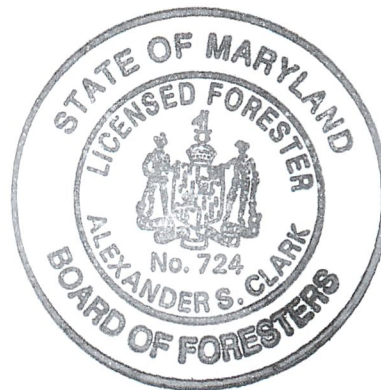


EASTERN REGION  
STATE FOREST LANDS  
ANNUAL WORK PLAN  
FISCAL YEAR 2026



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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 76,952 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	<b>59,446</b>
(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	<b>378</b>
(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	<b>198</b>
(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	<b>12</b>
(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	<b>15,462</b>
(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	<b>10,834</b>
(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	<b>3,860</b>
(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	<b>4,257</b>
(Percent)	4.51%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>11,510</b>	<b>43,566</b>	<b>19,059</b>	<b>12,267</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>94,446</b>
<b>(Percent)</b>	<b>4.85%</b>	<b>3.06%</b>	<b>12.19%</b>	<b>46.13%</b>	<b>20.18%</b>	<b>12.99%</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## 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

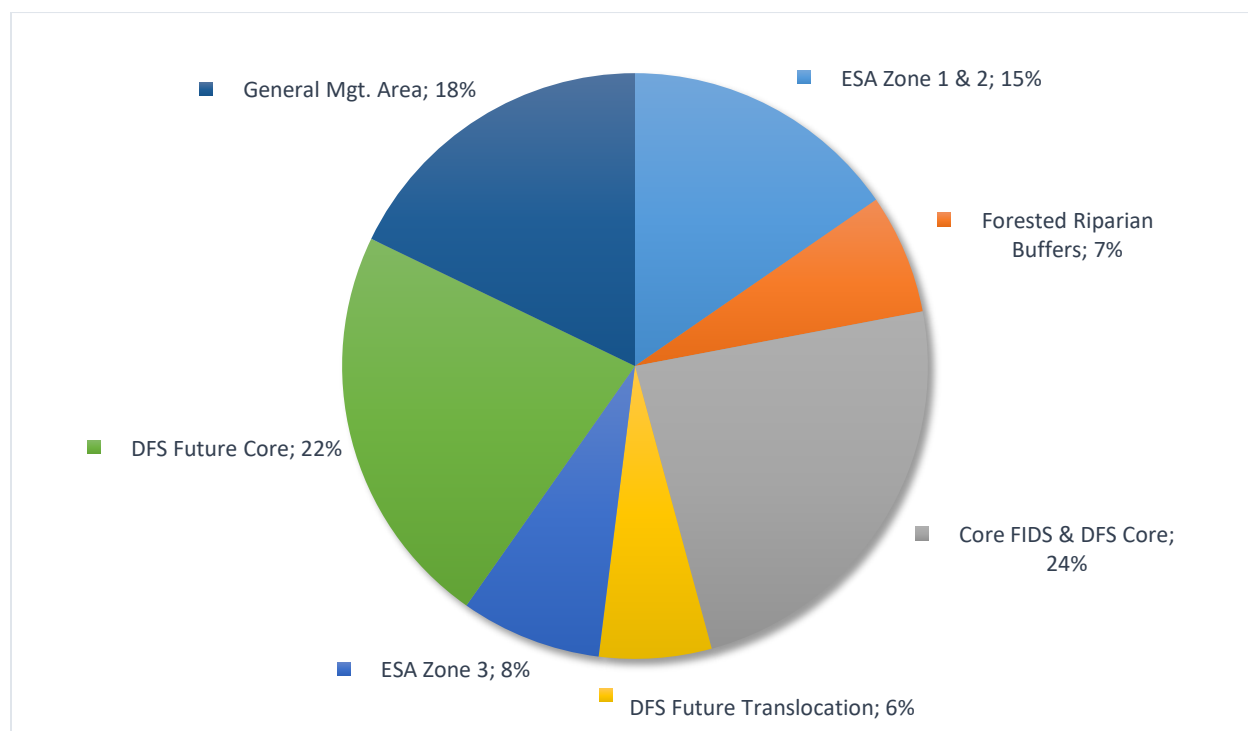
Core management areas at any point in time must retain 50% of the forest in “suitable DFS habitat”, which is defined as stands that are 40 years old. The individual stands designated as suitable DFS habitat will be retained on the landscape for 20 years, setting a requirement for a minimum rotation length 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 panicgrass (*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 (94,145 acres) managed by the Maryland Forest Service within the Eastern Region during the 2026 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 2026 runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. 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.
- Chesapeake & 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.
- Continue work on closing active Recreational Trails Grant
  - Summerfield Trails
- Perform general maintenance on the existing trail system
- Begin 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 begin and 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.

**Delmarva Bay Restoration and Management**  
**Activities on Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forest Lands**

Jason Harrison, State Restoration Ecologist  
MD DNR - Wildlife and Heritage Service, Natural Heritage Program  
PO Box 68, Wye Mills, MD 21679  
410-827-8612 ext. 109

**Project Period:** January 2023 through December 2028

**Project Description:** The purpose of this 5-yr workplan is to outline projected Delmarva Bay restoration and management activities at **Brookview Ponds, Centennial Ponds, Dividing Creek Ponds, and Nassawango Creek Central**. All of these areas are recognized as high priority (Tier 1/2) ecologically significant areas (ESAs) on Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forest lands.

**Background:** Delmarva Bays support a variety of freshwater wetland communities, especially marshes which have exceptionally high biodiversity value. Unfortunately, because of fire exclusion, surface water drainage projects, and excessive removal from the landscape of once dominant oak forests, and other factors, many wetlands and surrounding uplands have an abundance of red maple, sweet gum, and in some cases persimmon. Allelotoxins from red maple and shade from all three trees have converted highly diverse marshes into species depauperate “wet lands”. A previous woody plant management project funded by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Wildlife and Heritage Service (2003 – 2007) resulted in rapid recovery of dominant vegetation in most of over 30 wetlands treated, and expansion of some rare and endangered amphibian populations. In addition, the project relied solely on physical labor and hand-held equipment, resulting in negligible environmental impacts.

**Management Strategy:** The goal of this proposed management is to restore and maintain indigenous freshwater marsh communities in Delmarva Bay wetlands of Brookview Ponds, Centennial Ponds, Dividing Creek Ponds, and Nassawango Creek Central by managing invasive woody plants and non-native herbaceous vegetation using both mechanical and chemical techniques developed during the 2003-2007 management effort. If significant wetland drawdown occurs during the project period, herbicide application to control encroaching woody vegetation (predominately sweet gum, red maple, black gum, loblolly pine, and persimmon) may begin to prevent succession. Woody plant management will be conducted throughout the wetland basins plus 100-200 feet of upland buffer. Additionally, non-native herbaceous vegetation in and around wetlands will be treated with herbicide if mechanical removal is not feasible. Glyphosate (Rodeo), triclopyr (Garlon 3A), and imazapyr (Arsenal) will be applied according to label instructions by foliar spray, hack-and-squirt or injection methods. The application method and herbicide will vary by target species. Treated trees will be left standing for natural decomposition. The largest trees, especially sweet gum, will remain standing for five years or more offering cavity nesting habitat. This multiple year period would also allow for monitoring and retreatment of any resistant plants. All treatments will be supervised by a DNR employee with a Certified Pesticide Applicator License. In addition, a general discharge permit has been issued for this project from MDE (NPDES Permit NO. MDG87 - Registration Number 17PE0018)

Reintroduction of indigenous plants will not be necessary for this project. Whether rare plant species recover will be dependent upon their seed banking strategies. Taxa with short-lived seed banks may have already exhausted their seed reserves, but hopefully will immigrate from nearby extant populations after suitable habitat conditions redevelop.

Where necessary and feasible, prescribed burning will be employed to inhibit re-establishment of pine and other woody plants in the wetlands and enhance recovery of upland oak forest. The frequency of prescribed burning is anticipated to be about once every four years but could vary from 3-7 years. If prescribed fire is determined to be necessary, the Natural Heritage Program staff will coordinate all fire prep work and operations with MFS fire management staff.

## **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

Comments from the Freshwaters Fisheries staff and Natural Heritage Program have been integrated into the silvicultural prescriptions where applicable.



Alexander Clark -DNR- <alexander.clark@maryland.gov>

#### MHT e106 project review – MHT Completed Comments

Maryland Historical Trust <donotreply@maryland.gov>  
Reply-To: Maryland Historical Trust <donotreply@maryland.gov>  
To: alexander.clark@maryland.gov

Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 3:45 PM

Date: August 12, 2024

To: Alexander Clark  
DNR MD Forest Service

Project Name: FY2026 Annual Work Plan Review - Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest  
County: Maryland, Statewide  
Agency: Department of Natural Resources  
Second Agency: -- Not noted --  
MHT Log #: 202403300

**MHT Response:** Thank you for providing the Maryland Historical Trust the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced undertaking using the MHT e106 system. The Maryland Historical Trust has reviewed the submitted project for its effects on historic and archeological resources, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and/or the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985. We offer the following comments and/or concurrence with the agency's findings:

**The undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Additional consultation with our office may be required if there are any significant changes in project scope or location.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. Since the MHT response is now complete, this response will appear in the Completed section of your project dashboard. No hard copy of this response or attachments will be sent. If you have questions, please contact the following MHT project reviewers:

Dixie Henry [dixie.henry@maryland.gov](mailto:dixie.henry@maryland.gov)



Maryland Historical Trust  
Project Review and Compliance  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
[mht.section106@maryland.gov](mailto:mht.section106@maryland.gov)

[MHT.Maryland.gov](http://MHT.Maryland.gov)  
[Planning.Maryland.gov](http://Planning.Maryland.gov)



Alexander Clark -DNR- <alexander.clark@maryland.gov>

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## FY2026 Annual Work Plan Review - CF/PSF

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Russ Hill -DNR- <russ.hill@maryland.gov>

Wed, Oct 2, 2024 at 12:54 PM

To: Alexander Clark -DNR- <alexander.clark@maryland.gov>

Alex,

After reviewing the AWP FY26 I offer the following comments from the Wildlife Service;

1. Retain hardwood species and snags rather than just significant hard mast species to provide food and cover for wildlife.
2. Encourage prescription burning in upland areas of harvested stands which would help to promote regeneration of oaks and fire-tolerant pines and diversity in the understory vegetation.
3. Thinning pine forest stands and favoring valuable hardwood species can play an important part in increasing stand diversity.
4. Thinning in buffer areas should be done in ways to minimize disturbance and to promote species diversity.

Russ



[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Russ Hill  
Wildlife Biologist  
Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife & Heritage Service  
Wellington WMA  
32733 Dublin Road  
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853  
410-651-2065 ext. 203 (office)  
[russ.hill@maryland.gov](mailto:russ.hill@maryland.gov)



# CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

## Chesapeake Forest & Pocomoke State Forest FY2026 Annual Work Plan – Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting date: January 14, 2025 Location: Pocomoke River SP – Shad Landing

Name	
Alexander Clark	MD DNR FS
Anthony Rang	Pixelle
Tom Foster	
DAVID A. NELSON	PIXELLE
Larry Beauchamp	Landowner
Jared Parks	LSLT
Norris Howard	Pocomoke Indian Nation
Buddy Howard	" " "
ARTHUR EGOLF	LOGGER / LANDOWNER
JOE HINSON	MFA
ALEXANDER BRISMAN	MD DNR FS



## Summary of comments made during Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Anthony Rang

- Targeted basal areas of harvest activities (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> thinnings)
- Logistics and scheduling of road maintenance (Mowing and stabilization)
- New bat protections coming in the future, effects on harvest operations

Chief Norris Howard

- Identification of sites of historical significance and that process
- Plans for future replanting (species, sites, other objectives)
- Land use history, and shifts in species composition, age, structure, and management activities
- Intrinsic characteristics of loblolly pine vs. other species

Jared Parks

- Harvest operations slightly less on Pocomoke SF this year compared to previous
- Identifying forest tracts (public hunting vs. leased hunting)

Larry Beauchamp

- Effect of State budget on forest management and hunt club leases
- Loss and tracking of forest due to salt intrusion and rising water table
- Enforcement of pine seed tree law
- Interest in handicap accessible hunting at Bay Club

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

### GENERAL COMMENTS RELEVANT TO ALL STATE FORESTS

Previously, I have submitted comments to DNR re: forest plans, including commenting about the need for more recent science-based continuing education (professional development) standards at DNR. In this most recent forest plan, I am still seeing a distinct lack of up-to-date science findings reflecting knowledge about complex interrelationships among forest species that inform promoting sustainability, soil health, watershed preservation, carbon capture and micro climates. I am providing relevant references below and asking, once again, that continuing education for DNR foresters include non-industry-based training and research, drawing from the most recent science findings, including those about indigenous practices in North America.

