest certification via annual audits
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Identifies sites for future water quality improvement projects and assists in the implementation by providing volunteers for reforestation.
- National Wild Turkey Federation – Establishes and maintains handicap-hunting opportunities within the forest and provides funding for habitat protection and restoration.
- US Fish & Wildlife Service – Assists in prescribed burns for Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) habitat. Also assists in maintaining open forest road conditions as fire breaks.
- Maryland Forest Association - Master Loggers Program provides training in Advanced Best Management Practices for Forest Product Operators (i.e. Foresters & Loggers) workshops on the forest.
- Network with Universities and Colleges

- Maryland Environmental Lab, Horn Point – Conducts water quality monitoring on a first order stream not influenced by agriculture. These samples will serve as a local base line for other samples taken on other Delmarva streams.
- Allegany College – Conduct annual field tour for forestry school student's showcasing Sustainable Forest Management practices on the forest under dual third party certification.

C. MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Forest roads will undergo general maintenance to maintain access for forest management activities (i.e. logging, prescribed burning, and wildfire control). Interior roads within each complex will be brush hogged where possible by the MFS & the WHS. Many of the roads have grown shut and require special heavy equipment to remove the larger trees. Brushing of these roads will improve access for the public and help maintain firebreaks for communities at risk from wildfire. Recreational trails will be mowed and cleared to meet the requirements of the specific user group(s). Engineering and Construction projects such as bridge and culvert replacements will be prioritized based on need and condition.

Forest boundary lines will be maintained using the DNR yellow band markings. Signs will be placed along the boundary lines designating the type of public access to the property. New acquisitions will be converted from their previous ownership markings to the DNR yellow band markings.

Illegal trash dumps will continue to be removed off the forest as they are discovered. The average amount of trash removed from the forest each year has been 36 tons. In our efforts to control and eradicate this issue, we will continue to coordinate with Natural Resources Police (NRP), local sheriff departments, the State Highway Administration, and County Roads departments.

D. RECREATION PROJECTS

- Host the annual Chesapeake Forest lottery for vacant tracts designated for hunt club access only. Vacant tracts are those that existing clubs opted not to continue to lease or land that has recently become available due to acquisitions or right-of-ways being opened.
- Progress on the Corker's Creek bridge project (elevated boardwalk and bridge to connect Pocomoke River State Park – Shad Landing to Pocomoke State Forest)
- Continue to move forward in the process to establish a trail from the town of Snow Hill to Shad Landing through the Pocomoke State Forest Wildlands. With the successful passage of HB882 in the 2022 Legislative Session, which designated a trail corridor through the Pocomoke Wildlands to establish a new trail, Forest Service staff will be working with the Department of General Services and Engineering and Construction to design the trail specifications during the current and upcoming AWP cycles. Updates pertaining to bidding and construction of the trail will follow in subsequent AWPs.
- Host the Annual Ultra-Marathon "Algonquin 50K" race on Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest.
- Continue to explore additional Resource Based Recreational (RBR) opportunities on the forest. This may include hunting, horseback riding; water trails, hiking trails, bird watching opportunities, geocaching, etc.
- Perform general maintenance on the existing trail system
- Continue work on establishing and rehabilitating trails on the newly acquired Bay Club property

E. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Maintain dual forest certification. Summaries of the previous year's audit findings can be found in Appendix B.
- Conduct information and educational opportunities on the forest.
- Update and maintain forest information in a GIS database, which will result in a new updated forest wide field map.
- Continue the effort to inventory and protect historic sites (i.e. cemeteries, old home sites, Native American Indian sites) using GPS and GIS technology.
- Collect native genotype pond pine (*Pinus serotina*) and short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) on the forest in an effort to aid future management objectives on the Pocomoke and Chesapeake Forests.
- Provide assistance to the State Tree Nursery with maintenance of Seed Orchards on the Pocomoke State Forest.

F. WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Planning and work will begin on wetland and watershed restoration on the former Bay Club golf course property near Berlin in conjunction with the Lower Shore Land Trust, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and MD DNR Chesapeake and Coastal Service.
- Monitoring of the Indiantown/Brookview Ponds watershed improvement project from the FY2013 AWP, which deals with restoring the natural hydrology of the site using ditch plugs.
- Monitoring of hydrologic, terrain, and vegetation conditions on the Foster Estate pond restoration continues. Response to invasive species, primarily Phragmites, will be taken as needed.

G. SPECIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS

- Site review and selection for possible quail management and habitat restoration.
- Planning and execution of the early successional habitat project on the Foster and Furnace tracts with prescribed burning and targeted herbicide applications continues.
- Continued collaboration with the bobwhite quail habitat improvement public/private partnership project

H. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS

Various ecosystem restoration projects continue to proceed, including the Brookview Ponds ESA restoration and the Furnace Tract Xeric Habitat Treatment and Monitoring Plan. Work will continue on the Bay Club restoration project. In general, site preparation of high priority ESA sites and prescribed burning was performed when and where possible.

I. MONITORING PROJECTS

- Maryland Wood Duck Initiative – D03 – Little Blackwater – Cliff Brown
- Lupine and Frosted Elfin – Furnace Tract – WHS – Jason Harrison
- Bat Study – Bats and Prescribed Burning – WHS – Dana Limpert
- Delmarva Fox Squirrel – Hunt Club Monitoring Project – USF&WS – Cherry Keller
- Trail Monitoring – Recreation Trail Grant trail counters
- Maryland Biological Stream Survey – Stream Sampling on Pocomoke State Forest – DNR Resource Assessment Service – Matt Ashton

- Water quality monitoring project at Hickory Point – USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center – Dr. Beth Middleton

J. REVIEW PROCESS

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM COMMENTS

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

K. SILVICULTURAL PROJECTS

SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Tables 2 and 3 summarize the proposed silvicultural activities for the 2027 annual work plan on approximately 1,802.7 acres (2.3%) of the Chesapeake Forest and 292.8 acres (1.6%) of Pocomoke State Forest, for a total of 2,095.4 acres (2.2%) on both forests. All proposed harvests were checked for overlaps with the MD DNR Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) buffer layer provided to the Maryland Forest Service in 2023.

Table 2. FY2027 Chesapeake Forest Silvicultural Activity Overview. (CF-27-S-01 – CF-27-S-24)

Activity	Acres
First Thinning	720.5
Second Thinning	984.9
Seed Tree Harvest	69.8
Regeneration Harvest	27.4
Total	**1802.7**

Table 3. FY2027 Pocomoke State Forest Silvicultural Activity Overview. (P-27-S-01 – P-27-S-07)

Activity	Acres
First Thinning	160.5
Second Thinning	132.3
Total	**292.8**

DEFINITIONS OF SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- **Reforestation** – Reforestation reestablishes forest cover either naturally or artificially (hand planting), and may be accompanied by some kind of site preparation during the same fiscal year. The nature of the site preparation will be determined by field examination. It is occasionally followed, in the same fiscal year, with grass control in the form of chemicals (either hand-applied by ground crews or aerial applications). Site conditions will dictate application rates, etc., in each case.
- **Site Preparation/Regeneration** – While natural regeneration is the preferred method of reforesting harvested areas, alternative plans should be in place in case natural regeneration is unsuccessful.

Alternatives include prescribed burning, herbicide, light mechanical disturbance, or a combination thereof followed by planting of native pines and/or hardwoods as the management zone dictates.

- **Pre-Commercial Thinning** – Pre-commercial thinning is the removal of trees to reduce overcrowded conditions within a stand. This type of thinning concentrates growth on more desirable trees while improving the health of the stand. This treatment is usually done on stands 6 to10 years of age. The number of trees retained will depend on growth, tree species present, and site productivity. This activity is conducted with hand held power tools and not heavy equipment, thereby reducing adverse impact to the soil.
- **First Commercial Thinning** – Usually performed on plantations 20-25 years old. The objective is to facilitate forest health and promote development of larger trees over a shorter period of time. This is accomplished in plantations by removing every 5th row of trees and selectively thinning (poor form & unhealthy trees) between rows. In naturally regenerated stands, thinning corridors will be established every 50 feet and the stand will be selectively thinned along both sides of the corridor. Approximately 30-40% of the total stand volume will be removed in this process. Stocking levels are determined using a loblolly pine stocking chart based on the basal area, DBH, and trees per acre of the stand (USDA Forest Service, 1986). Crown ratio and site index are other factors that are used to decide whether to thin or not.
- **Second Commercial Thinning** – Usually performed on stands 35-45 years old. The objective is to lengthen the rotation age of the stand and produce larger, healthier trees. In some cases, this technique is used to improve habitat for the Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) and Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS). Approximately 25-30% of the total stand volume will be removed in this process.
- **Single and Group Selection Harvests** – This includes the removal of single trees and/or groups of trees within a given stand. This method will be used to distribute age classes and to adjust species composition within a given stand with a target fully stocked basal area of merchantable pines between 60 and 75 ft^2/acre, with two-thirds to three-quarters of that in the sawtimber size class. Periodic cuttings every 5 to 10 years are repeated indefinitely to reduce overstory density to permit natural regeneration, however, the overstory is never cut completely (Baker, Cain, Guldin, Murphy, & Shelton, 1996) (Schulz, 1997). This silvicultural technique may be used in general management, riparian buffers, ESA, DFS, or FIDS areas.
- **Shelterwood Harvest** – The shelterwood method involves the gradual removal of the entire stand in a series of partial cuttings that extend over a fraction of the rotation (Smith, 1986). The number of trees retained during the first stage of the harvest depends on the average tree size (diameter at breast height) on the site. As with seed tree regeneration, the shelterwood method works best when overstory trees are more than 30 years old and in their prime period of seed production potential (Schulz, 1997).
- **Seed Tree Harvest** – This type of harvest is designed to regenerate pine on the site by leaving 12 to 14 healthy dominant trees per acre as a seed source. The seed trees are typically left on the site for another rotation, but can be removed once sufficient pine regeneration is achieved. The seed tree method regenerates loblolly pine effectively and inexpensively in the Coastal Plain, where seed crops are consistently heavy (Edwards, 1987) (Schulz, 1997).
- **Variable Retention Harvest** – This harvest type focuses on the removal of approximately 80 percent of a given stand in one cutting, while retaining approximately 20 percent as wildlife corridors/islands, visual buffers, and/or legacy trees. Coarse woody debris (slash/tree tops) is left evenly across the site to decompose. A Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) is prescribed to help regulate the forest growth over the entire forest, ensuring a healthy and vigorous forest condition. Harvesting of young loblolly pine stands is done to help balance the age class distribution across the forest. Currently, about 20% of the two forests is 19 years of age or younger. VRH are also used to regenerate mixed natural stands within ESAs, DFS & Core FIDS areas. The preferred method of regeneration is by natural seeding from adjacent stands, or

from trees cut in the clearing operation. If adequate natural regeneration is not obtained within 3 years of the harvest, hand planting of the site is typically required (not required for certain restoration projects, such as bay restoration).

- **Regeneration Harvest** – This type of harvest removes up to 95% of a stand in one cutting, while retaining at least 5% in green tree retention areas. Factors such as riparian areas, soil types, ecologically significant areas, snags, and legacy trees will determine the placement of green tree retention areas. Coarse woody debris (slash/tree tops) is left evenly across the site to decompose. A regeneration harvest is prescribed to help regulate the forest growth over the entire forest, ensuring a healthy and vigorous forest condition. Regeneration harvests are most typically implemented in General Management and ESA Zone 3 areas, but they can also be used to regenerate mixed natural stands within ESAs, DFS and Core FIDS areas. The preferred method of regeneration is by natural seeding from adjacent stands, or from trees cut in the clearing operation. If adequate natural regeneration is not obtained within 3 years of the harvest, hand planting of the site is typically required (not required for certain restoration projects, such as bay restoration).
- **Aerial Release Spraying** – An aerial spray of herbicide is used to reduce undesirable hardwood species (i.e. sweet gum & red maple) within the stand. In many cases, a reduced rate (well below the manufacturer's recommendation) is used. A reduced rate has been used on the CF successfully to kill the undesirable species while maintaining the desirable ones (yellow poplar & oaks). All forms of aerial spraying are based on precision GPS mapping and accompanied by on-board flight GPS controls. GPS-generated maps shows each pass of the aircraft and are provided by the contractor to demonstrate precision application. Aerial applications are not allowed in specially designated wetland areas or within 150 feet of riparian areas on the forest.
- **Prescribed Fire** – Prescribed fires are set deliberately by MFS personnel, under proper weather conditions, to achieve a specific management objective. Prescribed fires are used for enhancing wildlife habitat, encouraging fire-dependent plant species, reducing fuel loads that feed wildfires, and prepare sites for planting.
- **Riparian Buffer Zone Establishment** – Riparian buffer zones are vegetated areas adjacent to or influenced by a perennial or intermittent bodies of water. These buffers are established and managed to protect aquatic, wetland, shoreline, and/or terrestrial environments and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Boundaries of riparian buffer zones will be marked, surveyed (GPS) and mapped (GIS). Selective harvesting and/or thinning may occur in these areas to encourage a mixed hardwood-pine composition.

SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTIONS & STAND DATA

DORCHESTER COUNTY

[CF-27-S-01]

Proposal Name: D12 – Marshyhope – Stand 60
Harvest Area: 40.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 60 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1965 first thinned in 1993, sprayed and grass controlled in 1997, fertilized in 1998, and second thinned in 1999.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 1 Sand Ridge, ESA Zone 2, ESA Zone 3 Sawtimber
Water Resources: Marshyhope creek watershed
Soil Resources: EwC, KgB, PnA, and RsB
Historic Conditions: none identified

Silvicultural Prescription: Regeneration harvest in ESA Zone 2 areas, seed tree harvest in ESA Zone 1 Sand Ridge and ESA Zone 3 Sawtimber areas, retain significant hard mast species

[CF-27-S-02]

Proposal Name: D14 – Indiantown – Stands 14 and 18
Harvest Area: 126.4 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 14 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1971 with chop & burn site preparation, first thinned in 1995, and sprayed and controlled for grass in 1996. Stand 18 is an overstocked pine plantation established in 1982 with shear-pile-bed site preparation and first thinned in 2009.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 1, ESA Zone 3 Pulpwood, and DFS Core.
Water Resources: Marshyhope Creek and Nanticoke River watersheds
Soil Resources: FaA, FmA, HvA, KgB, PmA, and PnA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, clear ESA Zone 1 area along Jones Thicket Road, retain significant hardwood species.

SOMERSET COUNTY

[CF-27-S-03]

Proposal Name: S16 – Howard Price – Stands 3, 4, 10, 11, and 13
Harvest Area: 110.1 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 3 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2000 and controlled for grass in 2001. Stand 4 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1998. Stand 10 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 2007. Stand 10 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 2007. Stand 11 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated and sprayed in 2007. Stand 13 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2000 and grass controlled in 2001.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Core FIDS, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and General Management
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed; Tonys Creek
Soil Resources: CRA, FgA, HgB, HmA, HvA, IgB, and MuA
Historic Conditions: MHT Grid C487_R246
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[CF-27-S-04]

Proposal Name: S16 – Howard Price – Stands 2, 6, 7, and 12
Harvest Area: 47.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 2 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1972 and first thinned in 2007. Stand 6 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1984 and first thinned in 2006. Stand 7 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1984 with shear-pile-bed site preparation and first thinned in 2006. Stand 12 is overstocked pine naturally regenerated in 1972 and first thinned in 2006.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Core FIDS, and General Management
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed; Tonys Creek
Soil Resources: CRA, FgA, HgB, HvA, and MuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[CF-27-S-05]

Proposal Name: S21 – E. Mace Smith – Stand 12
Harvest Area: 15.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 12 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1987 and sprayed and controlled for grass in 1996.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Core
Water Resources: Manokin River watershed
Soil Resources: FhA, OKA, OtA, and QuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

[CF-27-S-06]

Proposal Name: S21 – E. Mace Smith – Stand 11
Harvest Area: 70.4 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 11 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1989, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1996, and first thinned in 2008.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Core
Water Resources: Manokin River and Monie Bay watersheds
Soil Resources: FhA, OKA, OtA, and QuA
Historic Conditions: MHT Grid C464_R248
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species.