References:

20231101\_Restoration and Reciprocity A Professional Development Session with Robin Wall Kimmerer - Video on Demand

[https://vod.video.cornell.edu/media/1\\_eg9x2169](https://vod.video.cornell.edu/media/1_eg9x2169)

What We Owe Our Trees |

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/05/29/what-we-owe-our-trees>

Menominee Forest Keepers - American Forests

<https://www.americanforests.org/article/menominee-forest-keepers/>

Tree Keepers: Where Sustaining the Forest Is a Tribal Tradition - Yale E360

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/menominee-forest-management-logging>

Frontiers | Forest-clearing to create early-successional habitats: Questionable benefits, significant costs

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2022.1073677>

Frontiers | Intact Forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2019.00027>

Fungi stores a third of carbon from fossil fuel emissions and could be essential to reaching net zero, new study reveals

<https://phys.org/news/2023-06-fungi-carbon-fossil-fuel-emissions.html>

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance soil carbon sequestration in the coalfields, northwest China | Scientific Reports

<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep34336>

The biggest problem with our forests? The U.S. Forest Service – Daily Montanan

<https://dailymontanan.com/2023/09/23/the-biggest-problem-with-our-forests-the-u-s-forest-service/>

Should Trees Have Standing? Law, Morality, and the Environment | Environment & Society Portal

<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/should-trees-have-standing-law-morality-and-environment>

Lichen - Old Growth Forest Ecology

<https://oldgrowthforestecology.org/glossary/lichen/>

A stealth effort to bury wood for carbon removal has just raised millions | MIT Technology Review

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/12/15/1065016/a-stealth-effort-to-bury-wood-for-carbon-removal-has-just-raised-millions/>

Wood pellet mills' air pollution violations in South Georgia raise concerns

<https://www.ajc.com/news/business/wood-pellet-mills-air-violations-raise-concerns-over-biomass-industry/6RIAKPKR6NAYDKMZP7SRGK2VYE/>

Forest Defense Is About More Than the Trees. It's About Our Collective Future. | Truthout

<https://truthout.org/articles/forest-defense-is-about-more-than-the-trees-its-about-our-collective-future/>

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My family loves Swallowtail Falls and go there often. On May 16 I was shocked to see the devastation of heavy logging right next to the trail. Some of those trees were easily identified as being over 2-300 years old. It was like coming across dead bodies. We were not prepared for the hundreds and hundreds of dead trees as we walked.

The whole point of hiking in nature is to enjoy nature, not the damage humans leave on it. There's plenty of that around anywhere you look. Please consider the experience of people who seek sanctuary in forests and state parks. If you have to log (and do you, really? 300 year old trees?!), at least keep a barrier of some trees right along the state park trails so we can at least pretend we are walking in a real forest.

Thank you for reading.

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We need more trails throughout the forest for hikers and mountain bikers so they can have safe recreation in nature and not on roads. We also need safe and ample parking access to the trail heads. In my experience at different trail systems throughout the state of Maryland is people like to vacation and travel to places where trails are concentrated. For example in Patapsco State Park there are concentrations of trails. They will also maintain them when they're concentrated and used. They will do so as volunteers and they will bring life to the park. We haul out trash and build safe trails

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#### CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS

Please consider foresting the median strip of route fifty. To keep extra heat buildup from the roadway , and provide travelers with a better experience with less mowing and maintenance. I would be happy to submit landscape plans for a test strip from Eadton to Cambridge using trees from tuckahoe nursery. Please consider.

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#### POCOMOKE STATE FOREST

We the undersigned Maryland residents object to the use of our recreational trails for logging access. Please see additional comments in the attached letter.

June 2025

Stop logging along our recreational trails!

We, the fifteen undersigned residents of Maryland, hereby submit our comments to the 2026 Annual Work Plan for the Chesapeake/ Pocomoke State Forest.

Comments are due June 6, 2025, link to Work Plan: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pages/workplans.aspx>

For many years the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division, has been using our precious woodland recreational trails as logging roads to cut forests along the trails. In the 2025 Annual Work Plan a cut was planned for the 100-year-old forest surrounding the Blue Bike Trail – one of our most beautiful and biodiverse trails. We are still working to stop that cut.

Now, in the 2026 Annual Work Plan, cutting is proposed adjacent to the Algonquin Trail (Red/Orange Trail near Furnace Town) and the Green Trail (near Shad Landing). Again, using hiking trails as an access route for heavy logging trucks and equipment. Our trails should not be used as logging roads!

Cutting along our trails reduces the quality of our recreational experiences. Ecotourism is an important economic driver, and trails through young, recently cut areas, do not provide the same experience for hiking and birdwatching as hiking through older, natural, forests.

The small income gained from cutting along our trails does not justify the damage done to them. Therefore we are requesting that public trails are not used for logging access, and no cutting is done within three hundred feet of the trails. Specifically, in the 2026 Annual Work Plan, we request that the following two silvicultural plans be cancelled: P-26-S-03 (Chandler Tract 21 Stand 4, 35 acres) and P-26-S-03 (Nazareth Church Tract 10 stand 2, 15 acres).

We hereby join together in this request, seeking your assistance in enacting the necessary changes. We eagerly anticipate a favorable response.

Sincerely,

Friends of Maryland Forests

<b>Carly Paratore</b>	Frederick	MD	21701	United States	2025-05-16
<b>Anne Harrison</b>	Newark	MD	21841	United States	2025-05-16
<b>Jim O'Hara</b>	Columbia	MD	21044	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Andrew E Blizzard</b>	Baltimore	MD	21229	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Brandy Toomey</b>	Berlin	MD	21811	United States	2025-05-17
<b>William Hastings</b>	East New Market	MD	21631	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Anika Halota</b>	Rockville	MD	20850	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Tracy Causey-Jeffery</b>	Salisbury	MD	21804	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Linda Keplinger</b>	Hebron	MD	21830	United States	2025-05-17
<b>Kevin Bond</b>	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	United States	2025-05-18
<b>Michelle Michlewicz</b>	Olney	MD	20832	United States	2025-05-18
<b>Cary Smith</b>	Frederick	MD	21701	United States	2025-05-18
<b>Russell Blizzard</b>	Berlin	MD	21811	United States	2025-05-18
<b>Joe Metzger</b>	Mount Savage	MD	21545	United States	2025-05-20
<b>Holiday Johnson</b>	Berlin	MD	94941	United States	2025-05-27

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My attached comments relate primarily to the Pocomoke and Chesapeake State Forests. In my letter I object to using our precious recreational trails as logging roads. I also point out the lack of scientific evidence for some of the claims made. Finally, I question the financial losses to the state as a result of proposed silvicultural operations.

Maryland Forest Service  
Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

June 2, 2025

Thank you for sharing the 2026 Annual Work Plan for the Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests. After careful review, I am disappointed that once again you are using our precious recreational trails as logging roads. This year you have cuts planned along both the **Algonquin Trail** (near Furnace Town) and the **Green Trail** (near Pocomoke River State Park, Shad Landing). These are cuts P-26-S-02 (PO2 Nazareth Church Tract

10 Stand 2, 15 acres) and P-26-S-03 (PO2 Chandler Tract 21 Stand 4, 35 acres), respectively.

I am hereby requesting that DNR lead a site visit to these two tracts or remove them from the cutting plan. You describe the forest along the Green Trail as an “overstocked loblolly pine plantation” but upon personal inspection I disagree with this description. An escorted site visit might clear up any confusion.

Although the Forest Stewardship Council does not have any regulations against cutting along recreational trails, we think it is a practice used too often on the Lower Eastern Shore, and it degrades the experience of recreational visitors. Ecotourism is an important economic driver on the Eastern Shore, but it gets completely ignored in your silviculture plans.

In the 2025 Annual Work Plan, last year’s plan, the beautiful ancient forest around the **Blue Bike Trail** was planned for cutting, using the trail as a logging road. Dozens of citizens sent in comments protesting this, yet the cut is still planned. For the past fifteen years cutting has been happening along our trails despite repeated objections in the comments. I understand that this is a “multi-use” forest, but please honor the recreational component by keeping the cutting away from the recreational trails.

### **General comments on the work plan**

Ecologically, we have learned a great deal in the twenty-five years since Maryland acquired the Chesapeake Forest Land, yet the references in the plan have not kept up – all your references are twenty-five years old, or more. Your comments about Native American burning are especially outdated. Forest ecologists today disagree with your conclusion that oak forests are an indicator of frequent fires. Please do more research on this topic. You may want to begin by watching this presentation by fire scientist Chad Hanson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52DLLYo8hdM>. In your research you may learn that changing climate patterns have resulted in a slow shift of tree species. Furthermore, the overpopulation of deer has caused a decline in oak regeneration, your plan does not address this. Not all openings in the forest need to be created by cutting and burning, sunlight reaching the forest floor is also a result of gaps found in older forests when large old trees naturally fall. Please do more research on the gap phenomena.

In numerous places in the plan it is mentioned that cutting or thinning of pines will be done in the riparian buffers to encourage hardwood growth. While this is a commendable goal, cutting of pines does not result in more hardwood trees – it results in younger pines. The best way to encourage hardwoods is to keep heavy equipment out of the riparian buffers. For instance, on tract C-26-S-22 no cutting should be done in the expanded riparian buffer.

In this plan a number of previously herbicided and prescribed burn forests are being harvested. Were the burns supposed to be done in the name of restoration? If so, then why are they being cut?

Finally, if oak trees are so important on state lands than why are the other state forests planning to cut hundred year old oaks?

### **Comments on the financial aspects of the work plan**

According to this work plan timber sales bring in \$577 thousand dollars, but we pay \$834 thousand for “land management” (contract management services and payments to loggers for harvesting and delivering forest products to processing mills).

I understand the intention to keep the timber industry alive in Maryland, but I am also clear-eyed in recognizing that the state is losing money on the cutting of our Chesapeake/Pocomoke State Forests. From the general budget, the state gives \$439 thousand each year to this forestry project, gets \$577 thousand from the cut timber, and then pays \$834 thousand to private companies for “land management.” The result is a loss. Our state forests are a wonderful thing, but our management of them should be reconsidered.

Ninety-two percent of land in Maryland is privately owned. (Considering only “productive” land, 88% is privately owned and 12% is state owned.) The timber industry should focus on this land for harvesting, and our public lands should be more for recreation (such as hunting, hiking, and bird watching), biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

In closing, thank you for including the recreational trails on your silvicultural maps – a first! And thank you for the email about the comment period. Another first!

Dr. Joan Maloof  
Professor Emeritus, Salisbury University  
Founder, Old-Growth Forest Network  
Author, *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*  
[Joan@oldgrowthforest.net](mailto:Joan@oldgrowthforest.net)  
Worcester County, Maryland

## K. SILVICULTURAL PROJECTS

### SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Tables 2 and 3 summarize the proposed silvicultural activities for the 2026 annual work plan on approximately 1,868.1 acres (2.4%) of the Chesapeake Forest and 74.8 acres (0.4%) of Pocomoke State Forest, for a total of 1,942.9 acres (2.0%) 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. 2026 Chesapeake Forest Silvicultural Activity Overview. (CF-26-S-01 – CF-26-S-25)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Acres</b>
First Thinning	321.2
Second Thinning	1406.7
Seed Tree Harvest	85.0
Regeneration Harvest	55.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1868.1</b>

**Table 3. 2026 Pocomoke State Forest Silvicultural Activity Overview. (P-26-S-01 – P-26-S-03)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Acres</b>
First Thinning	39.4
Second Thinning	35.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.8</b>

### 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 to 10 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 (i.e. riparian buffers, ESA, DFS & 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 (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-26-S-01]

**Proposal Name:** D08 – Nicholls – Stand 1

**Harvest Area:** 63.0 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1991 and first thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Core

**Water Resources:** Marshyhope creek watershed

**Soil Resources:** EwC, GaA, GaB, HvA, KgB, and RsB

**Historic Conditions:** none identified

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species

#### [CF-26-S-02]

**Proposal Name:** D12 – Marshyhope – Stand 39

**Harvest Area:** 21.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 39 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1974, first thinned in 1995, second thinned in 2003, and burned in 2019.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1, ESA Zone 1 Sand Ridge, ESA Zone 3 Sawtimber, and DFS Core. This stand is located approximately 1200 feet from a Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) buffer.

**Water Resources:** Marshyhope Creek watershed

**Soil Resources:** GaA, Pk, RsA, and RsB

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Seed tree harvest, retain significant hardwood species and snags where possible. Time of year restrictions for harvesting will be determined by Heritage due to the acoustic detection of tricolored bats.

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[CF-26-S-03]

**Proposal Name:** D13 – Rhodesdale – Stands 5, 13, 19, and 22

**Harvest Area:** 69.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 5 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1998 and pre-commercially thinned in 2009. Stand 13 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after chop and burn site preparation in 1998. Stand 19 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1998. Stand 22 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after chop and burn site preparation in 1998 and pre-commercially thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1, DFS Core, and Stream Buffer

**Water Resources:** Marshyhope Creek watershed; unnamed tributaries of Mill Creek and Brohorn Creek

**Soil Resources:** EwC, EwE, FmA, FmB, HnA, HvA, KgB, Pk, PmA, RsA, RsB, 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.

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[CF-26-S-04]

**Proposal Name:** D13 – Rhodesdale – Stands 6 and 21

**Harvest Area:** 97.8 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1988 and first thinned in 2009. Stand 21 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1989, sprayed for grass control, and first thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1, DFS Core, and Stream Buffer

**Water Resources:** Marshyhope Creek watershed; unnamed tributaries of Mill Creek and Brohorn Creek

**Soil Resources:** EwC, EwE, FmA, HnA, HvA, KgB, Pk, PnA, RsB, and Za

**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.

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SOMERSET COUNTY

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[CF-26-S-05]

**Proposal Name:** S03 – White Pusey – Stand 4

**Harvest Area:** 44.3 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2001.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Core FIDS and General Management

**Water Resources:** Wicomico Creek and Monie Bay watersheds

**Soil Resources:** OKA, OoA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[CF-26-S-06]

**Proposal Name:** S11 – Peters McAllen – Stands 8 and 18

**Harvest Area:** 48.3 acres total

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 8 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1982, grass controlled in 1987, first thinned in 2000, sprayed in 2001, and second thinned in 2006. Stand 7 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1988. Stand 8 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1990.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General Management

**Water Resources:** Manokin River watershed; Loretta Branch (tax ditch)

**Soil Resources:** OKA, OtA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Final harvest in the parts of stands 8 (2.9 acres) and 18 (47.4 acres) outside of the expanded riparian buffer.

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[CF-26-S-07]

**Proposal Name:** S40 – Haislip Barnes – Stand 1

**Harvest Area:** 53.8 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile site preparation in 1983.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Core

**Water Resources:** Pocomoke Sound watershed

**Soil Resources:** AoB, FgA, MdA, OtA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[CF-26-S-08]

**Proposal Name:** S41 – Banks – Stands 3, 4, and 5

**Harvest Area:** 40.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 3 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1979 and first thinned in 1998, sprayed in 1999, and fertilized in 2000. Stand 4 is mature loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1945, first thinned in 1998, and sprayed in 1999. Stand 5 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established in 1971, first thinned in 1998, sprayed in 1999, and fertilized in 2000.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General management

**Water Resources:** Big Annemessex River watershed

**Soil Resources:** FgA, FhA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Seed tree harvest

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[CF-26-S-09]

**Proposal Name:** S41 – Banks – Stand 1

**Harvest Area:** 21.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1977 and first thinned in 2001.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General management

**Water Resources:** Pocomoke Sound watershed

**Soil Resources:** QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning

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[CF-26-S-10]

**Proposal Name:** S47 – Haislip Savannah – Stand 6

**Harvest Area:** 32.0 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2000 and sprayed for grass in 2000.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General Management

**Water Resources:** Big Annemessex River watershed

**Soil Resources:** FgA, OKA, OtA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning

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[CF-26-S-11]

**Proposal Name:** S47 – Haislip Savannah – Stand 1

**Harvest Area:** 28.6 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is a mature loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1981, sprayed in 1981, first thinned in 1995, and second thinned in 2006.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 3 Pulpwood, and General Management

**Water Resources:** Big Annemessex River watershed

**Soil Resources:** CRA, FhA, MuA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** Homesite as shown on map

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Seed tree harvest in the general management area. Final harvest in the ESA Zone 3 pulpwood area, retain significant hardwood species.

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[CF-26-S-12]

**Proposal Name:** S47 – Haislip Savannah – Stand 4

**Harvest Area:** 41.8 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is overstocked loblolly pine established in 2001 and pre-commercially thinned in 2006.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General Management

**Water Resources:** Big Annemessex River watershed

**Soil Resources:** FgA, FhA, MuA, and QuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning

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## WICOMICO COUNTY

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[CF-26-S-13]

**Proposal Name:** W10 – Athol – Stands 16 and 21

**Harvest Area:** 28.4 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 16 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1999 and sprayed in 2001. Stand 21 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1995.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Core FIDS and General Management

**Water Resources:** Nanticoke River watershed

**Soil Resources:** CoA, FgA, HvA, MuA, RWA, and WdA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[CF-26-S-14]

**Proposal Name:** W10 – Athol – Stands 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, and 17

**Harvest Area:** 345.3 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 3 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1987, sprayed in 1989, and first thinned in 2004. Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1986, sprayed in 1989, and first thinned in 2004 and/or 2007. Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1986, sprayed in 1989, and first thinned in 2007. Stand 7 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1987, sprayed in 1989, and first thinned in 2007. Stand 14 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1999, sprayed in 2001, and first thinned in 2007. Stand 17 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1989 and first thinned in 2005.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Core FIDS, Stream Buffer, and General Management

**Water Resources:** Nanticoke River watershed

**Soil Resources:** BhA, CoA, FaA, FgA, HnA, HvA, MuA, and WdA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Areas within 0-50' of streams or waterways will be excluded from harvesting. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

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[CF-26-S-15]

**Proposal Name:** W22 – Greenhill – Stand 10

**Harvest Area:** 2.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 10 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1986 and sprayed in 1990.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Future Core

**Water Resources:** Nanticoke River watershed

**Soil Resources:** OtA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[CF-26-S-16]

**Proposal Name:** W22 – Greenhill – Stands 1, 3, 6, 10, and 14

**Harvest Area:** 293.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1988, sprayed in 1990, and first thinned in 2009. Stand 3 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1988, sprayed in 1990, and first thinned in 2009. Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1982 and first thinned in 2008. Stand 10 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1986, sprayed in 1990, and first thinned in 2009. Stand 14 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1988, sprayed in 1990, and first thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Future Core

**Water Resources:** Nanticoke River watershed

**Soil Resources:** OKA and OtA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species. Equipment should not disturb the banks or the vegetation on the banks of the seasonally active historic ditches to prevent sediment transport offsite.

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[CF-26-S-17]

**Proposal Name:** W39 – Dr. Dick – Stands 8 and 9

**Harvest Area:** 40.4 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 8 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1972 and first thinned in 2008. Stand 9 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile site preparation in 1988 and first thinned in 2007.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Stream Buffer and General Management

**Water Resources:** Wicomico River Head watershed; South Prong Leonard Pond Run

**Soil Resources:** CoA, KgB, LgA, and PrA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning. Equipment should not disturb the banks or the vegetation on the banks of the seasonally active historic ditches to prevent sediment transport offsite.

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[CF-26-S-18]

**Proposal Name:** W58 – Laws – Stand 1

**Harvest Area:** 30.0 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 1 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1988, sprayed in 1991, and first thinned in 2007.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** General Management

**Water Resources:** Wicomico Creek watershed

**Soil Resources:** LfA, PrA, and RkA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning. Equipment should not disturb the banks, vegetation on the banks, or the ditch which is located on the northern side of the stand to prevent sediment transport off site.

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## WORCESTER COUNTY

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[CF-26-S-19]

**Proposal Name:** WR02 – Littleton Fooks – Stands 4 and 9

**Harvest Area:** 71.8 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1989 and first thinned in 2009. Stand 9 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1992 and first thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Stream Buffer and General Management

**Water Resources:** Isle of Wight Bay and Upper Pocomoke River watersheds; Double Bridge Branch and Longridge Branch

**Soil Resources:** BhA, KeA, and MuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning

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[CF-26-S-20]

**Proposal Name:** WR08 – Godfrey – Stands 3 and 5

**Harvest Area:** 21.6 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 3 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 2004, sprayed in 2005, and pre-commercially thinned in 2011. Stand 5 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 1999.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Stream Buffer and General Management

**Water Resources:** Upper Pocomoke River watershed; Colbourne Branch

**Soil Resources:** BhA, CeA, HmA, HuA, KsA, MuA, RoA, RuB, and Za

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning. Areas within 0-50' of streams or waterways and/or within the active flood plain will be excluded from harvesting. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

---

[CF-26-S-21]

**Proposal Name:** WR08 – Godfrey – Stand 4

**Harvest Area:** 25.0 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1991, sprayed for grass control in 1992, first thinned in 2009, and sprayed in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** Stream Buffer and General Management

**Water Resources:** Upper Pocomoke River watershed; Colbourne Branch

**Soil Resources:** BhA, HmA, HuA, KsA, MuA, and WdA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning. Areas within the active flood plain will be excluded from harvesting. Areas thinned within the 50'-300' buffer should minimize ground disturbance and soil transport offsite.

---

[CF-26-S-22]

**Proposal Name:** WR18 – Buck Harbor – Stands 4, 6, and 13

**Harvest Area:** 75.5 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established and sprayed in 2000. Stand 6 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1987. Stand 13 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2004.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1, Core FIDS, and General Management

**Water Resources:** Dividing Creek watershed

**Soil Resources:** AsA, BhA, EvB, KsB, MuA, and RuA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, apply dune management practices, retain significant pitch, pond, and shortleaf pines (if present) and significant hard mast species.

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[CF-26-S-23]

**Proposal Name:** WR18 – Buck Harbor – Stands 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12

**Harvest Area:** 311.2 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 3 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1983, sprayed in 1987, and first thinned in 2000. Stand 5 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1988 and first thinned in 2009. Stand 13 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2004. Stand 7 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile site preparation in 1984, sprayed in 1987, first thinned in 2001, and prescribe burned in 2014. Stand 8 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated and sprayed in 1988, pre-commercially thinned in 1994, and first thinned in 2009. Stand 11 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established after shear-pile-bed site preparation in 1983, sprayed in 1987, and first thinned in 2009. Stand 12 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1990 and first thinned in 2009.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1, ESA Zone 1 Sand Ridge, Stream Buffer, Core FIDS, and General Management

**Water Resources:** Dividing Creek watershed; unnamed tributary of Dividing Creek

**Soil Resources:** AsA, BhA, EvB, EvD, HmB, KeA, KsA, KsB, MuA, RuA, and RuB

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features

**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, apply dune management practices, retain significant pitch, pond, and shortleaf pines (if present) and significant hard mast species.

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[CF-26-S-24]

**Proposal Name:** WR34 – Selby – Stand 11

**Harvest Area:** 6.1 acres

**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 11 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2000 and sprayed in 2001.

**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Core



**Water Resources:** Chincoteague Bay watershed  
**Soil Resources:** AsA, EvB, and FaA  
**Historic Conditions:** MHT Grids C508\_R264 and C508\_R265  
**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[CF-26-S-25]

**Proposal Name:** WR34 – Selby – Stand 5  
**Harvest Area:** 53.7 acres  
**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 5 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1985 and first thinned in 2007.  
**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Core  
**Water Resources:** Chincoteague Bay watershed  
**Soil Resources:** AsA, EvB, FaA, HmB, MuA, and RoB  
**Historic Conditions:** MHT Grid C508\_R265  
**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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## POCOMOKE STATE FOREST

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[P-26-S-01]

**Proposal Name:** P02 – Nazareth Church – Tract 5, Stand 9  
**Harvest Area:** 25.8 acres  
**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 9 is overstocked loblolly pine naturally regenerated in 2001 and pre-commercially thinned in 2011.  
**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Future Core  
**Water Resources:** Dividing Creek watershed  
**Soil Resources:** AsA, CeA, CeB, HmA, HuA, KsA, KsB, MuA, and RuB  
**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features  
**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain significant hard mast species

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[P-26-S-02]

**Proposal Name:** P02 – Nazareth Church – Tract 10, Stand 2  
**Harvest Area:** 15.9 acres  
**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 2 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 2003.  
**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** ESA Zone 1 and DFS Future Core. This stand is located within a Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) buffer.  
**Water Resources:** Dividing Creek watershed  
**Soil Resources:** AsA, EvB, EvD, KsA, and RuA  
**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features  
**Silvicultural Prescription:** First thinning, retain hardwood species and snags where possible, remove loblolly from the dune area. Avoid timber harvest activities from April 1 to September 30. This harvest is adjacent to the Algonquin Cross County and Orange Furnace Loop trails.

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[P-26-S-03]

**Proposal Name:** P07 – Chandler – Tract 21, Stand 4  
**Harvest Area:** 35.4 acres  
**Forest Community Types and Development:** Stand 4 is an overstocked loblolly pine plantation established in 1975, sprayed in 1978, and first thinned in 2006.



**Habitats and Species of Management Concern:** DFS Future Core

**Water Resources:** Lower Pocomoke River watershed

**Soil Resources:** CeB, GaA, GaC, HuA, KsA, KsB, and WdA

**Historic Conditions:** No known historic features


**Silvicultural Prescription:** Second thinning, retain significant hard mast species. This harvest is adjacent to the Chandler tract Green trail.

## SILVICULTURAL SITE MAPS



**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**

 Second Thinning

**CF Management**

 DFS Core

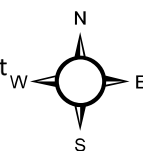
**C-26-S-01**

Scale: 1" = 660'

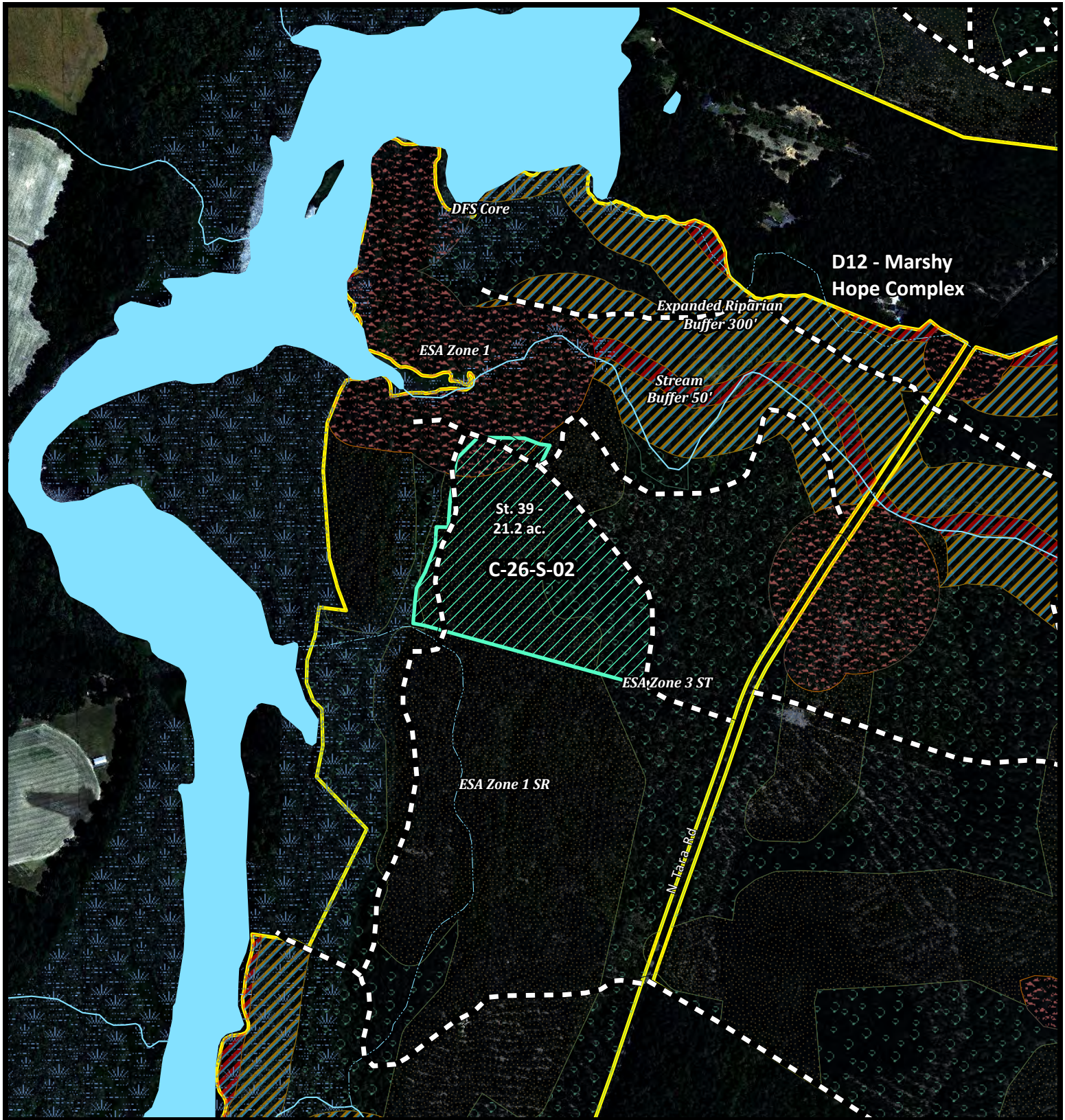
Date: 07/2025



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







### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

Seed Tree Harvest

#### CF Management

DFS Core

ESA Zone 1

ESA Zone 1 SR

ESA Zone 3 ST

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

**C-26-S-02**

Scale: 1" = 660'