[CF-27-S-07]

Proposal Name: S21 – E. Mace Smith – Stand 7
Harvest Area: 26.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 7 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1974, first thinned in 1995, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1996, fertilized in 1997, and second thinned in 2005.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Core
Water Resources: Manokin River watershed
Soil Resources: OtA and QuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Seed tree harvest, retain significant hard mast species.

[CF-27-S-08]

Proposal Name: S47 – Haislip Savannah – Stand 5
Harvest Area: 24.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 5 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established with shear-pile site preparation in 1990, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1992, and first thinned in 2006.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Expanded Riparian Buffer and General Management
Water Resources: Big Annemessex River watershed; unnamed tributary of the Big Annemessex River
Soil Resources: CRA, FgA, FhA, MuA, OKA, OtA, and QuA
Historic Conditions: Homesite as shown on map
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning.

[CF-27-S-09]

Proposal Name: S49 – Handy – Stands 2 and 9
Harvest Area: 89.7 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 2 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2001. Stand 9 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1990.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: AoB, FgA, OoA, and OtA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-10]

Proposal Name: S49 – Handy – Stands 10 and 12
Harvest Area: 109.4 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 10 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1984 with shear-pile-bed site preparation and first thinned in 2008.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: OKA, OoA, OtA, and OvA
Historic Conditions: MHT Grid C462_R272
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning.

[CF-27-S-11]

Proposal Name: S49 – Handy – Stand 3
Harvest Area: 50.7 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 3 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2002 and released in 2005.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: OtA and OvA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-12]

Proposal Name: S55 – Marumsco – Stand 6
Harvest Area: 20.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2001.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Core FIDS and General Management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: FgA and QuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-13]

Proposal Name: S55 – Marumsco – Stand 34
Harvest Area: 13.2 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 34 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated and released in 2005 and pre-commercially thinned in 2011.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: OKA and QuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-14]

Proposal Name: S55 – Marumsco – Stand 15
Harvest Area: 35.2 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 15 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1985 with shear-pile-bed site preparation and first thinned in 2008.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Pocomoke Sound watershed
Soil Resources: IgB, OKA, OoA, and QuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning.

WICOMICO COUNTY

[CF-27-S-15]

Proposal Name: W11 – Cox Estate – Stand 2
Harvest Area: 50.5 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 2 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2000 and controlled for grass in 2001.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Nanticoke River watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, HvA, KgB, MuA, and RwB
Historic Conditions: Cemetery as shown on map
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-16]

Proposal Name: W14 – Helmick – Stands 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8
Harvest Area: 188.2 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1979 and first thinned in 2006. Stand 2 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established with shear-pile-bed site preparation, spraying, and grass control in 1987, and first thinned in 2006. Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established with shear-pile-bed site preparation, spraying, and grass control in 1987, and first thinned in 2008. Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established 1983 and first thinned in 2006/08. Stand 8 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1990 and first thinned in 2009.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Expanded Riparian Buffer, Core FIDS, General Management
Water Resources: Nanticoke River watershed
Soil Resources: CoA, FgA, MtA, and OtA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[CF-27-S-17]

Proposal Name: W23 – Greenhill – Stands 23, 43, and 56
Harvest Area: 149.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 23 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1939 and sprayed and controlled for grass in 1995. Stand 43 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1999 and sprayed in 2000. Stand 56 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2008 and sprayed in 2009.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Wicomico River watershed; Cherrybridge Creek
Soil Resources: LO, MtA, MtB, and OtA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[CF-26-S-18]

Proposal Name: W23 – Greenhill – Stands 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 45, and 53
Harvest Area: 293.2 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 3 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1988, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1991, pre-commercially thinned in 1994, and first thinned in 2008. Stand 7 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1985 with shear-pile-bed site preparation, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1988, and first thinned in 2007. Stand 8 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1982 with shear-pile-bed site preparation, released and controlled for grass in 1986, and first thinned in 2002. Stand 9 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1975, released and controlled for grass in 1997, fertilized in 1998, and first thinned in 2002. Stand 12 is an overstocked pine plantation established in 1989, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1995, and first thinned in 2007. Stand 45 is an overstocked pine plantation established in 1985 with shear-pile-bed site preparation, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1988, and first thinned in 2008. Stand 53 is an overstocked pine plantation established in 1982 with shear-pile-bed site preparation, released and controlled for grass in 1986, and first thinned in 2002.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Wicomico River and Nanticoke River watersheds
Soil Resources: OKA and OtA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species.

[CF-27-S-19]

Proposal Name: W23 – Greenhill – Stands 11 and 52
Harvest Area: 50.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 11 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established with shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1987, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1995, and first thinned in 2010. Stand 52 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established with shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1987, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1995, and first thinned in 2010.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Expanded Riparian Buffer and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Wicomico River watershed; Cherrybridge Creek
Soil Resources: OtA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species

[CF-27-S-20]

Proposal Name: W51 – Givens – Stand 2
Harvest Area: 20.7 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 2 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established and controlled for grass in 2001.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Lower Wicomico River and Nassawango Creek watersheds
Soil Resources: KfA, LfA, and PrB
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-21]

Proposal Name: W51 – Givens – Stands 1 and 4
Harvest Area: 38.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1990, sprayed and controlled for grass in 1992 and first thinned in 2007.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: General Management
Water Resources: Nassawango Creek watershed
Soil Resources: CoA, KfA, LfA, and PrB
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning.

WORCESTER COUNTY

[CF-27-S-22]

Proposal Name: WR11 – Shockley – Stands 5, 27, and 29
Harvest Area: 159.3 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 5 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1996. Stand 27 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1980. Stand 29 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1996.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Expanded Riparian Buffer and General Management
Water Resources: Upper Pocomoke River watershed; Whiton Ditch
Soil Resources: FaA, HnA, HvA, KgB, LO, MuA, RsB, RuB, and WdA
Historic Conditions: MHT grids C509_R230 and C511_R231
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning.

[CF-27-S-23]

Proposal Name: WR25 – Creek – Stands 8 and 9
Harvest Area: 40.0 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 8 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1999. Stand 9 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1996.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed; Burk Mill Branch and other unnamed tributaries of Dividing Creek
Soil Resources: FaA, HdB, HuA, LO, NnA, SaB, WdA, and Za
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species, areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[CF-27-S-24]

Proposal Name: WR25 – Creek – Stand 7
Harvest Area: 30.0 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 7 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1969 with chop site preparation and first thinned in 1995.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed; Burk Mill Branch and other unnamed tributaries of Dividing Creek
Soil Resources: FaA, HdB, HuA, LO, SaB, WdA, and Za
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Seed tree harvest, retain significant hard mast species, no harvesting within the stream buffer or expanded riparian buffer – locations of these buffers will be field verified.

POCOMOKE STATE FOREST

[P-27-S-01]

Proposal Name: P02 – Nazareth Church – Tract 4, Stands 5 and 14
Harvest Area: 42.4 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 5 is overstocked pine-hardwood naturally regenerated in 2001 and pre-commercially thinned in 2013. Stand 14 is overstocked pine-hardwood naturally regenerated in 1994.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, BhA, EvB, FaA, KsA, MuA, and RuB
Historic Conditions: Homesite as shown on map
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

[P-27-S-02]

Proposal Name: P02 – Nazareth Church – Tract 5, Stands 12 and 22
Harvest Area: 36.2 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 12 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1998. Stand 22 is overstocked pine-hardwood naturally regenerated in 2008.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: DFS Future Core.
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, CeB, HuA, KsA, MuA, RoB, and RuA
Historic Conditions: MHT grids C494_R246 and C494_R247; homesite as shown on map
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species.

[P-27-S-03]

Proposal Name: P03 – Whitesburg – Tract 11, Stands 3, 7, 9, 12, and 14
Harvest Area: 59.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 3 is overstocked loblolly pine natural regenerated in 1996 and pre-commercially thinned in 2005.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 3 Sawtimber and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, BhA, FaA, HbA, HmB, KsA, KsB, MuA, RoB, and WdA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species.

[P-27-S-04]

Proposal Name: P03 – Whitesburg – Tract 11, Stands 6 and 17
Harvest Area: 46.8 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 6 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1984 and first thinned in 2012. Stand 17 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1984 and first thinned in 2012.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: Stream Buffer, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Dividing Creek watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, FaA, HmA, HuA, KsB, LO, MuA, and WdA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species, areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

[P-27-S-05]

Proposal Name: P06 – Tarr – Tract 19, Stand 22
Harvest Area: 21.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 22 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 2004.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 1 and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Pocomoke River watershed
Soil Resources: EvB, EvD, GaB, and MuA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: First thinning, retain significant hard mast species, harvest area is adjacent to the Hudson-Tarr blue bike trail.

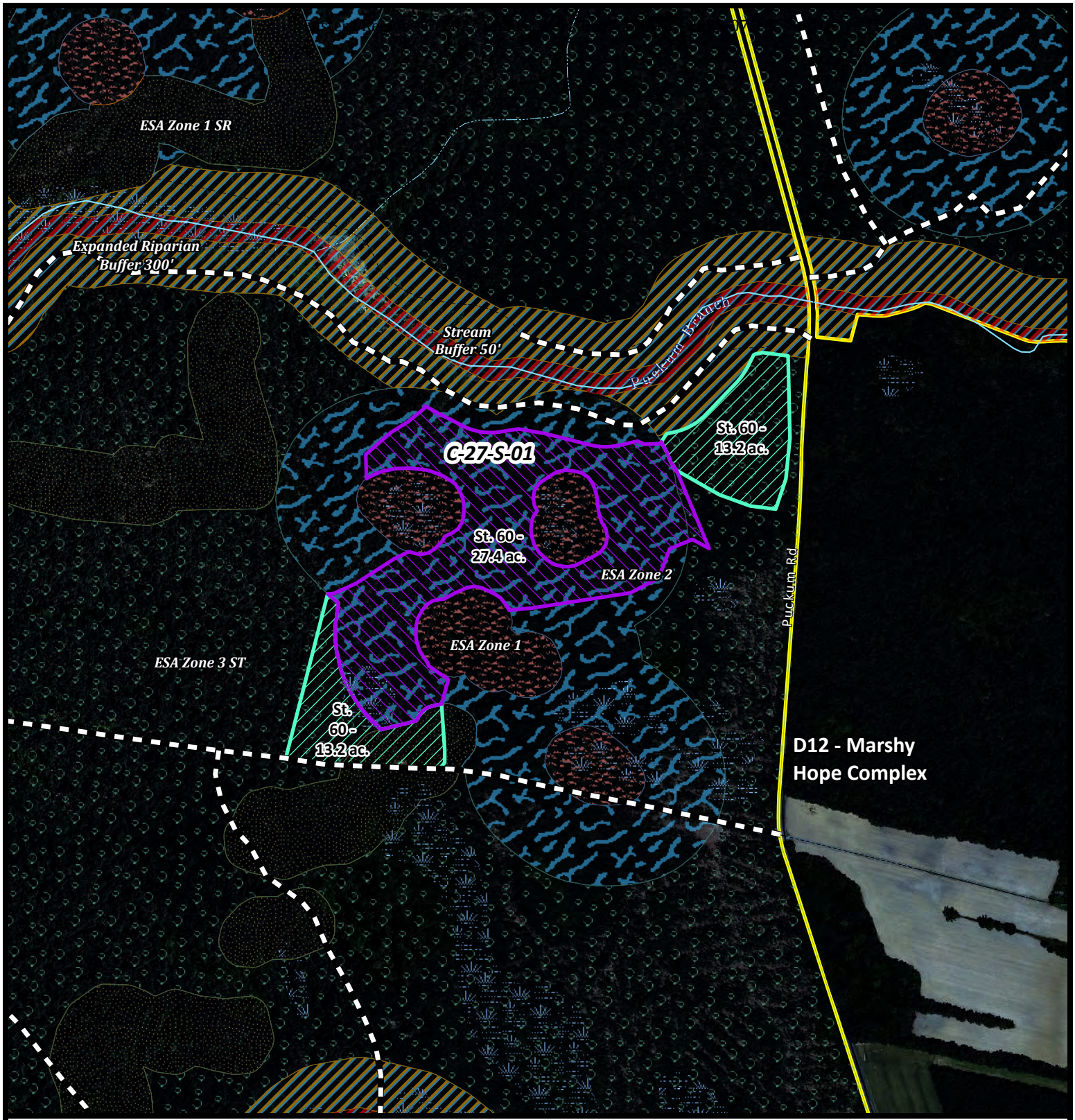
[P-27-S-06]

Proposal Name: P06 – Tarr – Tract 19, Stands 26 and 28
Harvest Area: 60.9 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 26 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established and sprayed in 1980 and first thinned in 2013. Stand 28 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1979 and first thinned in 2013.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 1 and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Pocomoke River watershed
Soil Resources: AsA, BhA, EvB, EvD, FaA, GaB, GaC, HmA, HuA, KsA, MuA, RuA, and RuB
Historic Conditions: Cemetery as shown on map
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species, harvest area is adjacent to the Hudson-Tarr blue, green, and yellow bike trails.

[P-27-S-07]

Proposal Name: P06 – Tarr – Tract 19, Stand 21
Harvest Area: 24.6 acres
Forest Community Types and Development: Stand 21 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established and sprayed in 1980 and first thinned in 2013.
Habitats and Species of Management Concern: ESA Zone 1, Expanded Riparian Buffer, and DFS Future Core
Water Resources: Lower Pocomoke River watershed; unnamed tributary of Bachelors Branch
Soil Resources: AsA, CeA, CeB, KeA, MuA, and WdA
Historic Conditions: No known historic features
Silvicultural Prescription: Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species, harvest area is near the Hudson-Tarr green bike trail.

SILVICULTURAL SITE MAPS



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- Seed Tree Harvest
- Regeneration Harvest

CF Management
- ESA Zone 1
- ESA Zone 1 SR
- ESA Zone 2
- ESA Zone 3 ST
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

C-27-S-01

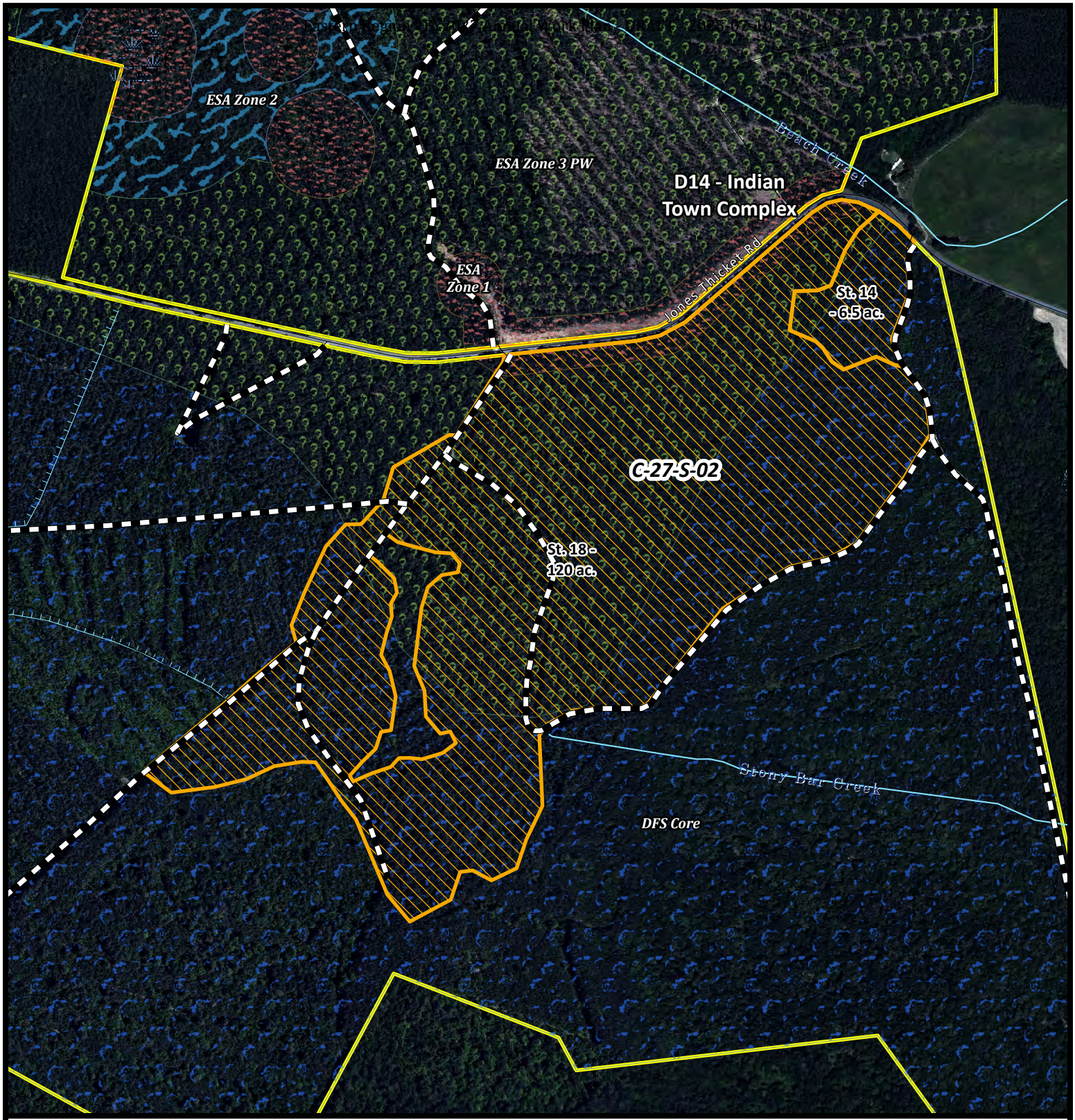
Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

This map is for planning purposes only.
This map is not a boundary survey

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- DFS Core
- ESA Zone 1
- ESA Zone 2
- ESA Zone 3 PW

C-27-S-02

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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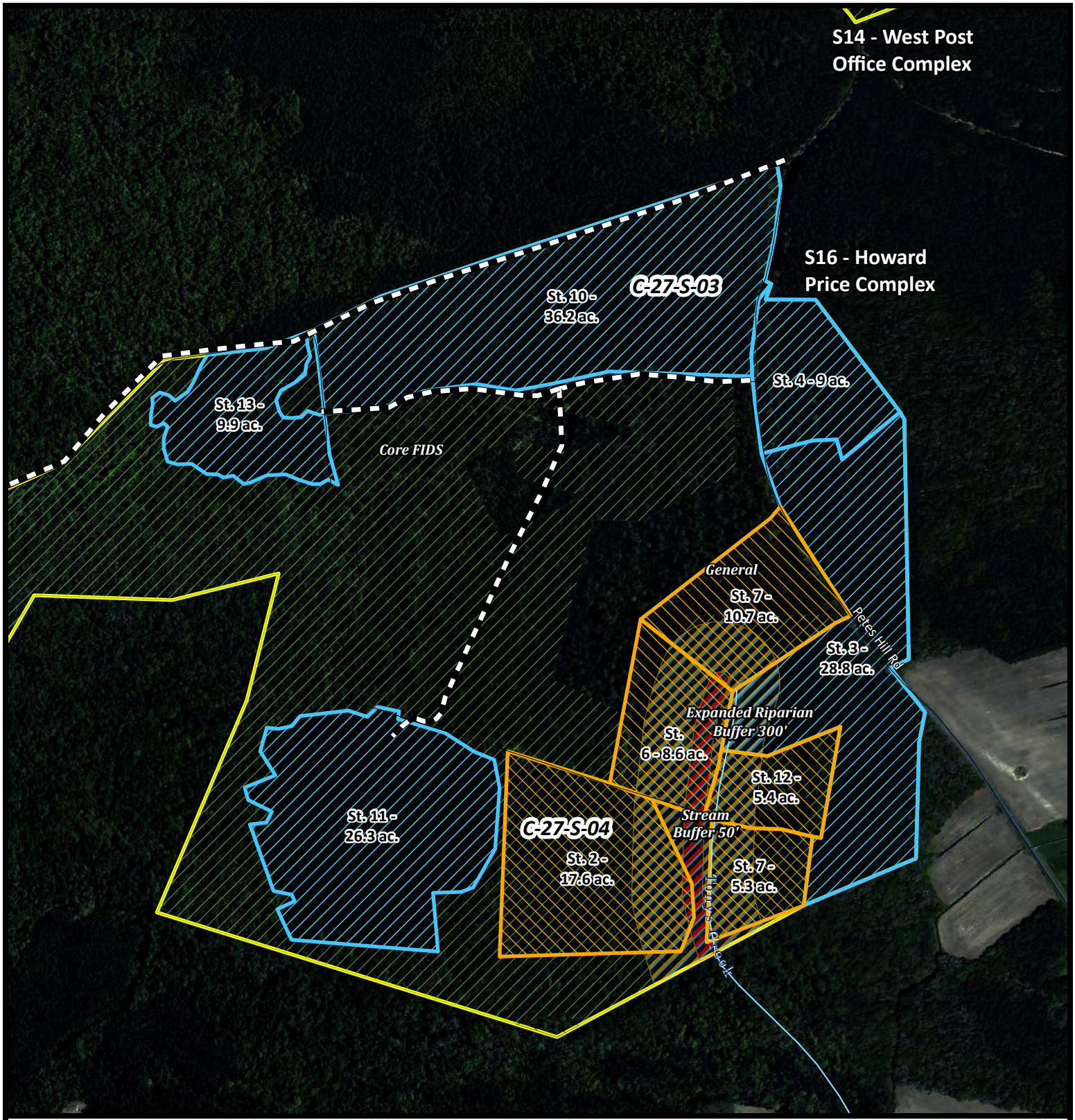
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- Core FIDS
- General
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

C-27-S-03
C-27-S-04

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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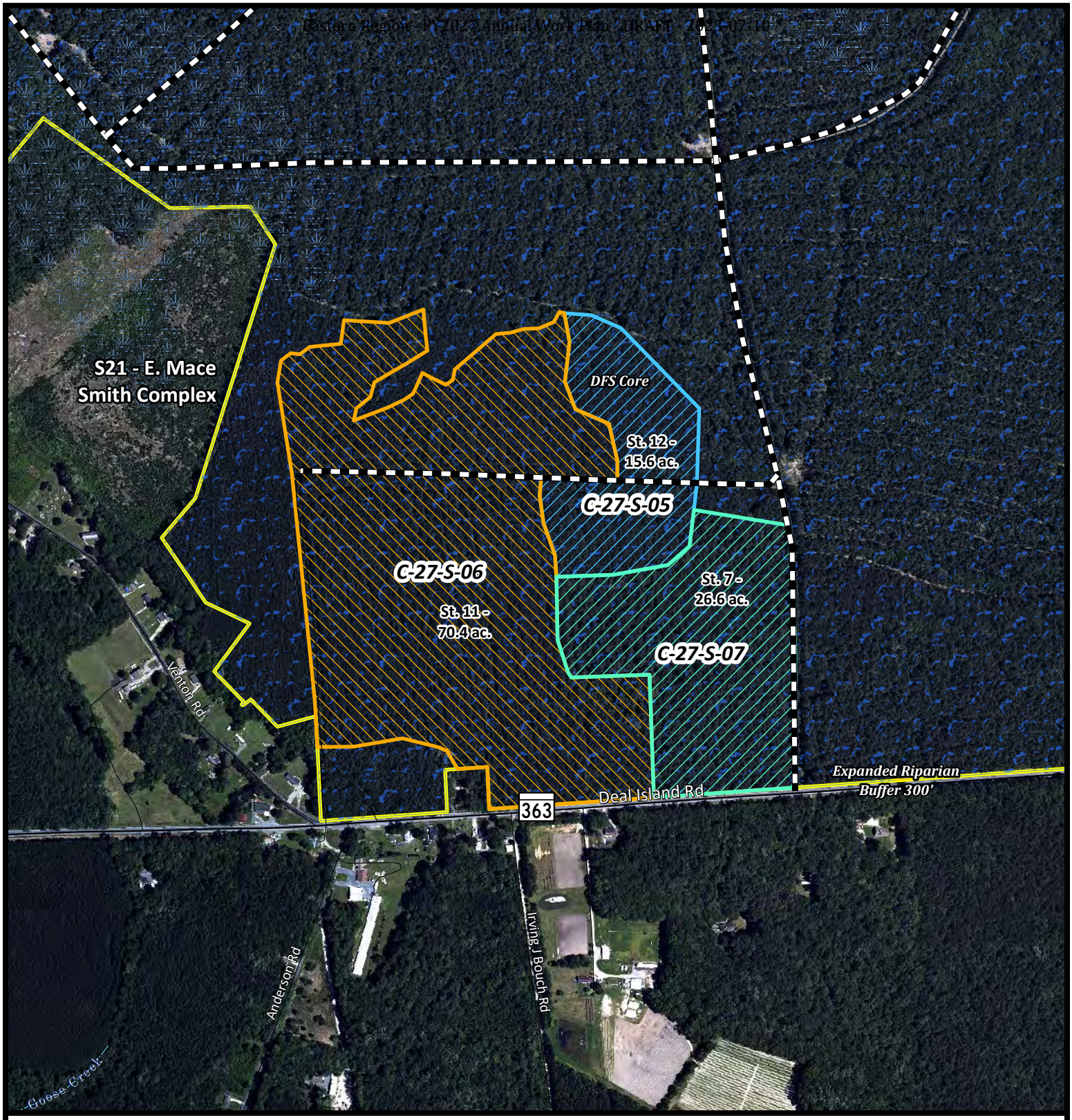
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning
- Seed Tree Harvest

CF Management
- DFS Core
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

C-27-S-05
C-27-S-06
C-27-S-07

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

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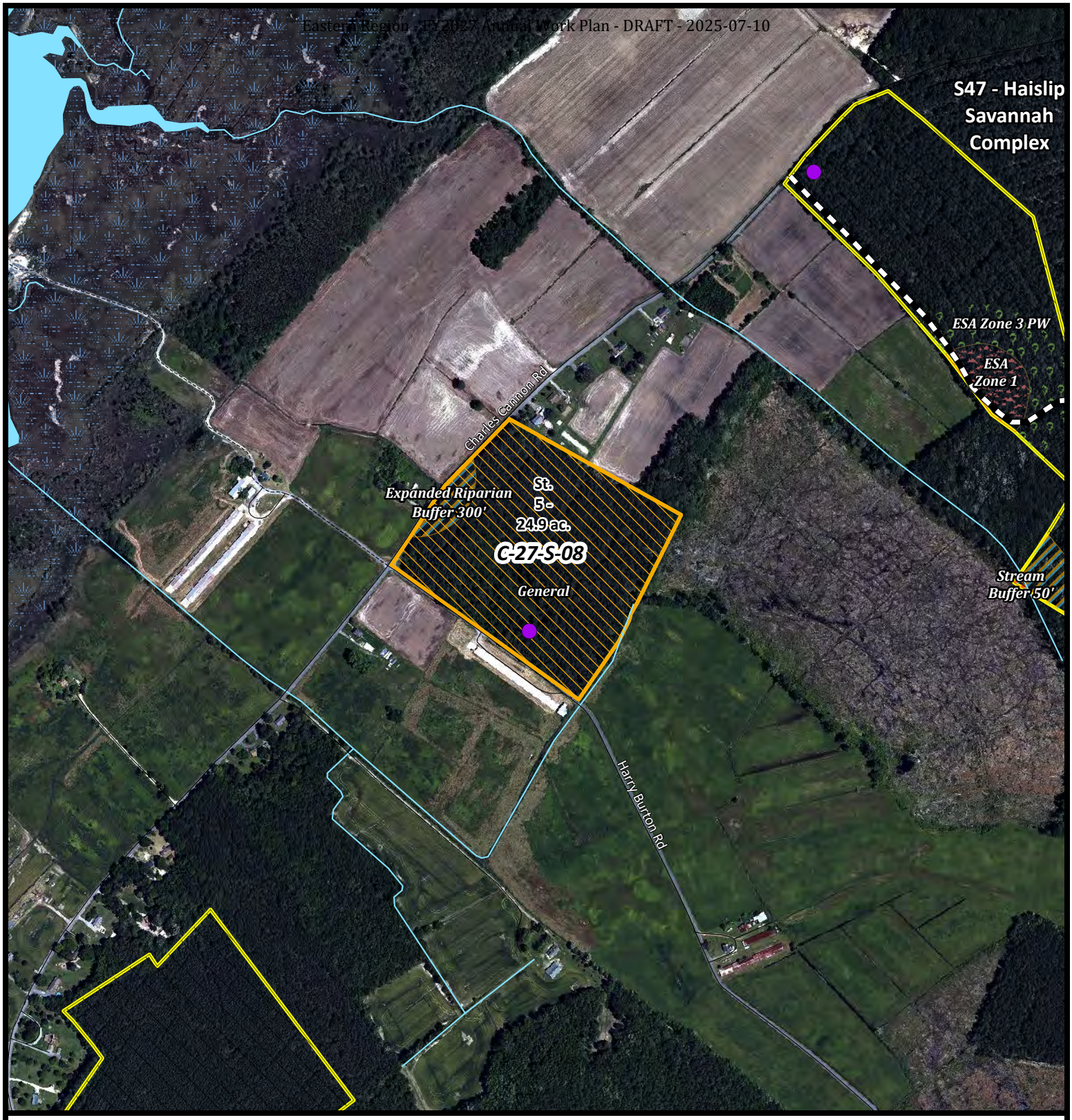
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- ESA Zone 1
- ESA Zone 3 PW
- General
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