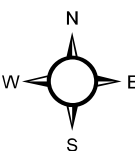
Date: 07/2025

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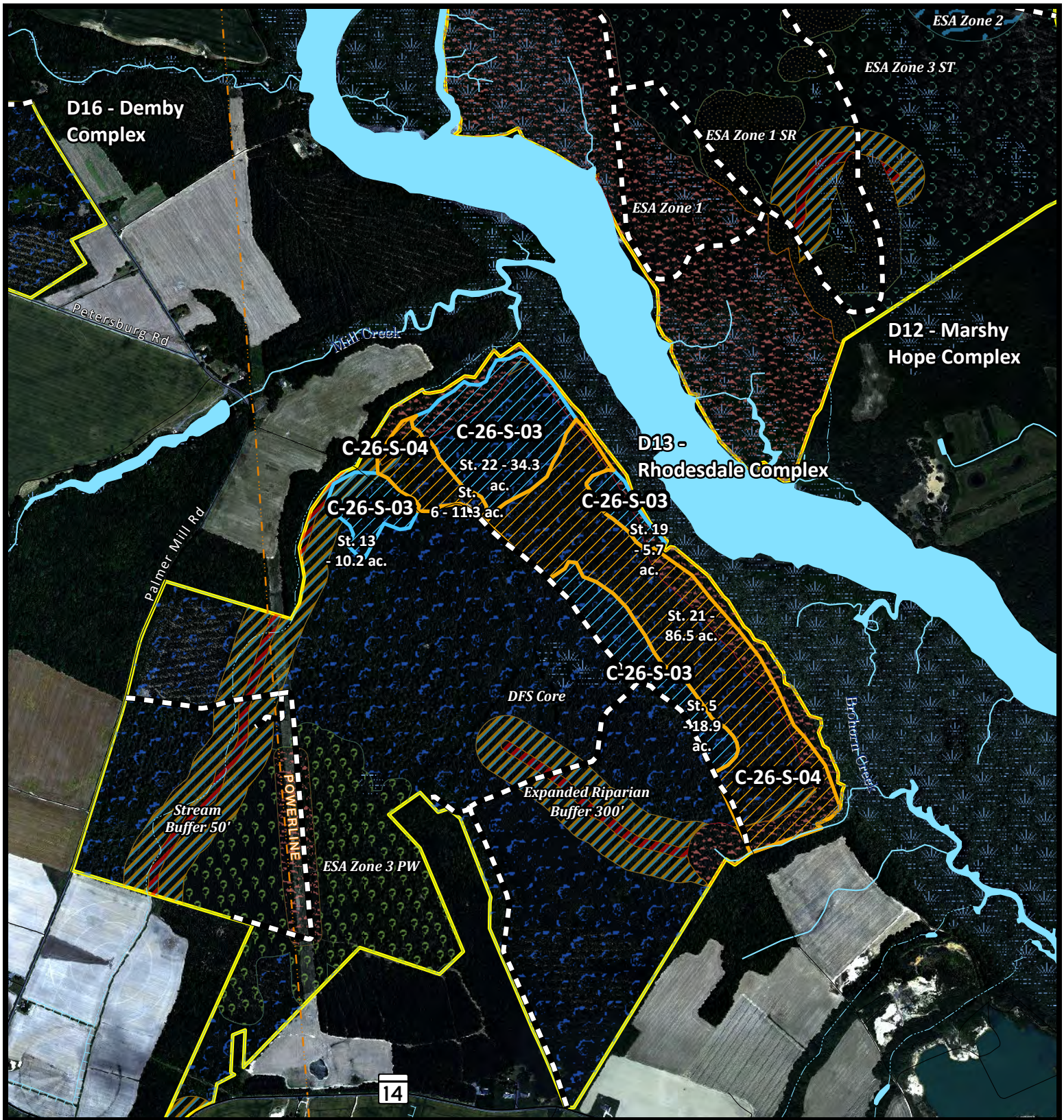
Feet

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

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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

#### CF Management

- DFS Core
- ESA Zone 1
- ESA Zone 1 SR
- ESA Zone 2
- ESA Zone 3 PW
- ESA Zone 3 ST
- Stream Buffer (50')

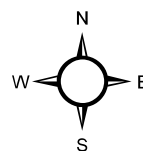
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

### C-26-S-03

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



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







### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

#### CF Management

- DFS Core
- ESA Zone 1
- ESA Zone 3 PW
- ESA Zone 3 ST



ESA Zone 1 SR



Stream Buffer (50')



Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

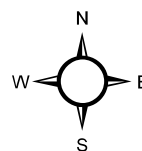
### C-26-S-04

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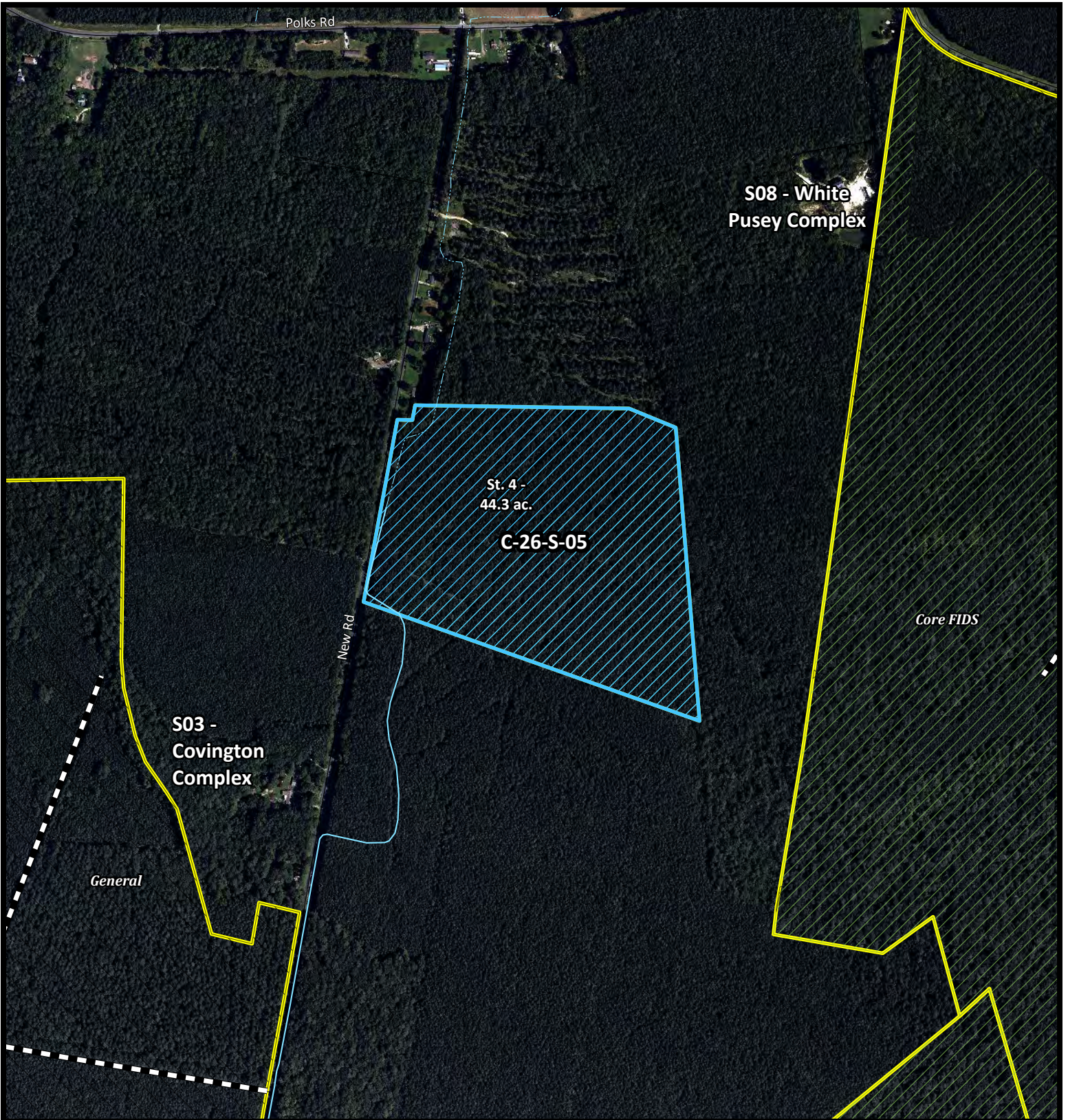
Date: 07/2025



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







**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**    **CF Management**    General

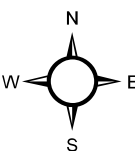
First Thinning    Core FIDS

**C-26-S-05**

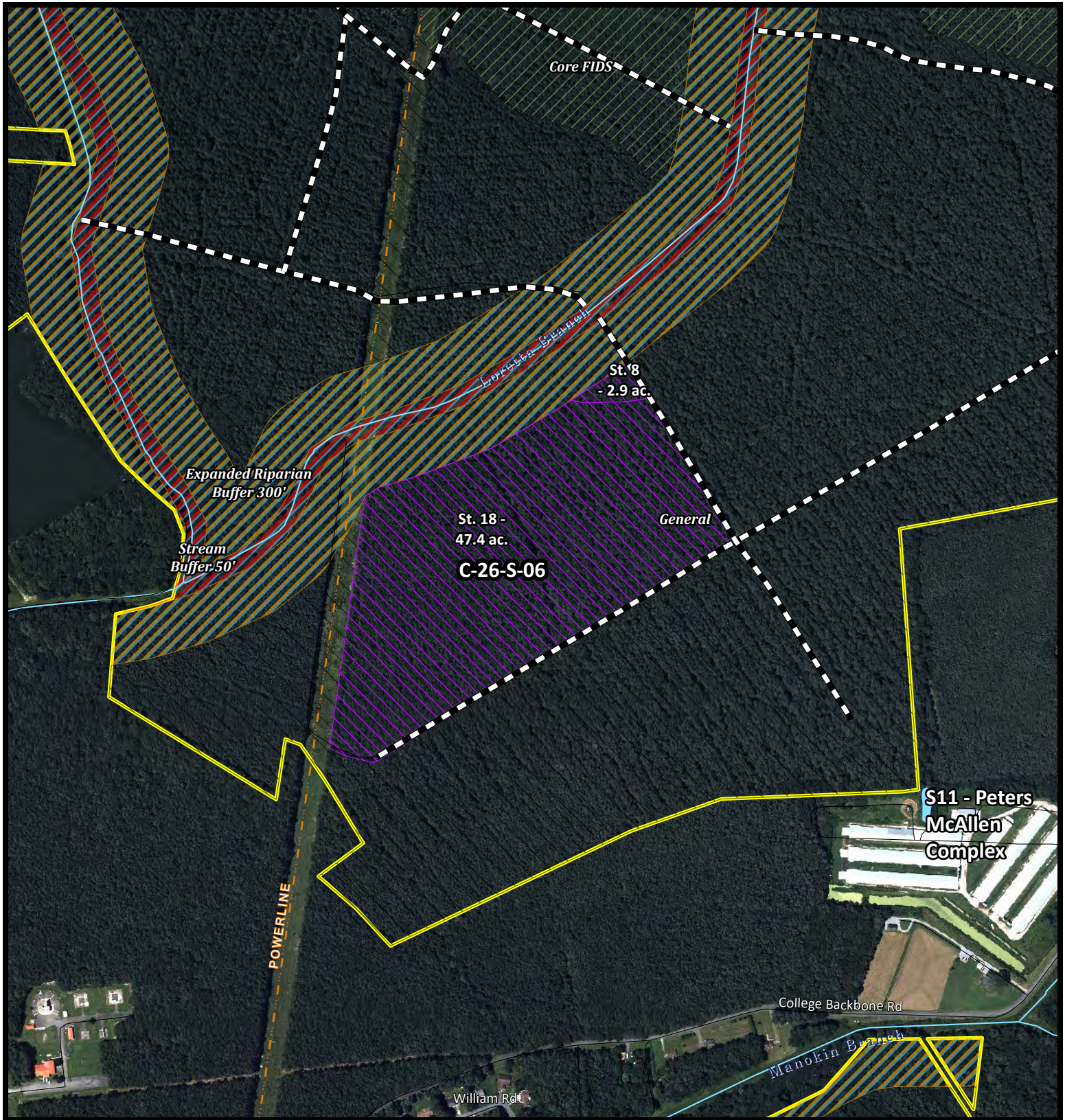
Scale: 1" = 660'  
Date: 07/2025



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







### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

Regeneration Harvest

#### CF Management

Core FIDS

General

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

**C-26-S-06**

Scale: 1" = 660'