- Home Site

C-27-S-08

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

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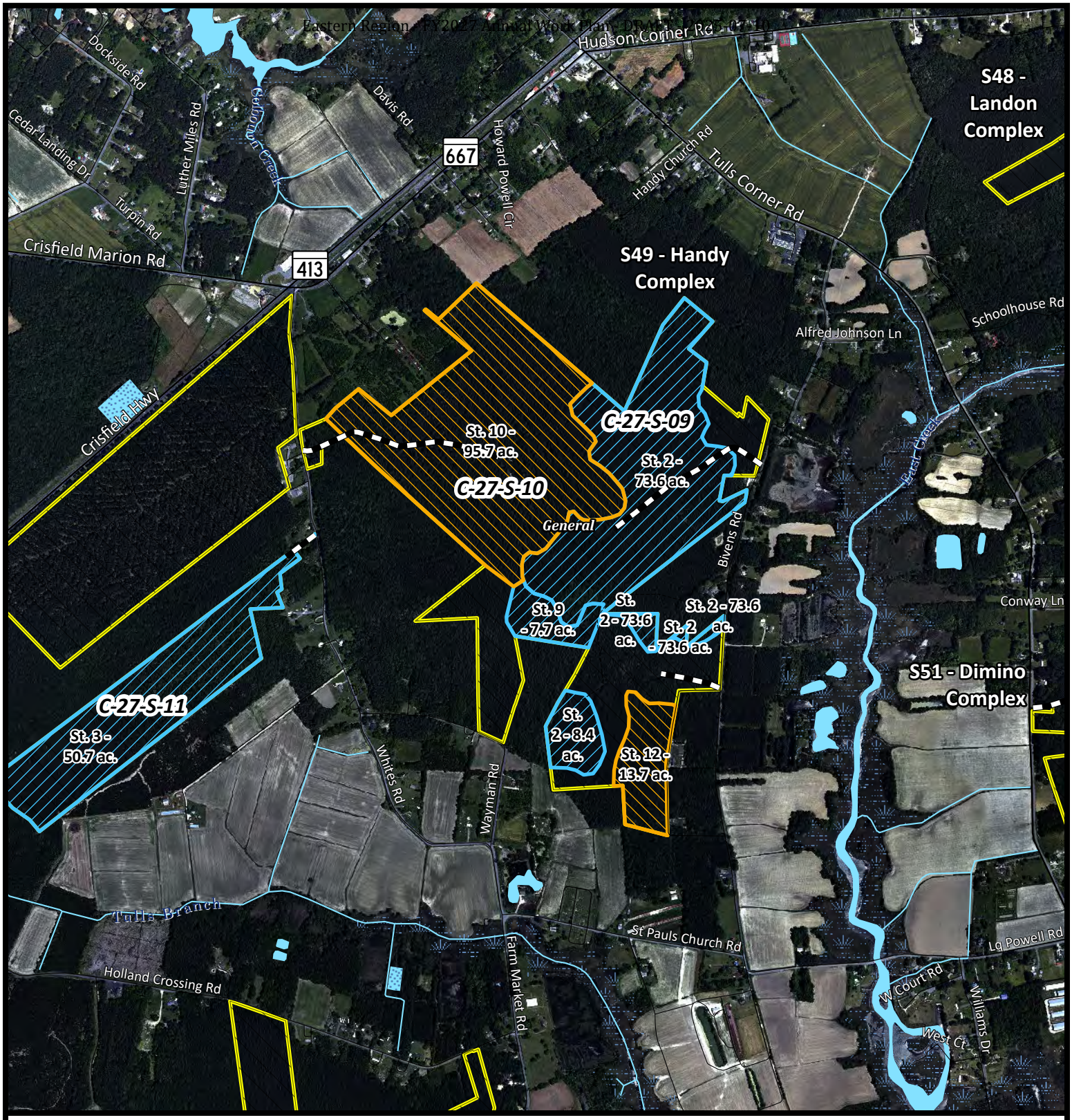
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- General

C-27-S-09
C-27-S-10

Scale: 1" = 1,320'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 2,640 Feet

This map is for planning purposes only.
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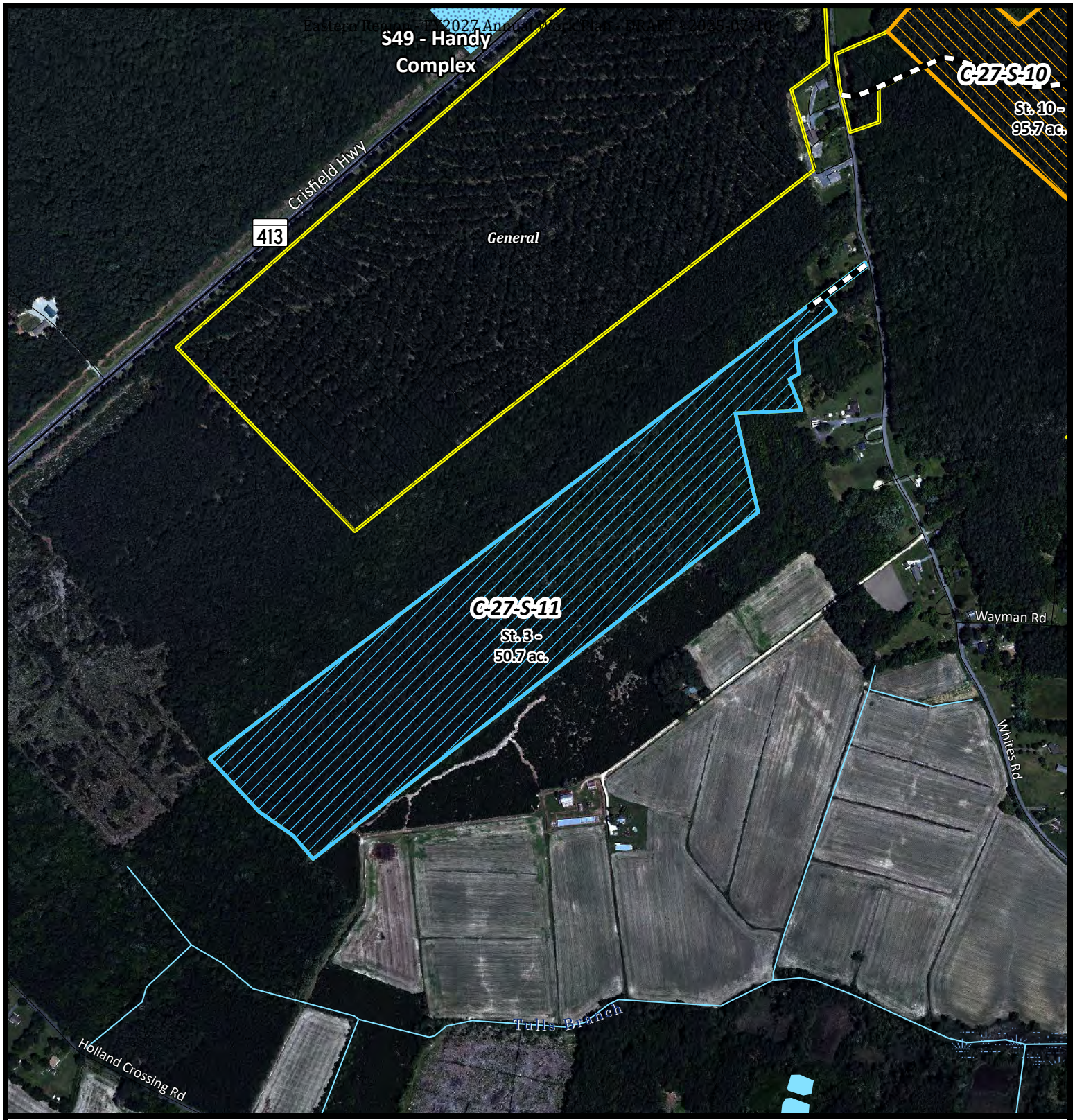
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- General

C-27-S-11

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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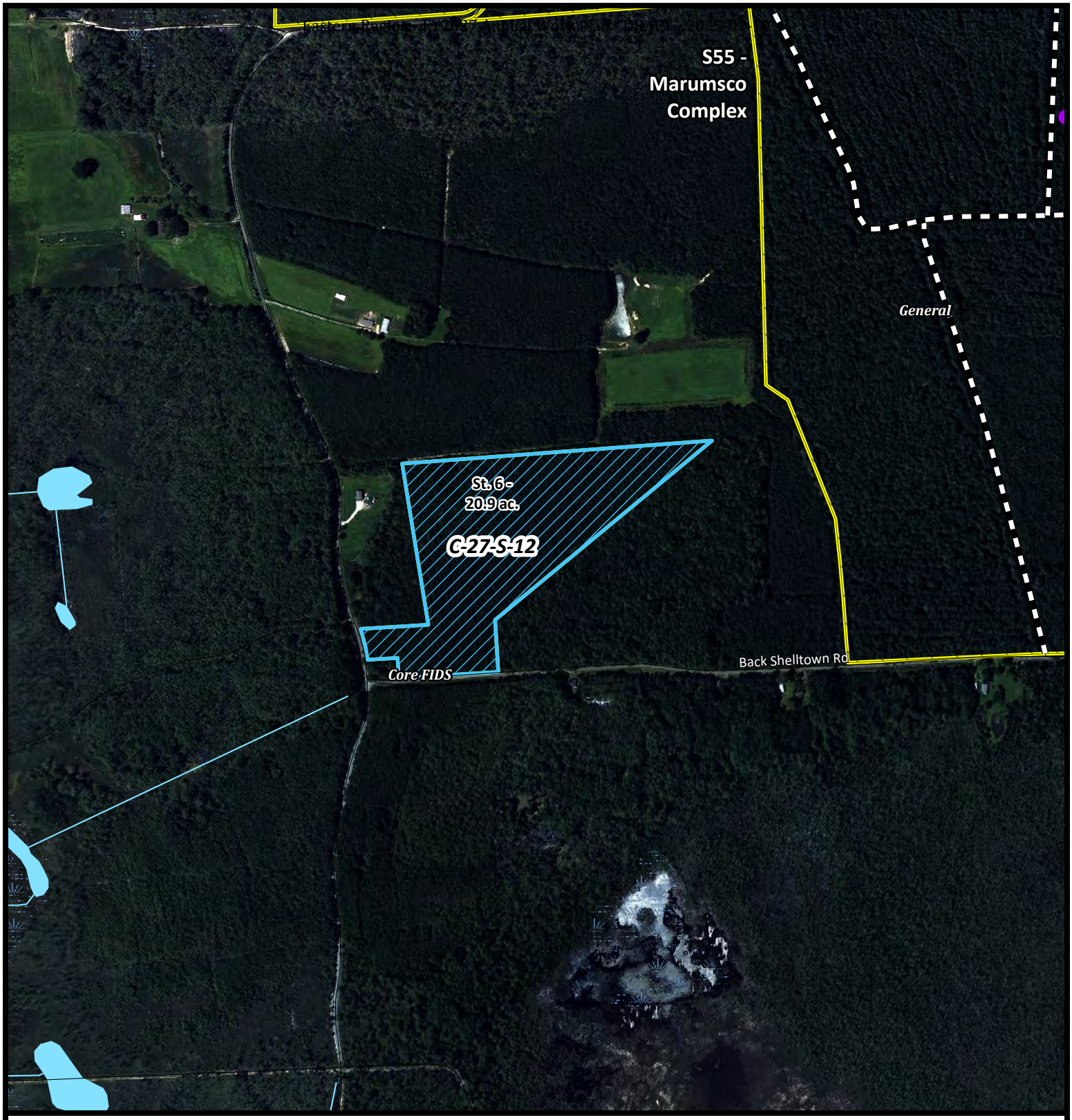
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning

CF Management
- Core FIDS
- General

Home Site

C-27-S-12

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

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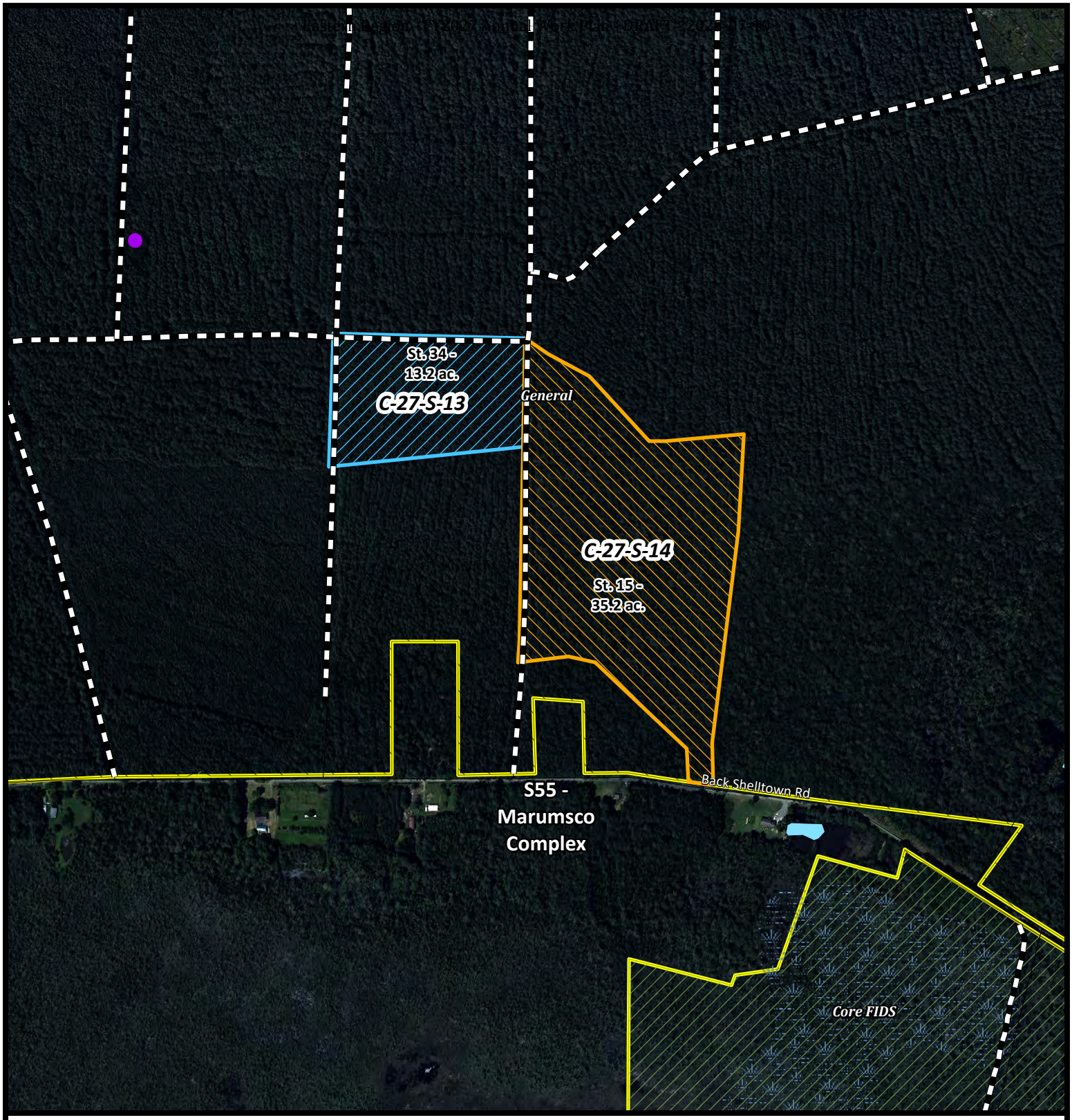
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- Core FIDS
- General