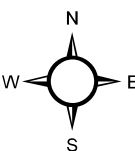
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320

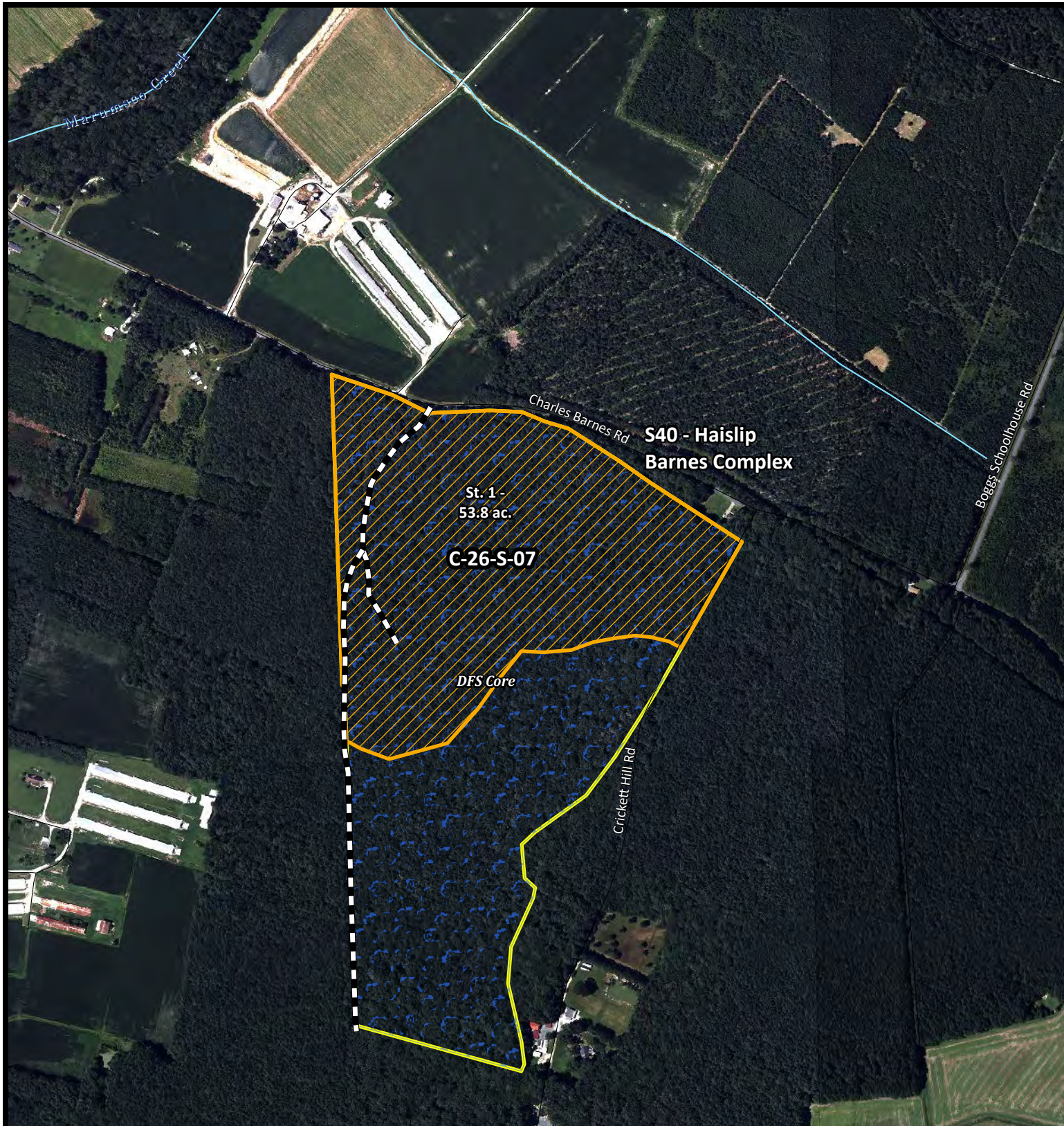
Feet

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

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# Legend

## CF AWP Activity

 Second Thinning

## CF Management

 DFS Core

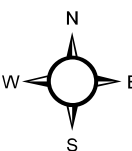
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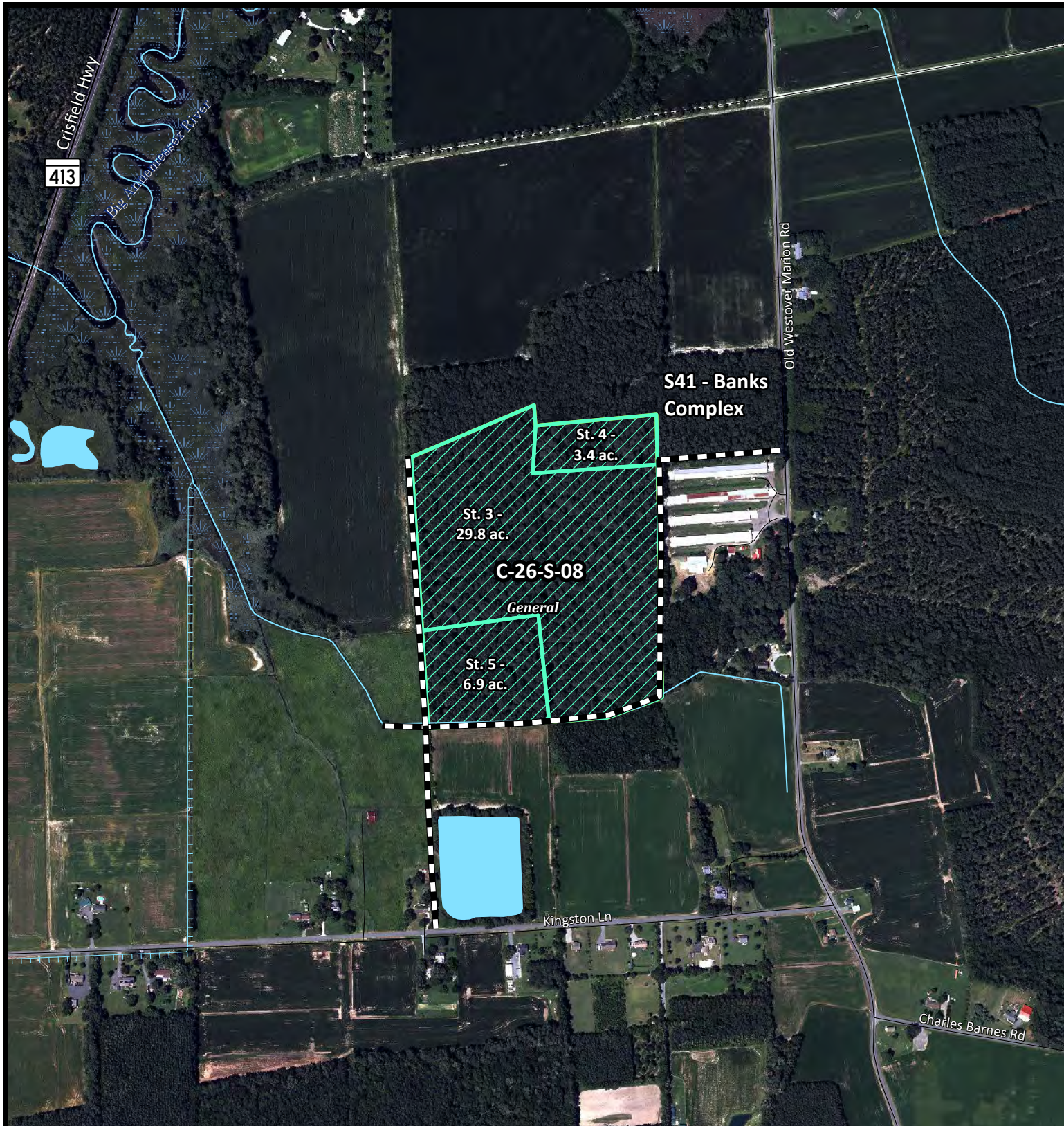
Date: 07/2025



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This map is not a boundary survey







# Legend

## CF AWP Activity

Seed Tree Harvest

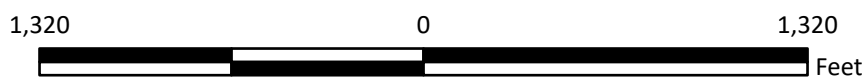
## CF Management

General

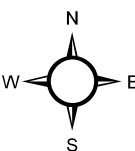
**C-26-S-08**

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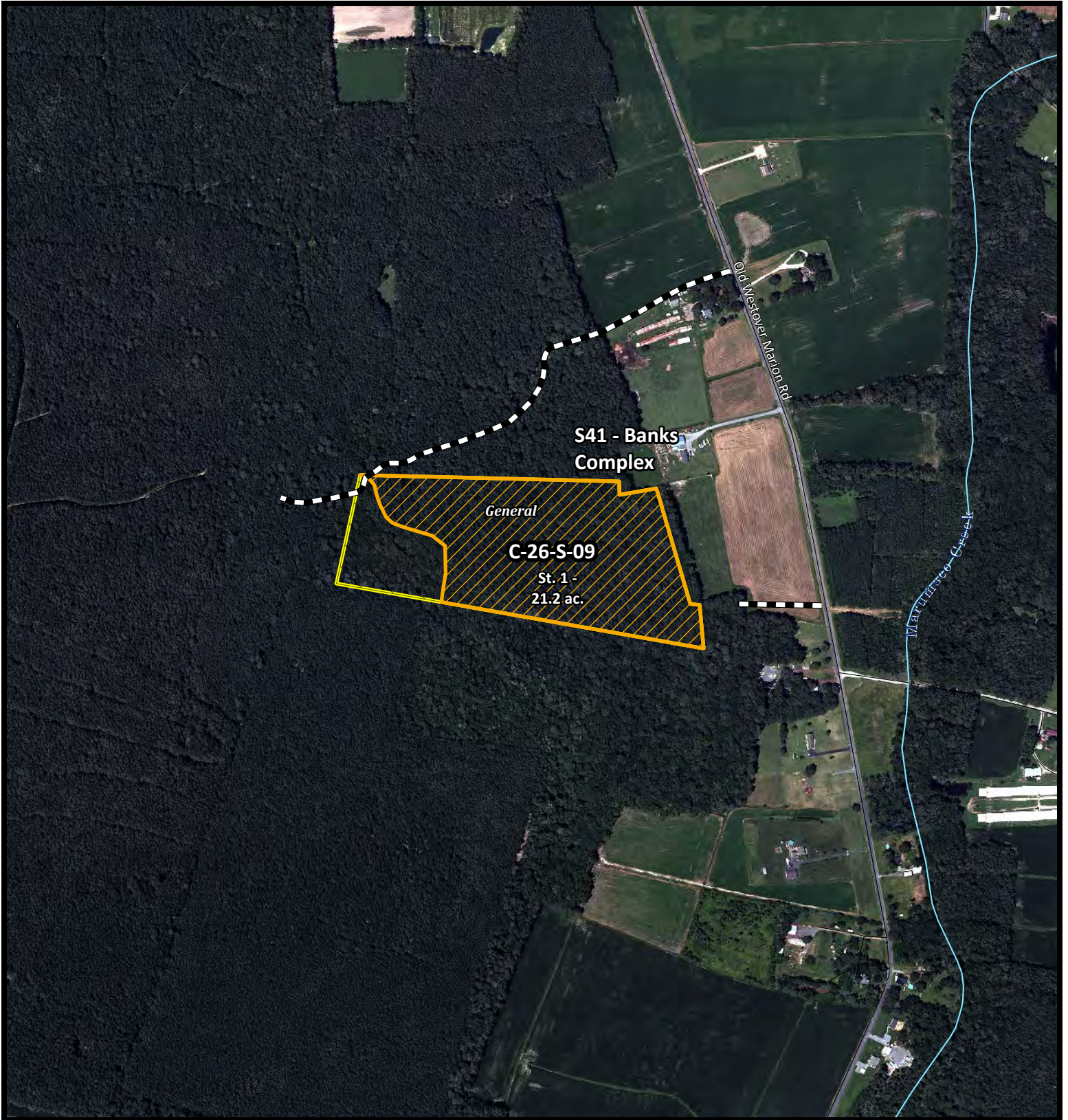
Date: 07/2025



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This map is not a boundary survey








**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**

 Second Thinning

**CF Management**

 General

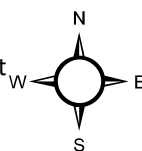
**C-26-S-09**

Scale: 1" = 660'