Home Site

C-27-S-13
C-27-S-14

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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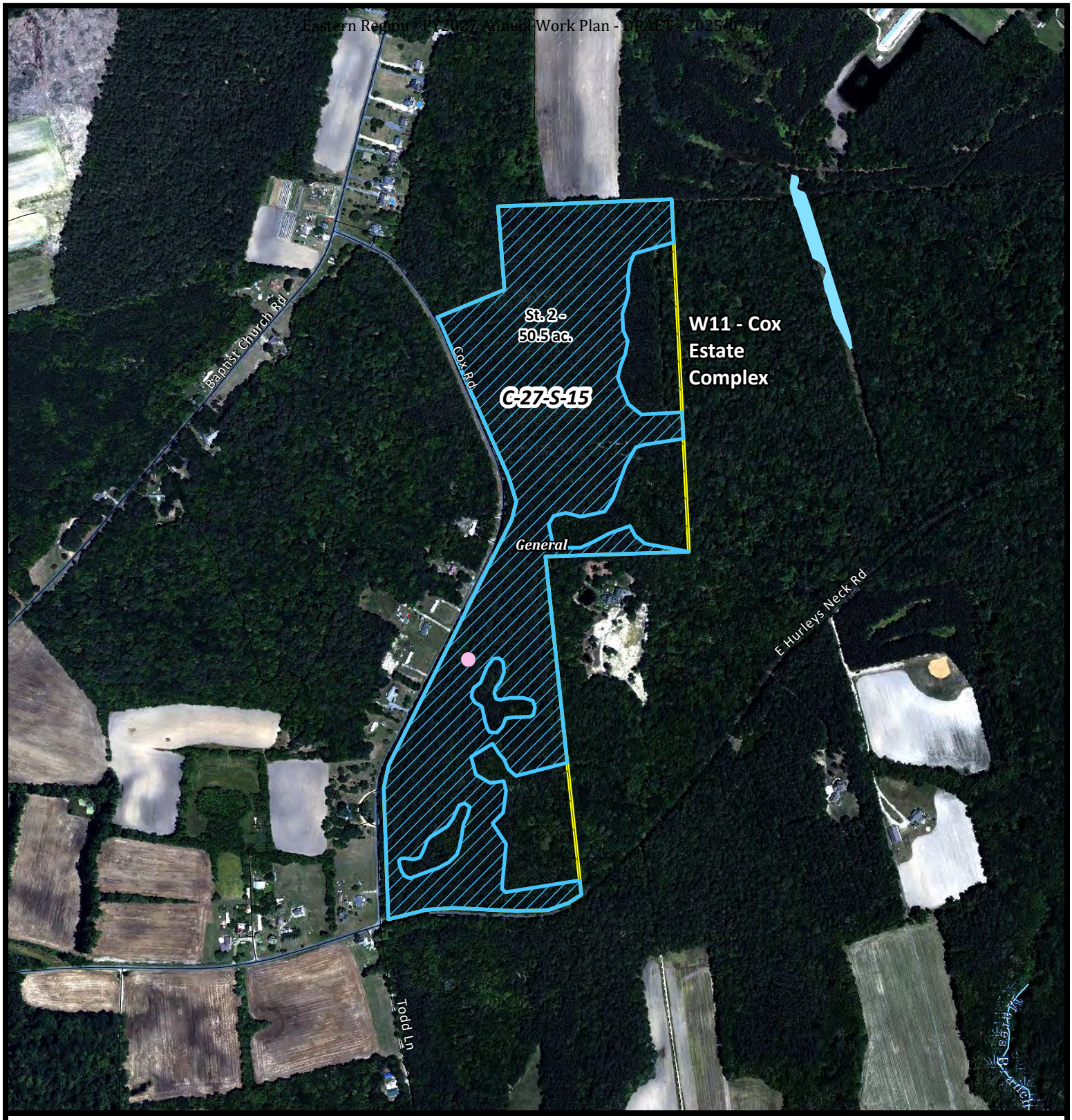
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
First Thinning

CF Management
General

Cemetery

C-27-S-15

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

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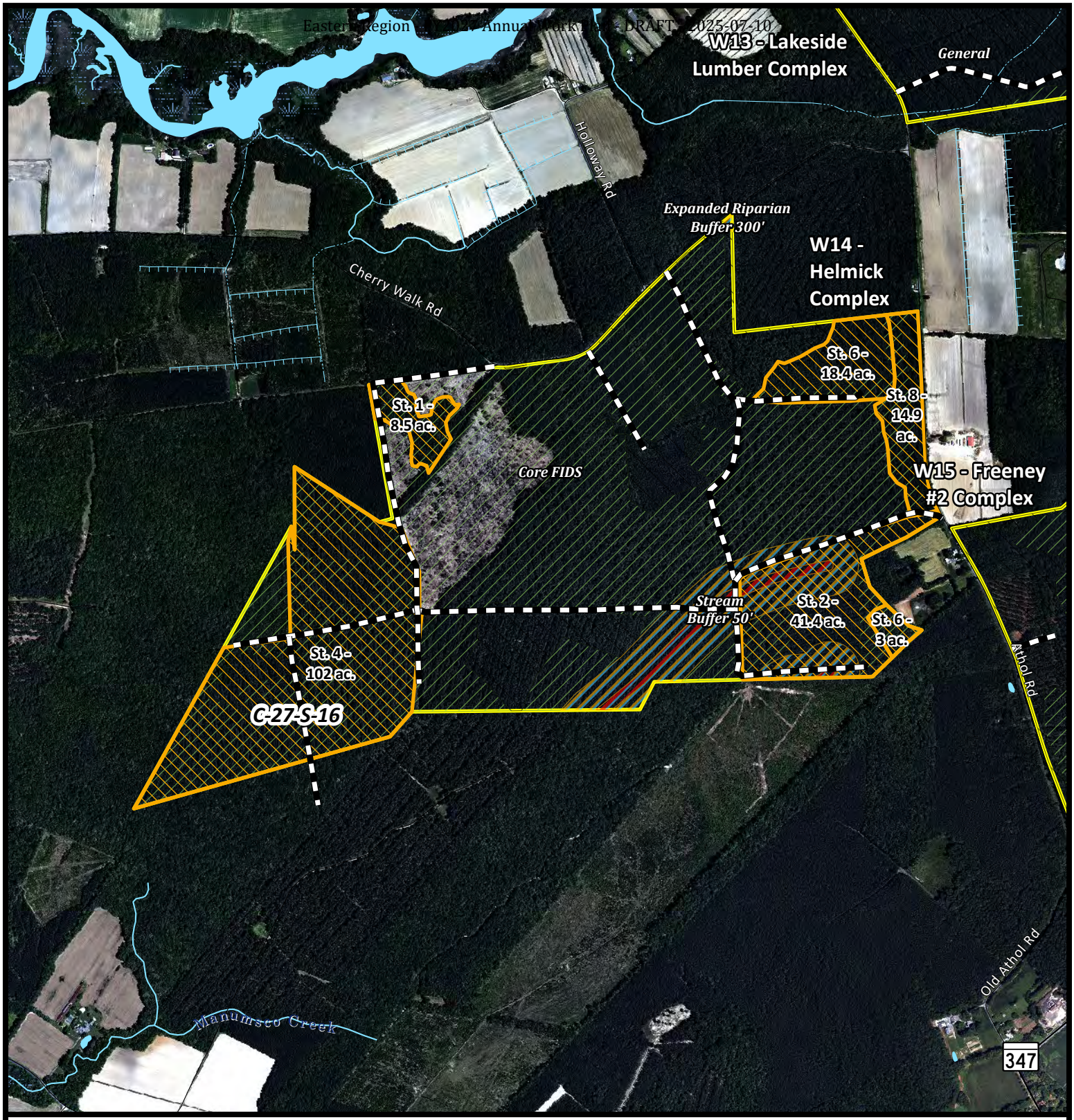
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- Core FIDS
- General
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

1,320 0 1,320 2,640 Feet

This map is for planning purposes only.
This map is not a boundary survey

C-27-S-16

Scale: 1" = 1,320'
Date: 07/2025

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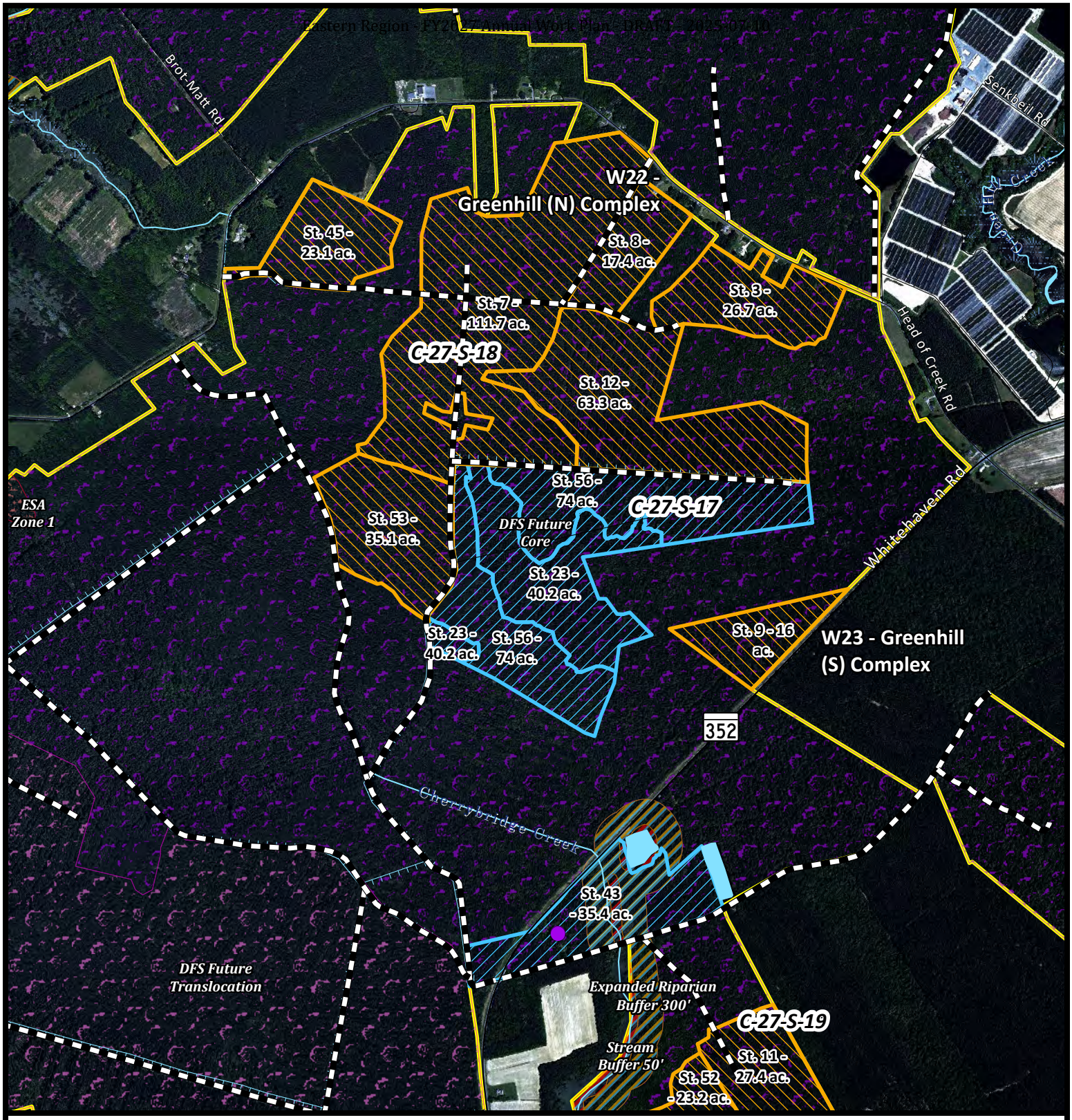
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- DFS Future Core
- DFS Future Translocation
- ESA Zone 1
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Home Site

1,320 0 1,320 2,640 Feet

C-27-S-17
C-27-S-18

Scale: 1" = 1,320'
Date: 07/2025

N W E S

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This map is for planning purposes only.
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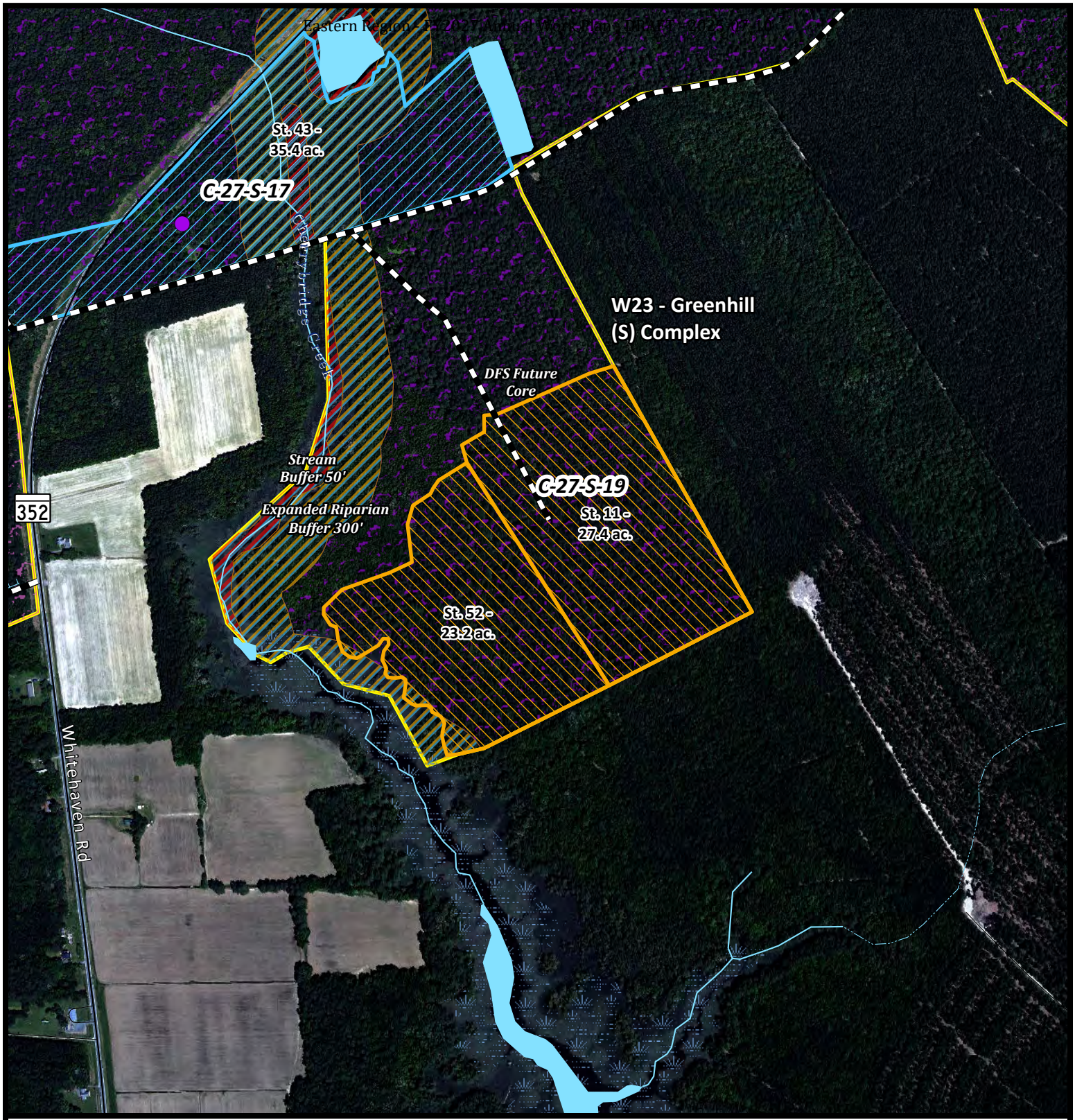

Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- DFS Future Core
- DFS Future Translocation
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Home Site

C-27-S-19

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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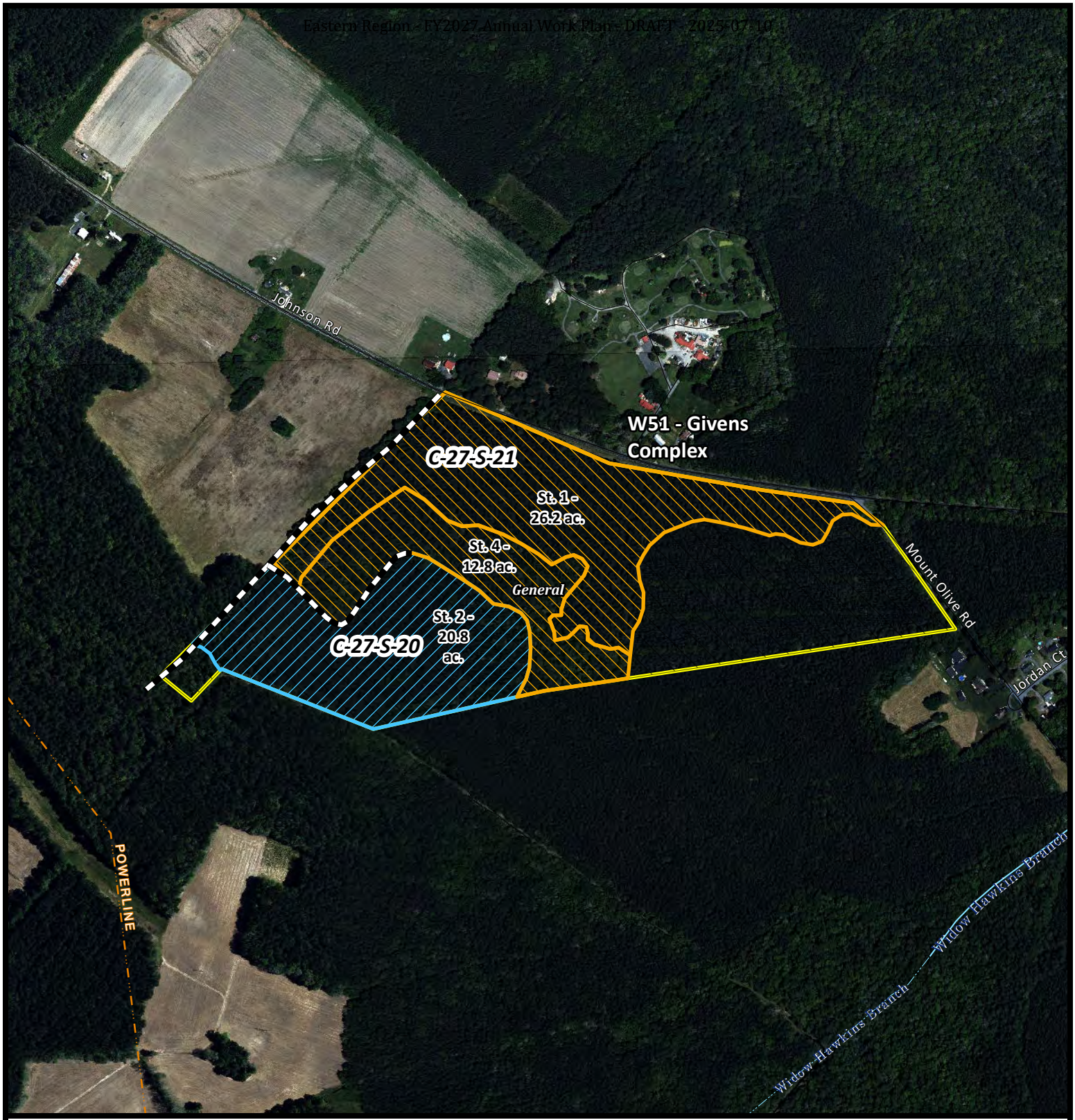
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

CF Management
- General

C-27-S-20
C-27-S-21

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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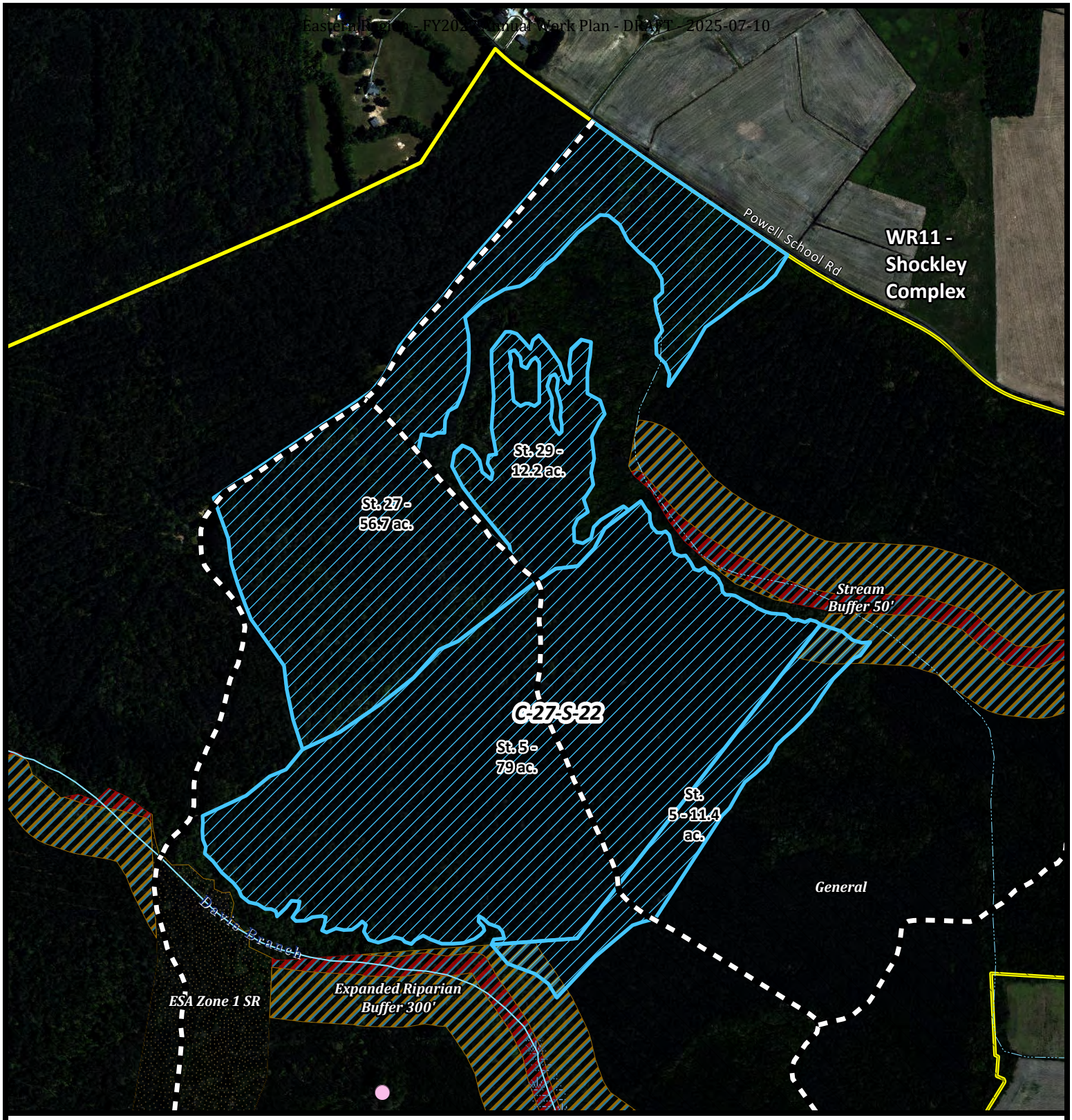
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning

CF Management
- ESA Zone 1 SR
- General
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

- Cemetery

C-27-S-22

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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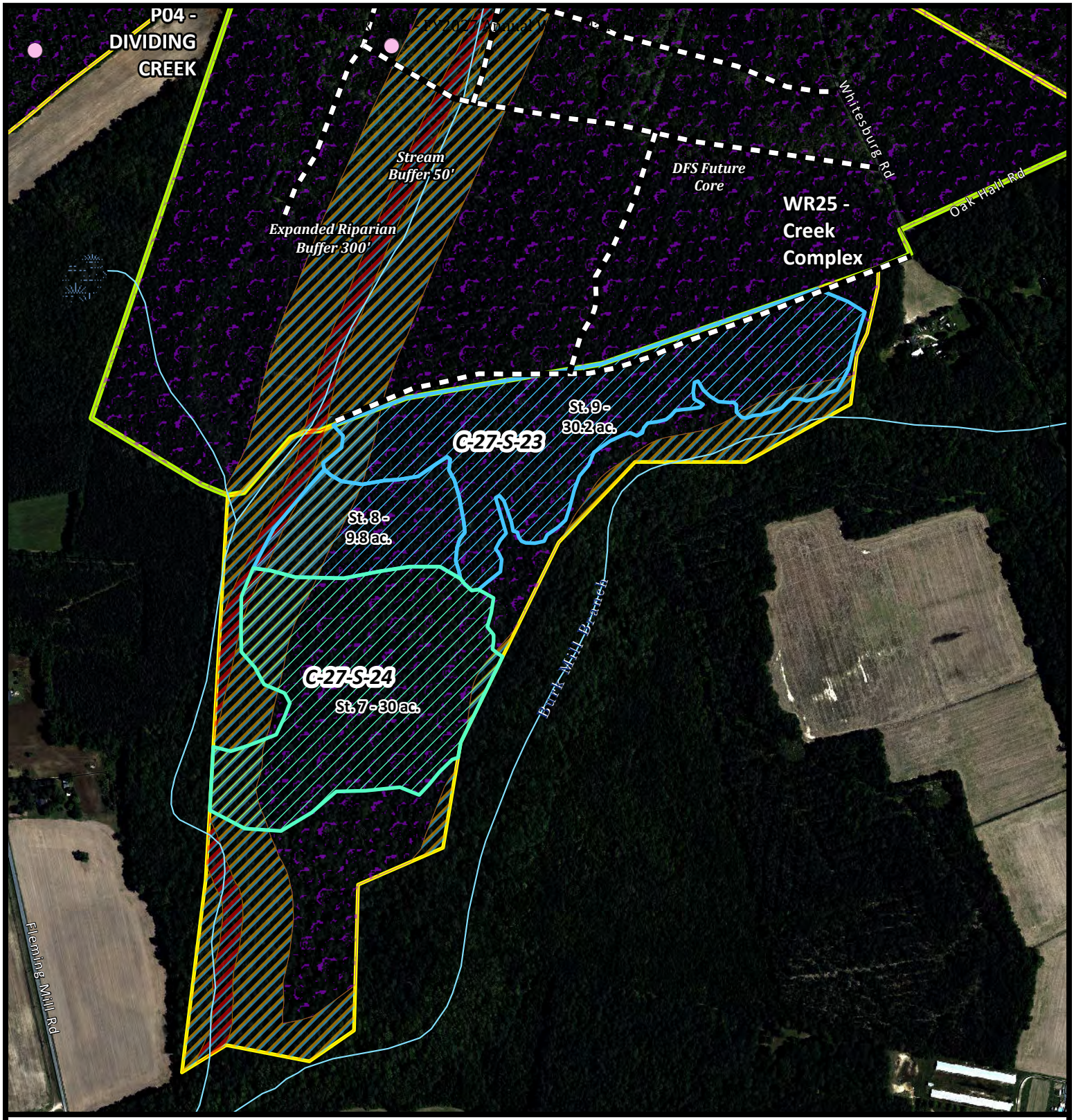
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

CF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Seed Tree Harvest

CF Management
- DFS Future Core
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Cemetery

C-27-S-23
C-27-S-24

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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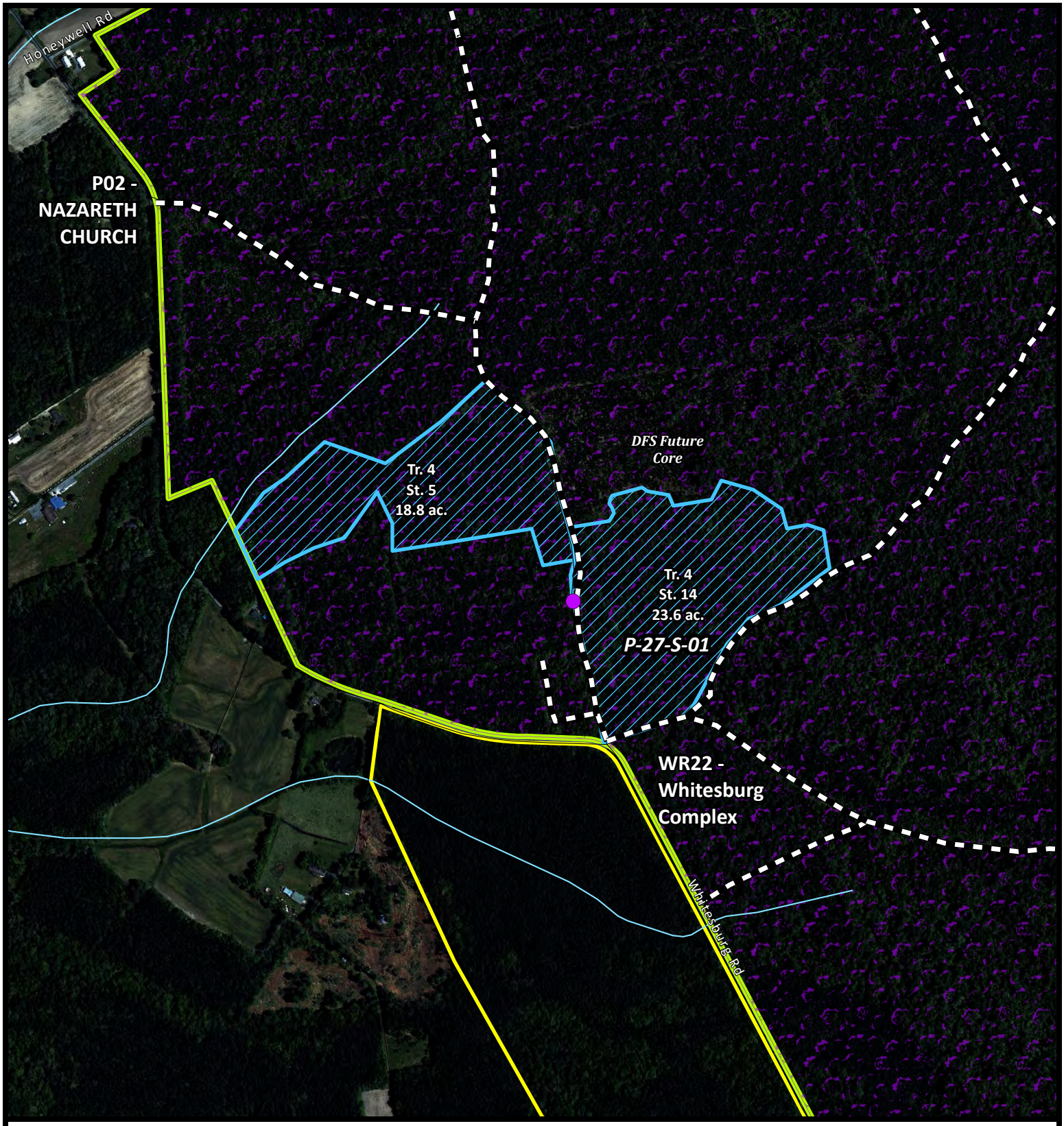
This map is not a boundary survey