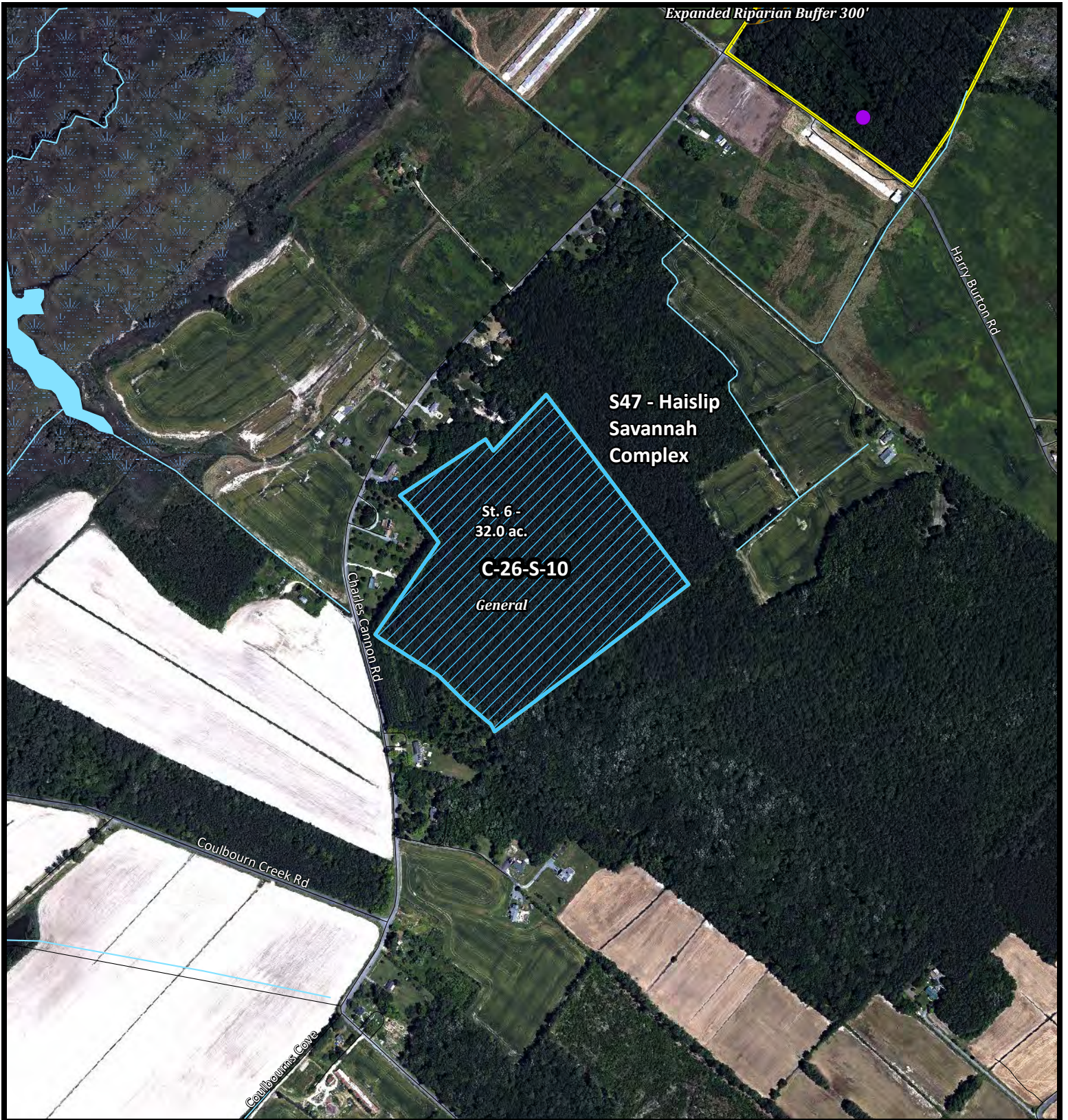
Date: 07/2025



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**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**

First Thinning

**CF Management**

General

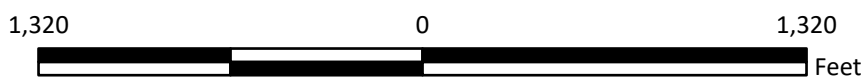
Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Home Site

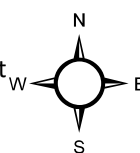
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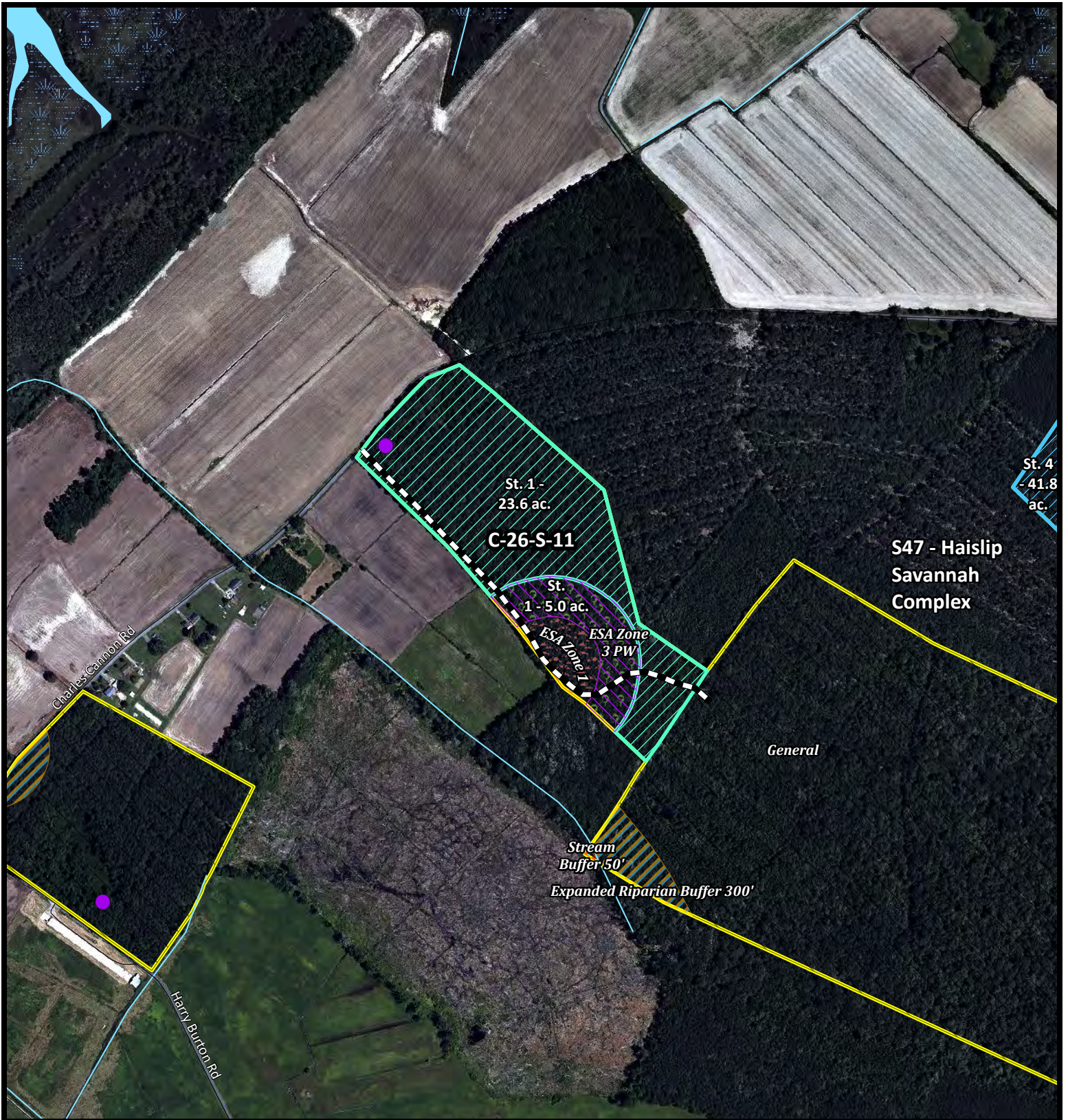
Date: 07/2025



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### Legend


#### CF AWP Activity

-  First Thinning
-  Seed Tree Harvest
-  Regeneration Harvest

#### CF Management

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

 General

 Home Site

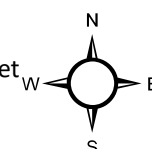
**C-26-S-11**

Scale: 1" = 660'

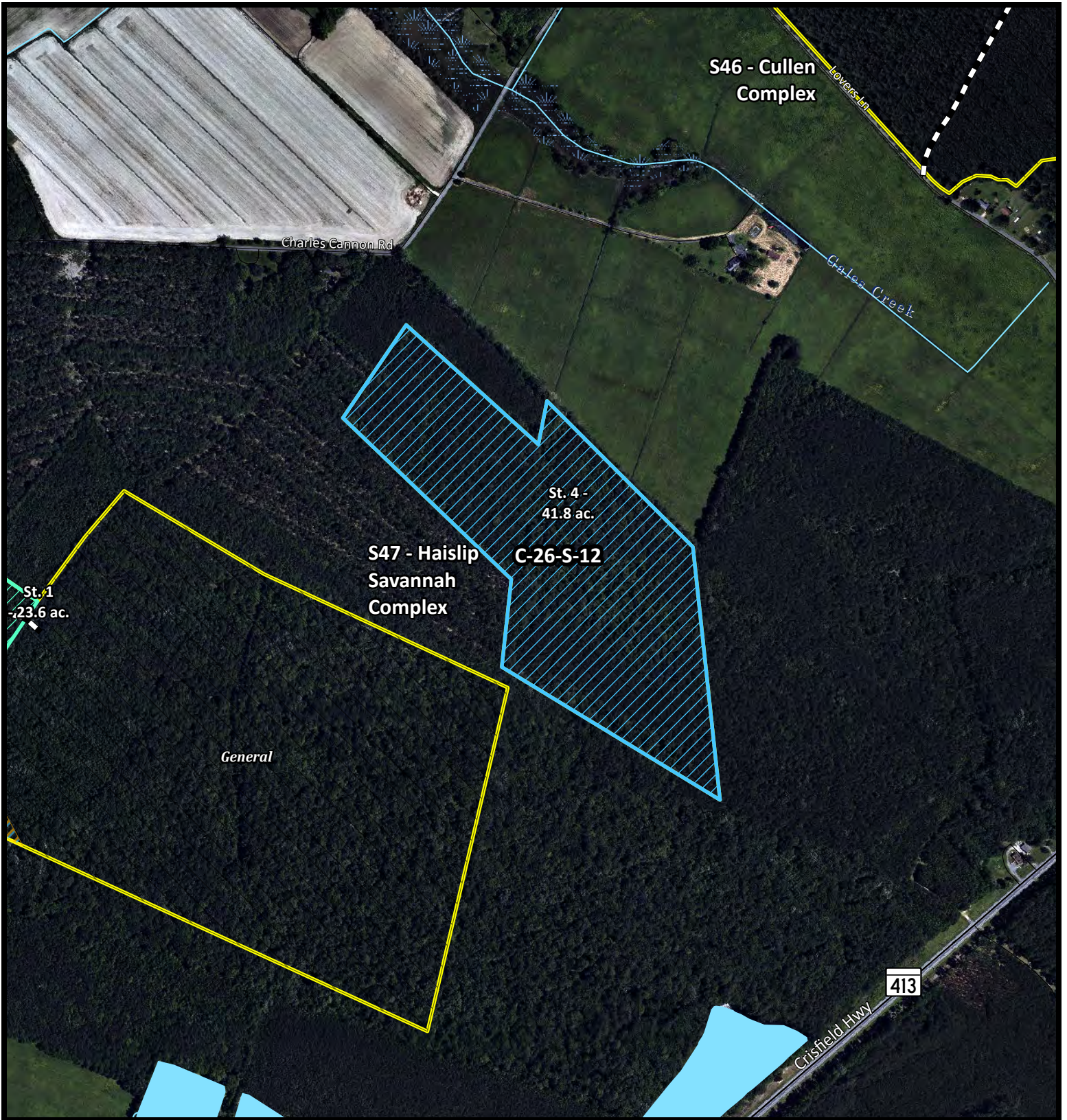
Date: 07/2025



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**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**

First Thinning

Seed Tree Harvest

**CF Management**

General

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

Home Site

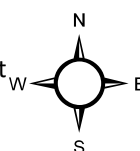
**C-26-S-12**

Scale: 1" = 660'