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

PSF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

PSF Management
- DFS Future Core

Home Site

P-27-S-01

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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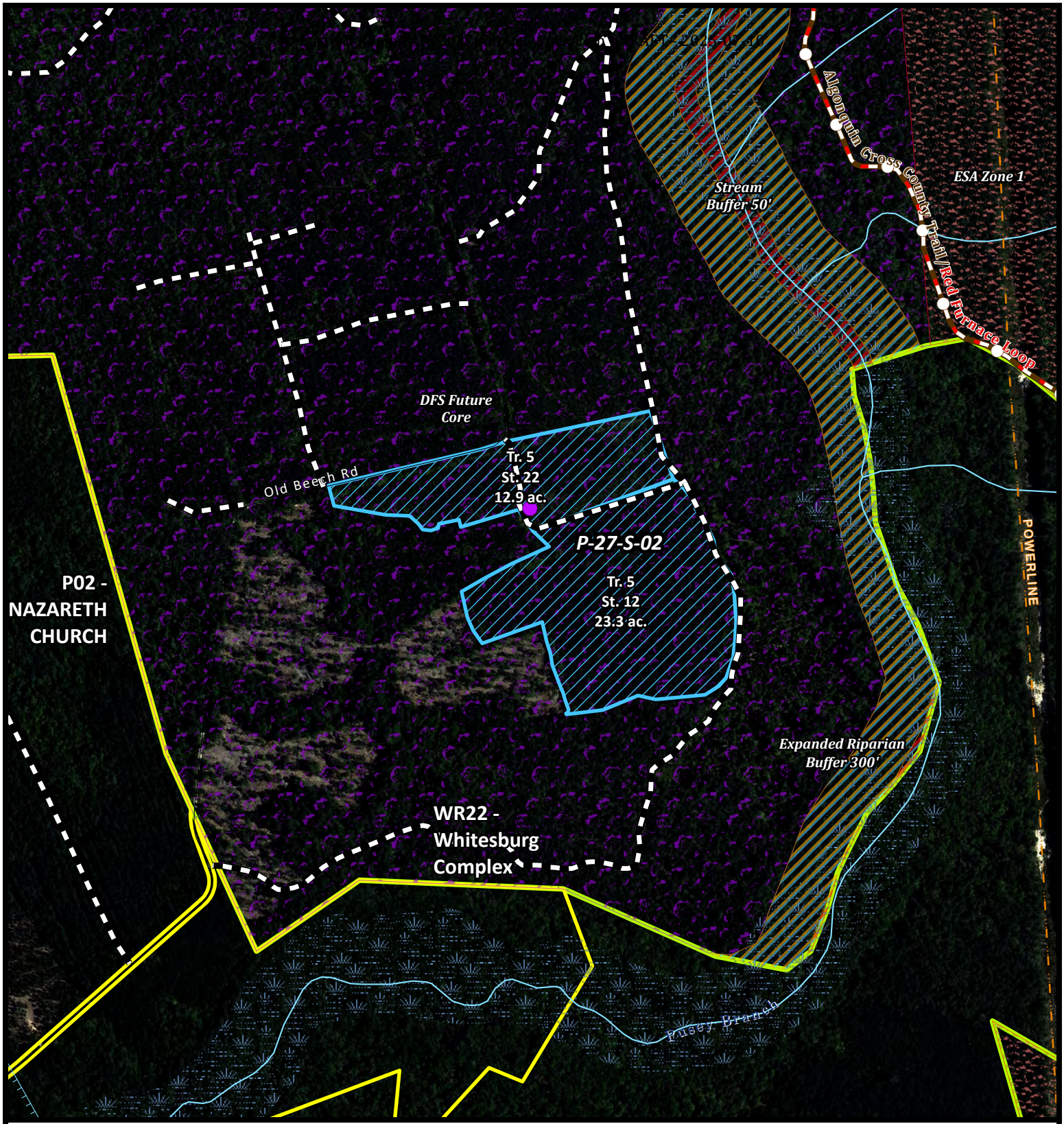
This map is not a boundary survey

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

PSF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

PSF Management
- DFS Future Core
- ESA Zone 1
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Home Site

P-27-S-02

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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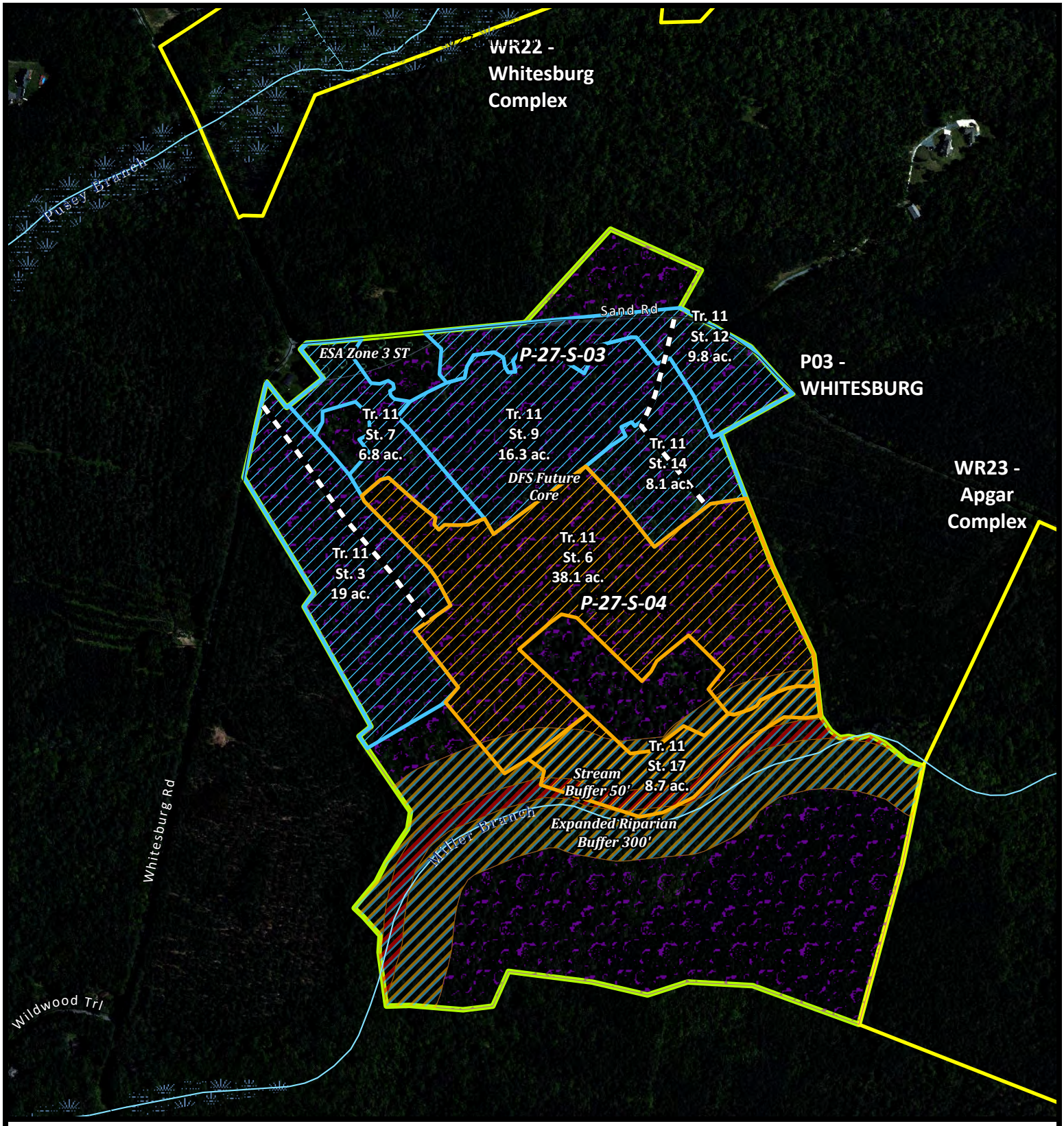
This map is not a boundary survey

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

PSF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

PSF Management
- DFS Future Core
- ESA Zone 3 ST
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

P-27-S-03
P-27-S-04

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

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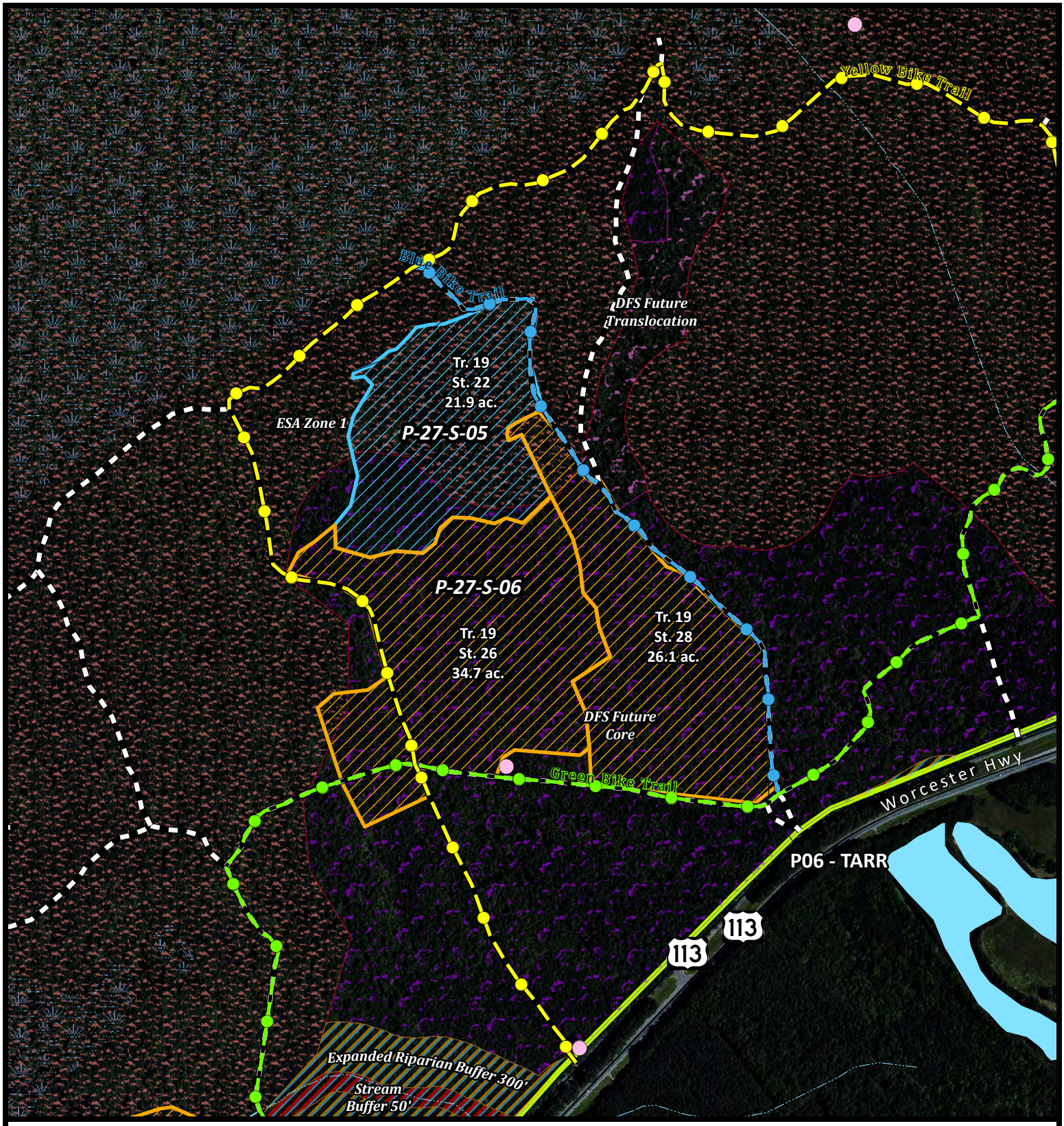
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

PSF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

PSF Management
- DFS Future Core
- DFS Future Translocation
- ESA Zone 1
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Cemetery

P-27-S-05
P-27-S-06

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

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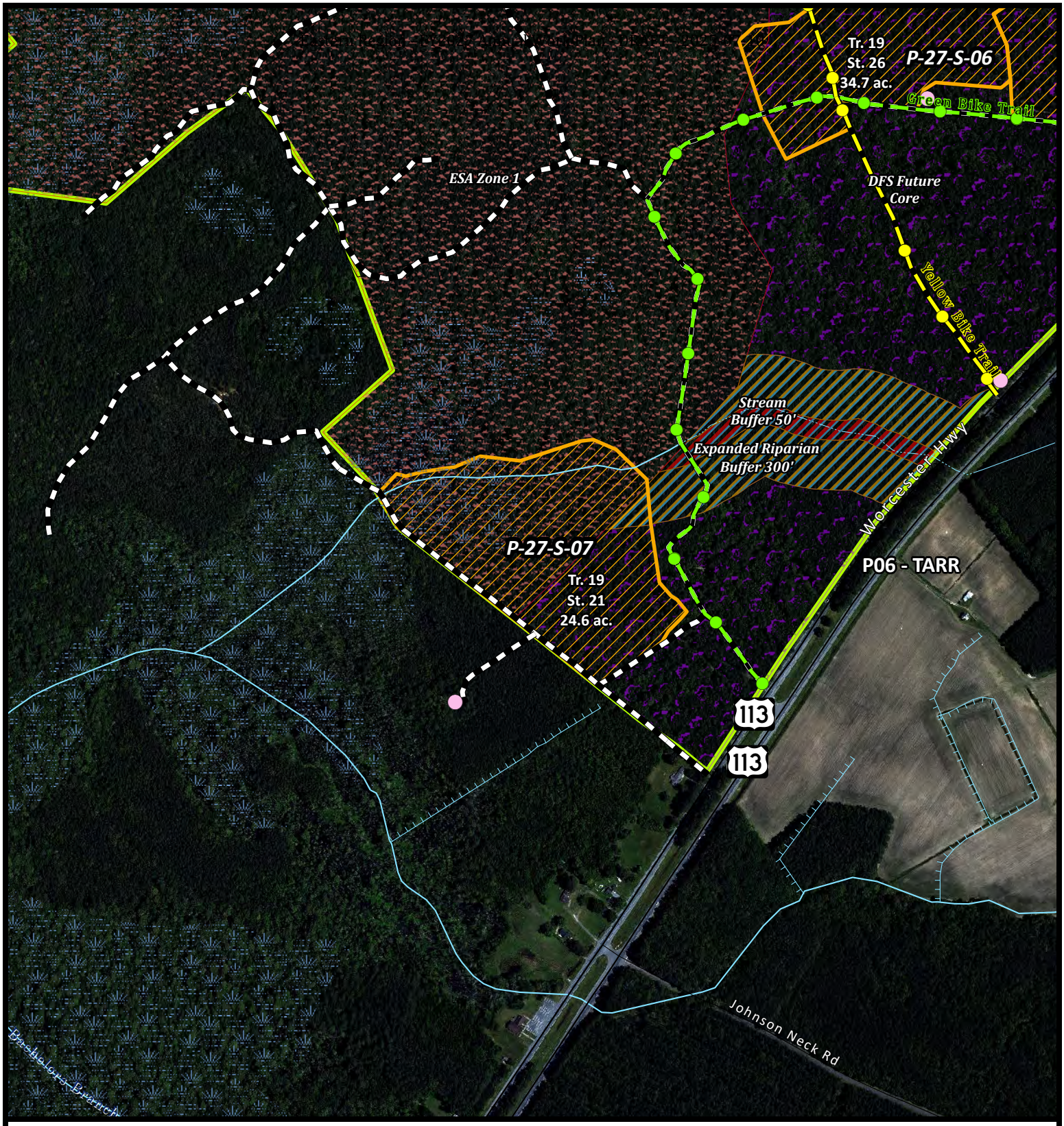
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Legend

PSF AWP Activity
- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

PSF Management
- DFS Future Core
- ESA Zone 1
- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Cemetery

P-27-S-07

Scale: 1" = 660'
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320 Feet

N W E S

This map is for planning purposes only.
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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

L. BUDGET

Introduction

This section of the plan is designed to cover the annual funding sources and costs associated with the operational management of the Chesapeake Forest and the Pocomoke State Forest (CF/PSF).