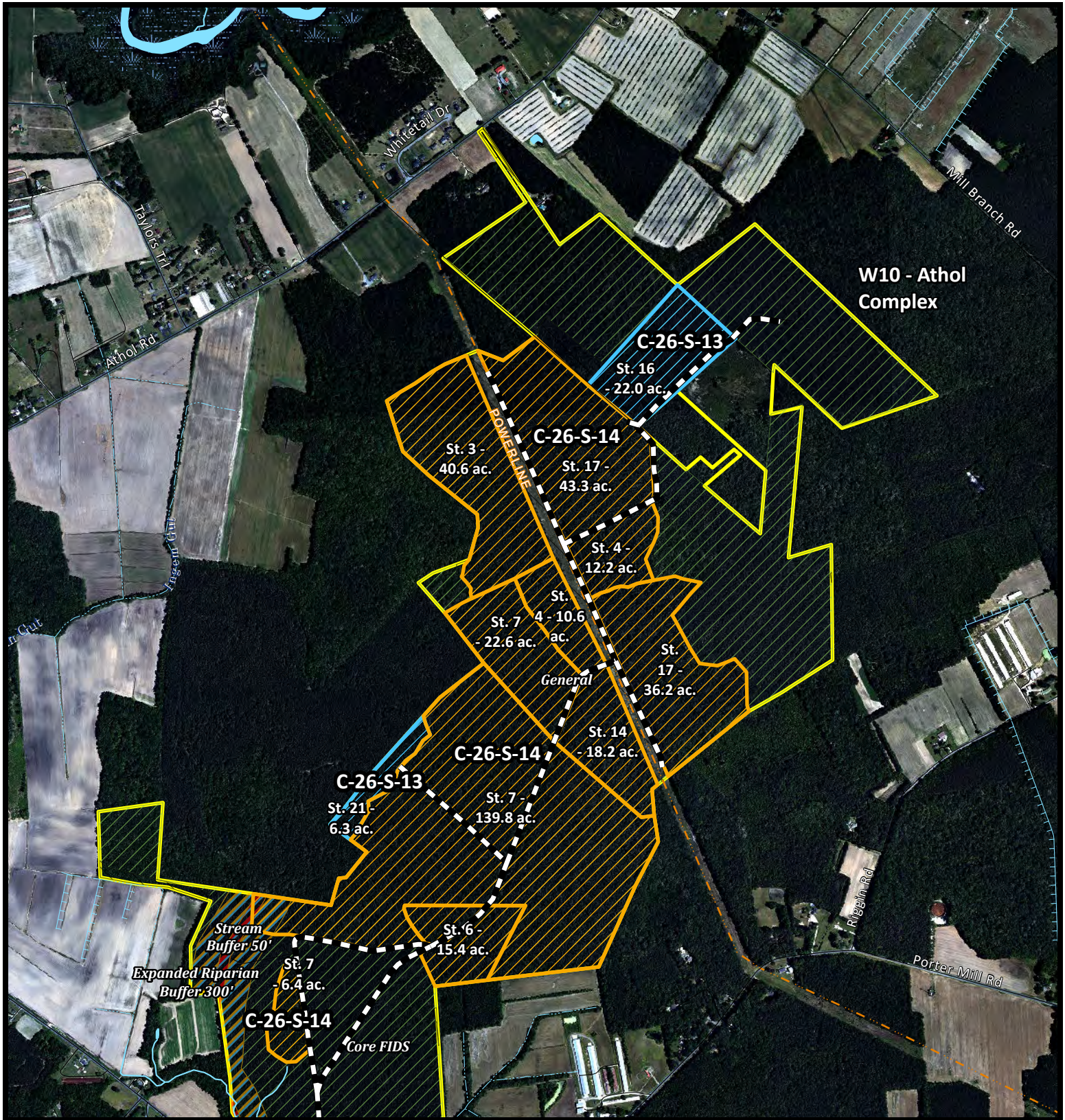
Date: 07/2025



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







### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

First Thinning

Second Thinning

#### CF Management

Core FIDS

General

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

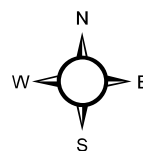
### C-26-S-13

Scale: 1" = 1,320'

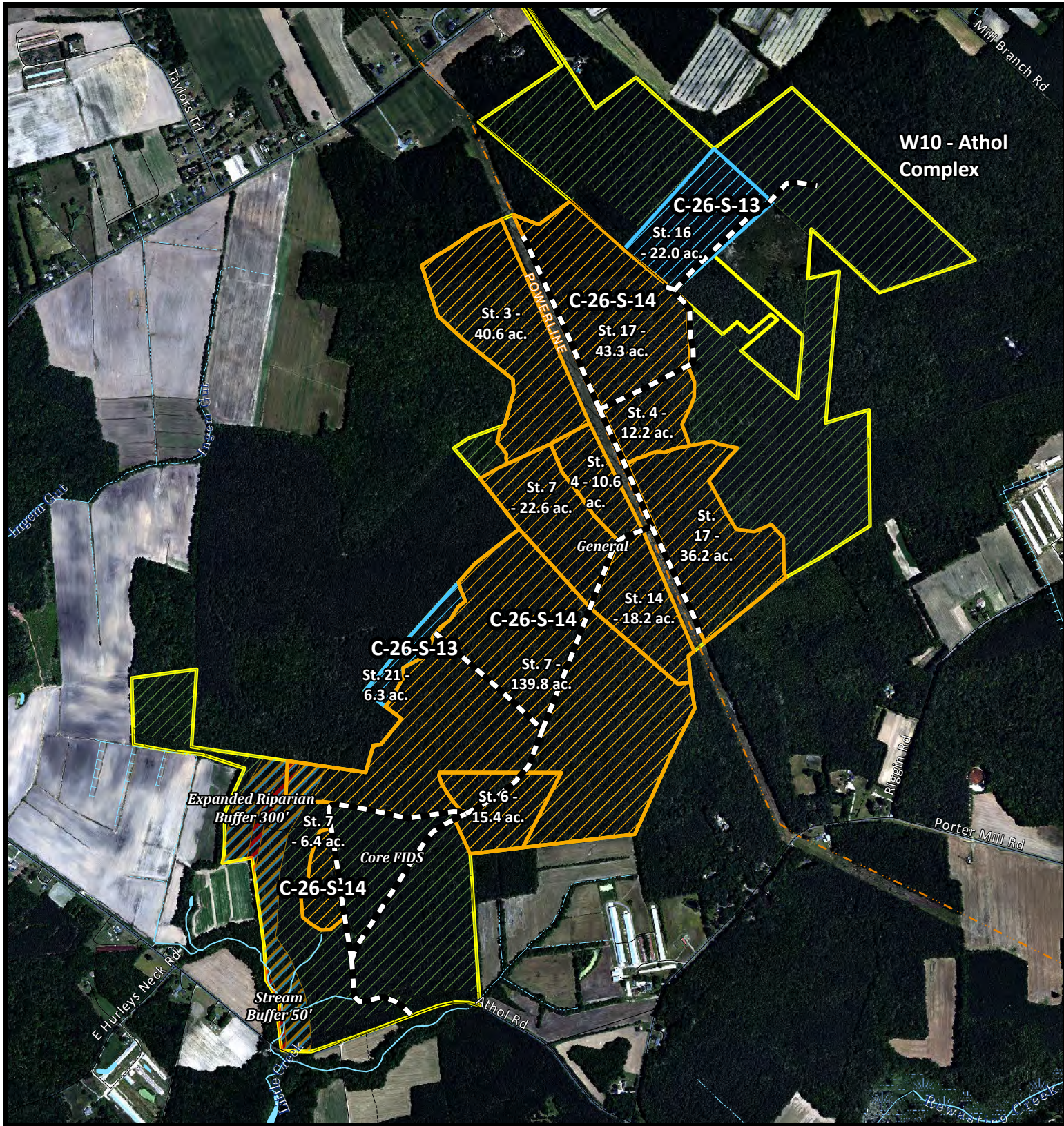
Date: 07/2025



This map is for planning purposes only.  
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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

#### CF Management

- Core FIDS
- General
- Stream Buffer (50')

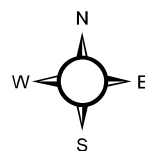
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

### C-26-S-14

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



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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

First Thinning

Second Thinning

#### CF Management

DFS Future Core

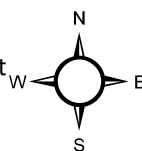
### C-26-S-15

Scale: 1" = 660'

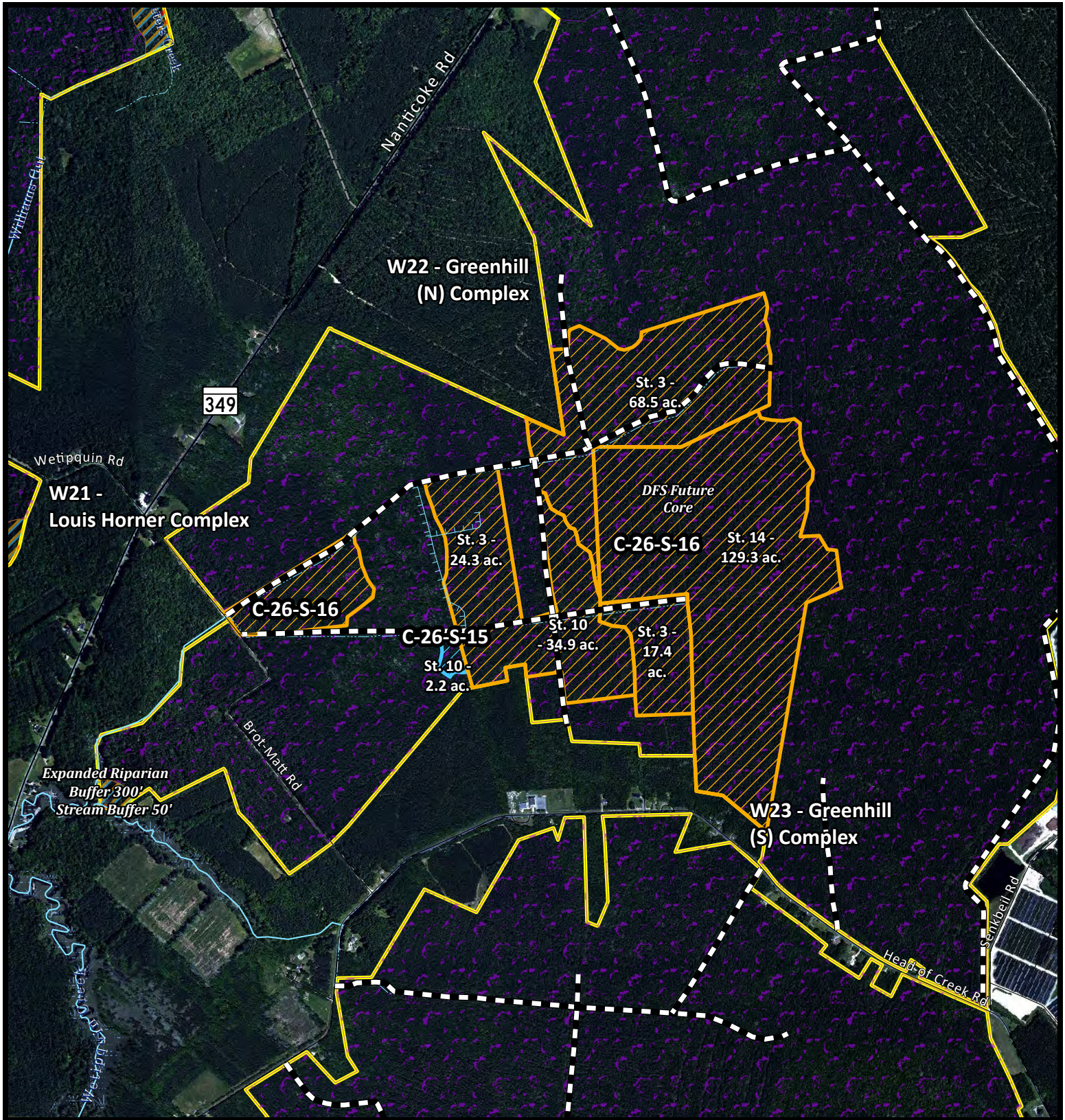
Date: 07/2025



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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

First Thinning

Second Thinning

#### CF Management

DFS Future Core

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

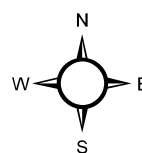
### C-26-S-16

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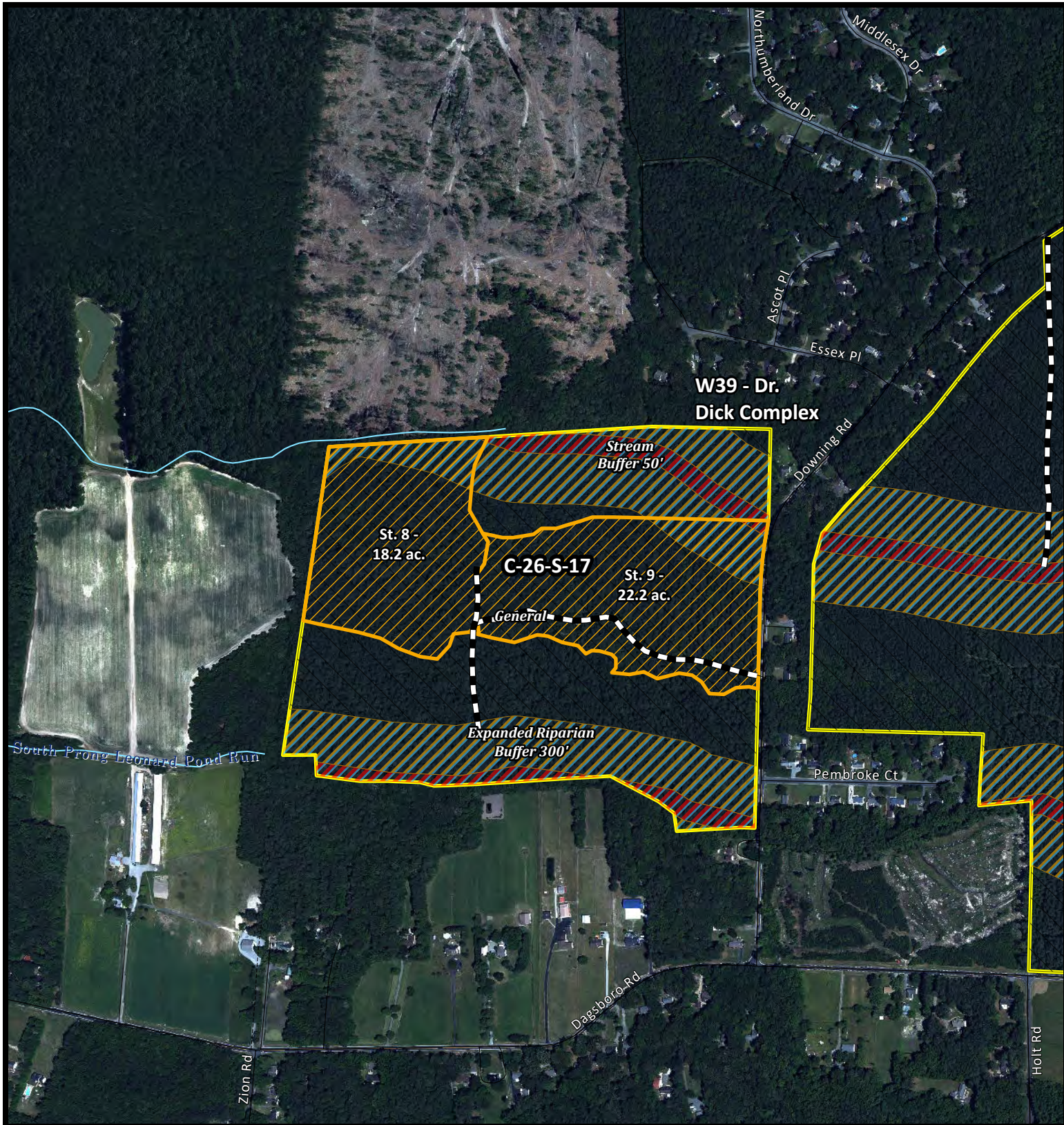
Date: 07/2025