The numbers expressed in this section are approximates typically found from one year to the next. Variations do occur based on management prescriptions, economic conditions, weather, certification audit year, and public use of the forest.

Funding Sources

1. General Fund – Monies generated from Maryland State taxes. These funds are appropriated by the General Assembly through the annual state budgeting process.
2. Timber Revenue – Monies generated from the sale of forest products such as sawtimber, poles, pilings and pulpwood.
3. Hunting Leases – Monies generated by the Chesapeake Forest Hunting Lease Program.
4. Agricultural Leases – Monies generated from leasing agricultural fields on the forest to local farmers.
5. Grants – Monies generated from outside agencies/groups through a competitive grant request process.
6. Other – Monies generated through camping permits, firewood permits, or other miscellaneous fees.

Operational Costs

1. State Employee Salaries – There are five classified (full time) state employees assigned to the CF/PSF: Forest Manager, GIS Forester, Forest Technician, Park Technician, and an Office Secretary.
2. Contractual Employee Salaries – There are typically one to three contractual employees working 10 to 12 months per year on the forest.
3. Land Management – This includes the cost of contract management services, including base contract fees, implementation fees, and reimbursements for eligible expenses; and payments to loggers for harvesting and delivering forest products to processing mills.
4. Land Operations – This includes costs for road maintenance, non-commercial harvesting, tree planting, herbicide application, monitoring, equipment purchase & maintenance, etc.
5. County Payments – All counties except for Worcester are paid at a rate of 15% of the total revenue in lieu of property taxes. In Worcester County, 25% of the revenue generated off the forest is paid to the county since the total acreage of Park and Forestry properties exceeds 10% of the total County land base.
6. Public Drainage Association (PDA) Fees – This is a fee collected for large public drainage ditches that are present on the forest. Monies are used by the PDA to maintain the ditches.
7. Forest Certification* – Monies used to maintain state forest lands certification through annual third-party audits.

   **Beginning in fiscal year 2025, costs associated with forest certification are now a part of the state-wide Forest Service budget.*

Chesapeake Forest/Pocomoke State Forest Budget

Funding Sources		
1. General	$	150,000
2. Timber	$	481,776
3. Hunting Lease	$	591,288
4. Ag Lease	$	43,930
5. Grants	$	-
6. Other	$	3,825
Total	**$**	**1,270,819**

Operational Costs		
1. State Employee Salaries	$	355,888
2. Contractual Employee Salaries	$	36,093
3. Land Management	$	296,000
4. Land Operations	$	375,000
5. County Payments	$	154,500
6. PDA Fees	$	9,647
7. Forest Certification	$	-
Total	**$**	**1,227,128**

Net Revenue	**$**	**43,691**

APPENDIX A – SOIL SERIES MANAGEMENT GROUPS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS

Soil Series	SMG	Caroline	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester
Acquango sand	4					AcB, AcC
Annemessex-Manokin complex	1			AoA, AoB		
Askecksy loamy sand	1	AsA			AsA	As
Askecksy-Urban land complex	1				AtA	
Beaches	-		Be	Be	Be	Be
Berryland mucky loamy sand	2				BhA	BhA
Bestpitch and Transquaking	5		BT			
Boxiron and Broadkill soils	1			BX		BX
Broadkill mucky silt loam	1					Br
Brockatonorton sand	3					BkA, BkB
Cedartown loamy sand	4	CdA, CdB			CdA	
Cedartown-Rosedale complex	4					CeA, CeB
Chicone mucky silt loam	5		Ch			Ch
Corsica and Fallsington soils	2			CRA		
Corsica mucky loam	1	CoA			CoA	
Corsica mucky loam, Carolina Bay	1	CrA				
Downer loamy sand	3		DnC			
Downer sandy loam	3		DoA, DoB	DoA, DoB		
Elkton loam	1		EkA			
Elkton mucky silt loam	1		EoA			
Elkton sandy loam	1					EkA
Elkton silt loam	1	EmA	EmA	EmA		EmA
Endoaquepts and Sulfaquepts	5			EQB	EQB	
Evesboro loamy sand	4					EvA, EvB, EvC
Evesboro sand	4	EwA, EwB	EwC, EwE		EwA, EwB, EwC	
Evesboro-Galestown complex	4			EzB		
Fallsington loam	2	FgA		FgA	FgA	
Fallsington sandy loam	2	FaA	FaA	FaA	FaA	FaA
Fallsinston-Glassboro complex	2			FhA		
Fort Mott loamy sand	3		FmA, FmB		FmA, FmB	FmA, FmB
Fort Mott, Evesboro, and Downer soils	3		FNE			
Fort Mott-Urban land complex	3				FuA, FuB	
Galestown loamy sand	4	GaA, GaB	GaA, GaB	GaB	GaA, GaB	GaA, GaB, GaC
Galestown and Rosedale soils	4	GAE				
Glassboro loam	2			GlA		
Hambrook loam	3	HcA	HcA, HcB	HcA		
Hambrook sandy loam	3	HbA, HbB, HbC		HbB	HbA, HbB	HbA, HbB
Hambrook-Sassafras complex	3					
Hammonton loamy sand	3			HmA		HmA, HmB
Hammonton sandy loam	3	HnA	HnA	HnA	HnA	
Hammonton-Fallsington-Corsica complex	2	HoB				
Hammonton-Glassboro complex	3			HgB		
Honga peat	5		Ho	Ho	Ho	
Hurlock loamy sand	2			HuA		HuA
Hurlock sandy loam	2	HvA	HvA	HvA	HvA	
Ingleside loamy sand	3	IeA, IeB, IeC			IeA, IeB	
Ingleside sandy loam	3	IgA, IgB, IgC	IgA, IgB	IgA, IgB		
Ingleside-Runclint complex	3			IkC		
Kentuck silt loam	5					KeA
Keyport fine sandy loam	3				KfA, KfB	
Keyport silt loam	3		KpA	KpA		
Klej loamy sand	2					KsA, KsB
Klej-Galloway complex	2	KgB	KgB	KgB	KgB	
Lenni loam	2	LgA			LgA	
Lenni sandy loam	2	LhA			LfA	
Longmarsh and Indiantown soils	5	LO		LO	LO	LO
Manahawkin muck	5	Ma		Ma	Ma	Ma
Manokin silt loam	3			MdA. MdB		
Matapeake fine sandy loam	3					MeA, MeB

Soil Series	SMG	Caroline	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester
Matapeake silt loam	3					MkA, MkB
Mattapex fine sandy loam	3		MpA		MpA	MpA, MpB
Mattapex silt loam	3	MtA, MtB	MtA, MtB		MtA, MtB	MtA, MtB
Miscellaneous water	-	M-W		M-W	M-W	
Mullica-Berryland complex	2			MuA	MuA	MuA
Nanticoke and Mannigton soils	5	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
Nassawango fine sandy loam	3				NnA, NnB	NnA, NnB
Nassawango silt loam	3	NsA, NsB	NsA, NsB		NsA, NsB	NsA, NsB
Othello and Kentuck soils	1		OkA	OKA	OKA	
Othello silt loam	1		OtA	OtA	OtA	OtA
Othello silt loam, loamy substratum	1			OoA		
Othello-Fallsington complex	2			OvA		
Pepperbox-Rockawalkin complex	3				PrA, PrB	
Pone mucky loam	2		PmA			
Pone mucky sandy loam	2		PnA			
Puckum mucky peat	5	Pk	Pk	Pk	Pk	Pk
Purnell peat	5					Pu
Queponco loam	3			QbB		
Queponco silt loam	3			QeA, QeB		
Quindocqua silt loam	1			QuA		
Rockawalkin loamy sand	3	RkA			RkA, RkB	
Rockawalkin-Urban land complex	3				RnA, RnB	
Rosedale loamy sand	4	RoA, RoB			RoA	RoA, RoB
Runclint loamy sand	4				RuA, RuB	RuA, RuB
Runclint sand	4		RsA, RsB	RsB	RsA, RsB	
Runclint-Cedartown complex	4			RwB, RwC	RwA, RwB	
Runclint-Evesboro complex	4			RxB		
Runclint-Urban land complex	4				RzA, RzB	
Sassafras loam	3		SnA			
Sassafras sandy loam	3	SaA, SaB				SaA, SaB, SaC
Sunken mucky silt loam	5		SuA	SuA	SuA	SuA
Tangier mucky peat	5			Ta		
Transquaking and Mispillion soils	5	TP		TP	TP	TP
Udorthents	4	UbB, UfF, UoB	UzB	UbB, UfB, UfF, UgB, UoB, UwB	UbB, UfB, UoB	UzB
Unicorn-Sassafras complex	3					
Urban Land	-	Up			Up	UpB
Urban Land-Acquango complex	-					UcB
Urban Land-Askecksy complex	-					UmA
Urban Land-Brockatonorton complex	-					UnA
Urban Land-Evesboro complex	-				UrB	
Urban Land-Fort Mott complex	-				UsB	
Urban Land-Rockawalkin complex	-				UtB	
Urban Land-Runcline complex	-				UuB	
Urban Land-Udorthents complex	-				UwB	UwB
Water	-	W	W	W	W	W
Woodstown loam	3	WoA, WoB	WoA	WoA		
Woodstown sandy loam	3	WdA, WdB	WdA, WdB	WdA, WdB	WdA	WdA, WdB
Woodstown-Glassboro complex	3			WpA		
Zekiah sandy loam	5	Za	Za			Za
Zekiah silt loam	5				Zk	Zk

CHESAPEAKE FOREST/POCOMOKE STATE FOREST: SOIL MANAGEMENT GROUPS

This is a forest management grouping designed specifically for the Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plans, based on the soil series descriptions contained in the six county surveys.

Management Group 1 – Poorly and very poorly drained medium textured soils with heavy subsoils.

Soils:
- Annemessex-Manokin complex
- Askecksy loamy sand
- Corsica mucky loam
- Corsica mucky loam, Carolina Bay
- Crosiadore silt loam
- Elkton loam
- Elkton mucky silt loam
- Elkton sandy loam
- Elkton silt loam
- Othello and Kentuck soils
- Othello silt loam
- Othello silt loam, loamy substratum
- Quindocqua silt loam

Description: These are poor and very poorly drained, medium textured soils that have a fine-textured subsoil. They are generally found in broad upland flats, depressions, and swales. Slopes are 0 to 2%. Ponding may occur after heavy rains, and high water table may limit access from December through May. These soils may have seasonal limitations for wetness, but the firm subsoils may allow mechanical operations, particularly with low-impact equipment, that allows them to be managed with intensive forestry methods.

Management Group 2 – Poorly and very poorly drained loam and sandy loam soils with sandy and medium textured subsoils.

Soils:
- Berryland mucky loamy sand
- Corsica and Fallsington soils
- Fallsington loam and sandy loam
- Fallsington-Glassboro complex
- Glassboro loam
- Hurlock loamy sand and sandy loam
- Klej loamy sand
- Klej-Galloway complex
- Klej-Hammonton complex
- Lenni loam and sandy loam
- Mullica-Berryland complex
- Othello-Fallsington complex
- Pone mucky loam and mucky sandy loam

Description: Medium and sandy-textured, poorly and very poorly drained soils on upland flats. Small areas in depressions will pond in very wet periods. Many of these soils lack firm subsoils, and when saturated may be very subject to soil rutting by equipment. This leads to shorter-season access, which may limit their use. With appropriate seasonal scheduling, these soils are suited for intensive forest management.

Management Group 3 – Well drained and moderately well drained sandy and loamy soils that formed in sandy materials and have sandy loam to silty or sandy clay subsoils.

Soils:
- Downer loamy sand and sandy loam
- Fort Mott loamy sand
- Hambrook loam and sandy loam
- Hambrook-Sassafras complex
- Hammonton loamy sand and sandy loam
- Hammonton-Glassboro complex
- Ingleside loamy sand and sandy loam
- Ingleside-Runclint complex
- Keyport fine sandy loam and silt loam
- Manokin silt loam
- Matapeake fine sandy loam and silt loam
- Mattapex fine sandy loam and silt loam
- Nassawango fine sandy loam and silt loam
- Pepperbox-Rockawalkin complex
- Queponco loam and silt loam
- Rockawalkin loamy sand
- Sassafras sandy loam
- Woodstown sandy loam
- Woodstown-Glassboro complex

Description: Well drained soils that are generally better-suited to pine than to hardwoods. These may occur on slopes of 0 to 10 percent. On the steeper slopes erosion potential needs to be addressed. Rutting and soil damage by machine operations

are minor problems and most sites will have good access and operability most of the year. These are the best suited soils for intensive forest management.

Management Group 4 – Deep, sandy soils that are well to excessively well drained.

Soils:	Cedartown loamy sand	Rosedale loamy sand
	Evesboro loamy sand and sand	Runclint loamy sand and sand
	Evesboro-Galestown complex	Runclint-Cedartown complex
	Galestown loamy sand	Runclint-Evesboro complex
	Galestown and Rosedale soils	Udorthents

Description: These sandy soils have few operating limitations due to soil wetness, and can provide sites for mechanical activities during wet seasons. Productivity is low, and some sites may be occupied by Virginia or shortleaf pine. Some may occur in a landscape pattern of sand ridges interspersed with low wet soils or Delmarva Bays, and provide an important habitat type, particularly for herpivores and invertebrates. Some may have slopes of up to 10-15%, which may limit management. Udorthents are soils that have been mechanically altered and may occur mainly as borrow pits, landfills, or other re-worked areas. Intensive forest management is probably limited on many of these soils.

Management Group 5 – Low-elevation, poorly and very poorly drained soils that formed in organic materials. They may lie in flood plains, freshwater wetlands, or areas that can be affected by tidal flooding.

Soils:	Chicone mucky silt loam	Nanticoke and Mannington soils
	Honga peat	Nanticoke silt loam
	Johnston loam	Puckum mucky peat
	Kentuck mucky silt loam	Sunken mucky silt loam
	Kentuck silt loam	Tangier mucky peat
	Longmarsh and Indiantown soils	Transquaking and Mispillion soils
	Manahawkin muck	Zekiah sandy loam and silt loam

Description: These poorly drained soils occupy flood plains and both fresh and brackish marshes. Some lie at elevations where flooding by salt water during high tides or storms is a possibility and trees may be affected by salt spray. The sites are marginal in terms of timber or pulpwood productivity, and access is often very restricted. Many of these areas will be riparian forests and other water-related areas that should be managed primarily for water quality and wildlife purposes.

Other types without Management Groups – Other map units that are too small, are comprised of minor soil types, or are not suitable for forest management.

Soils:	Beaches	Urban Land
	Miscellaneous water	Water

APPENDIX B – AUDIT SUMMARY – 2025

The 2025 Certification Audit for the Eastern Region Forests was held and completed in the Spring of 2025. Full reports and summaries of the 2024 and all past Forest Certification Audits are located here: http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/forestcert.aspx

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