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







# Legend

## CF AWP Activity

Second Thinning

## CF Management

General

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

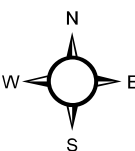
**C-26-S-17**

Scale: 1" = 660'

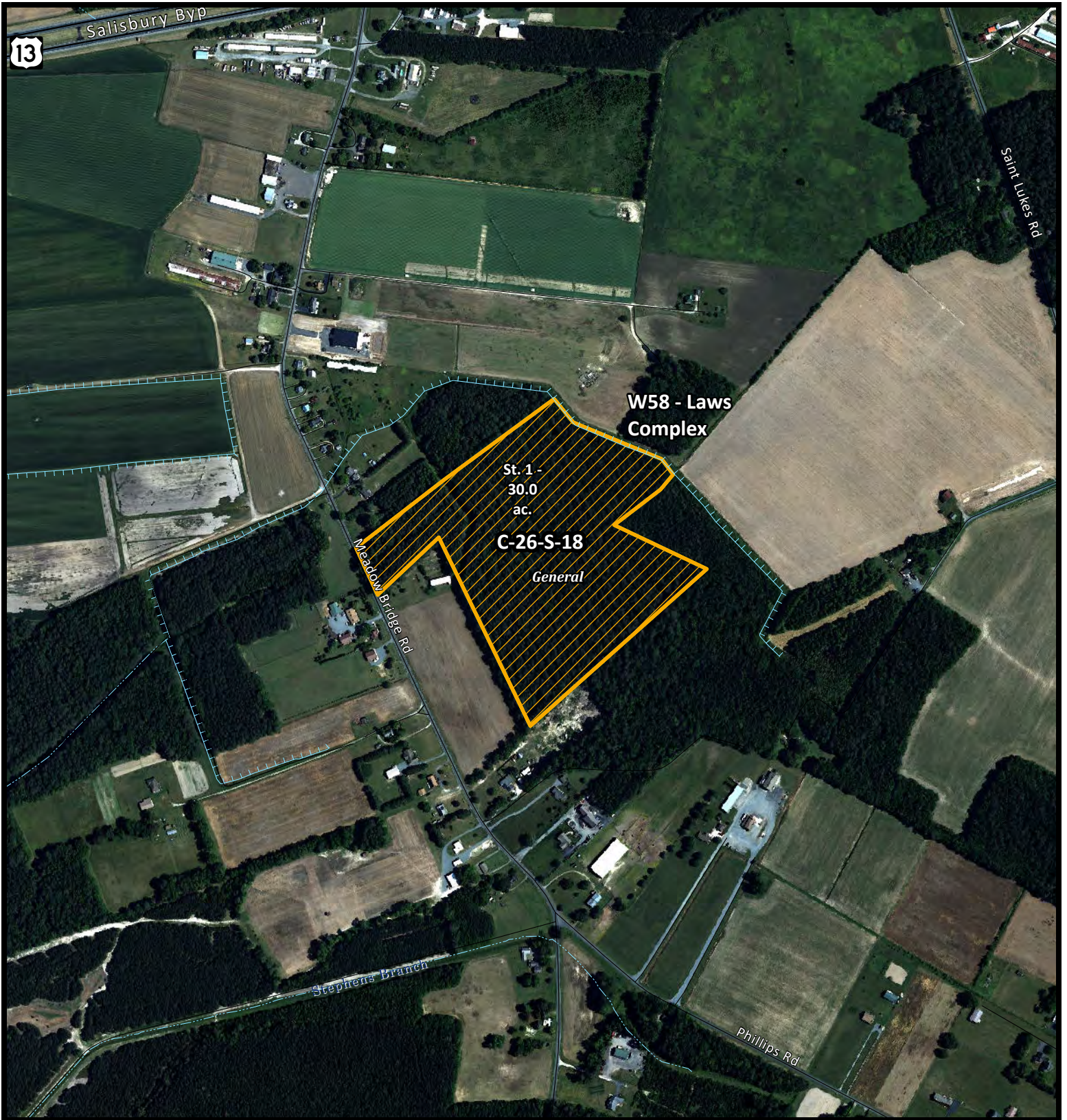
Date: 07/2025



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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

 Second Thinning

#### CF Management

 General

**C-26-S-18**

Scale: 1" = 660'

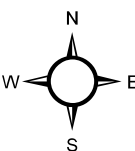
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320

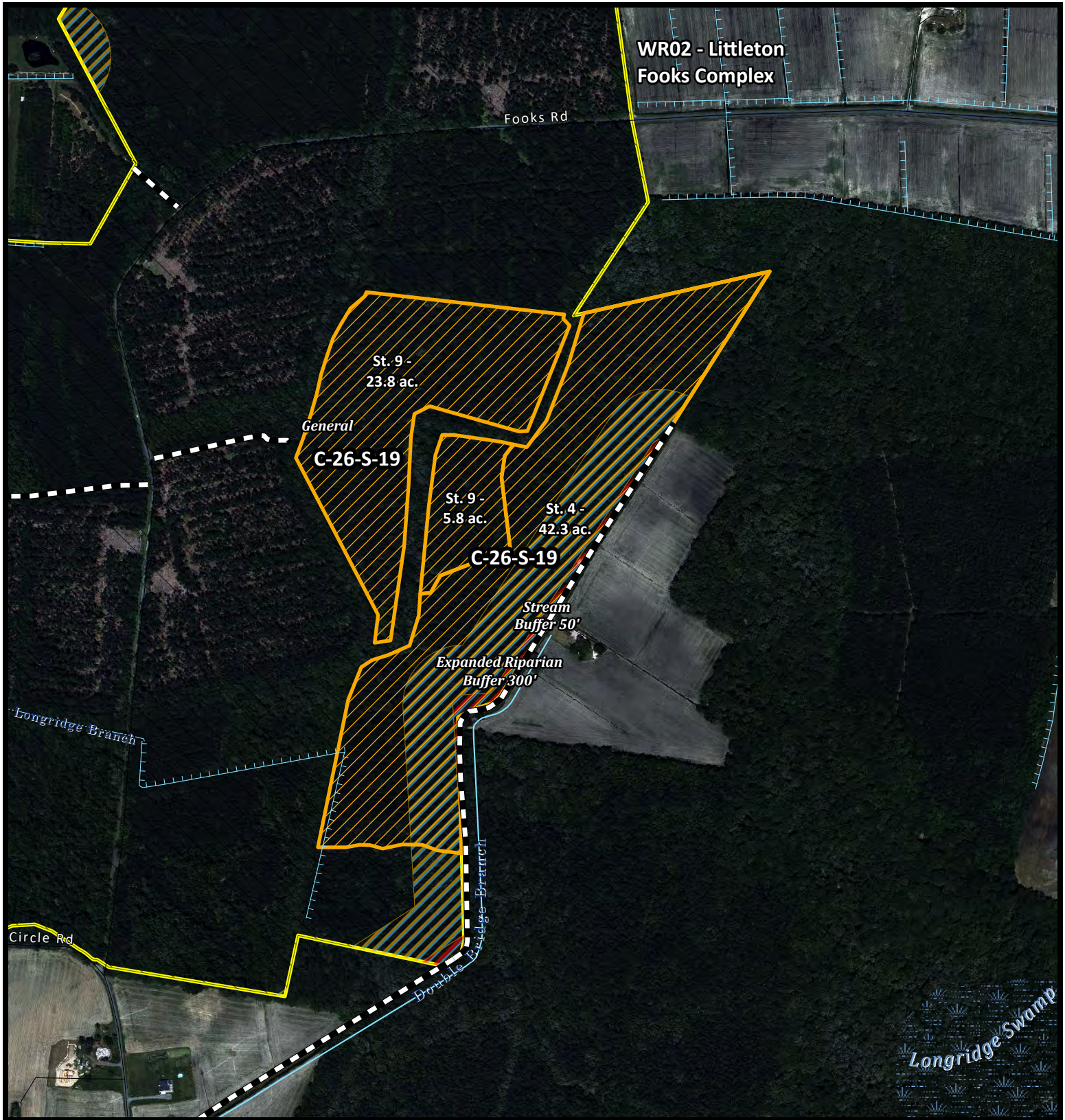
Feet

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

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**Legend**

**CF AWP Activity**

Second Thinning

**CF Management**

General

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

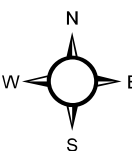
**C-26-S-19**

Scale: 1" = 660'

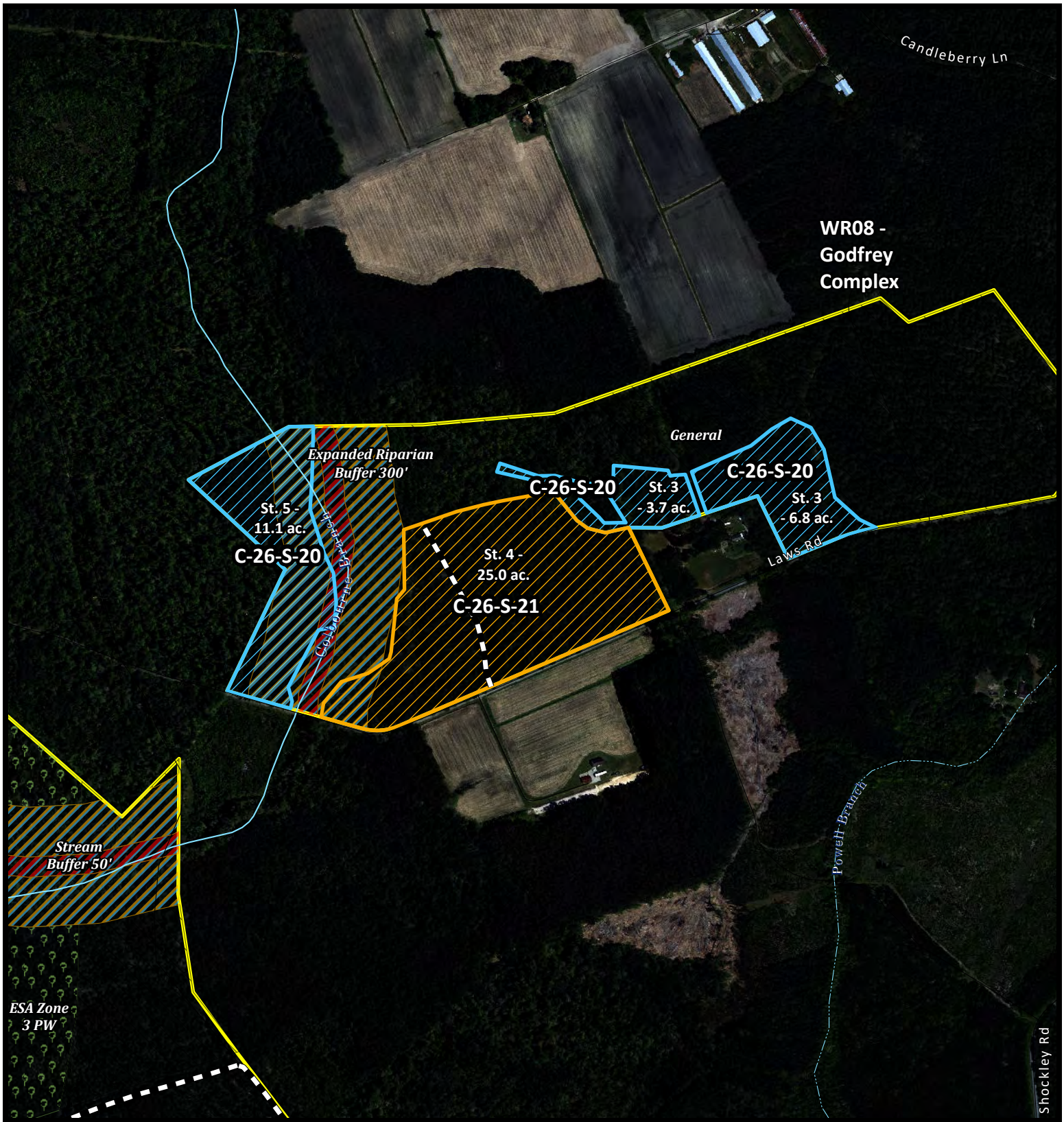
Date: 07/2025



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







### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

First Thinning

Second Thinning

#### CF Management

ESA Zone 3 PW

General

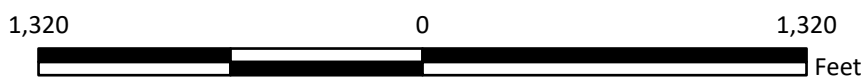
Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

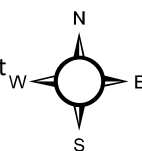
**C-26-S-20**

Scale: 1" = 660'

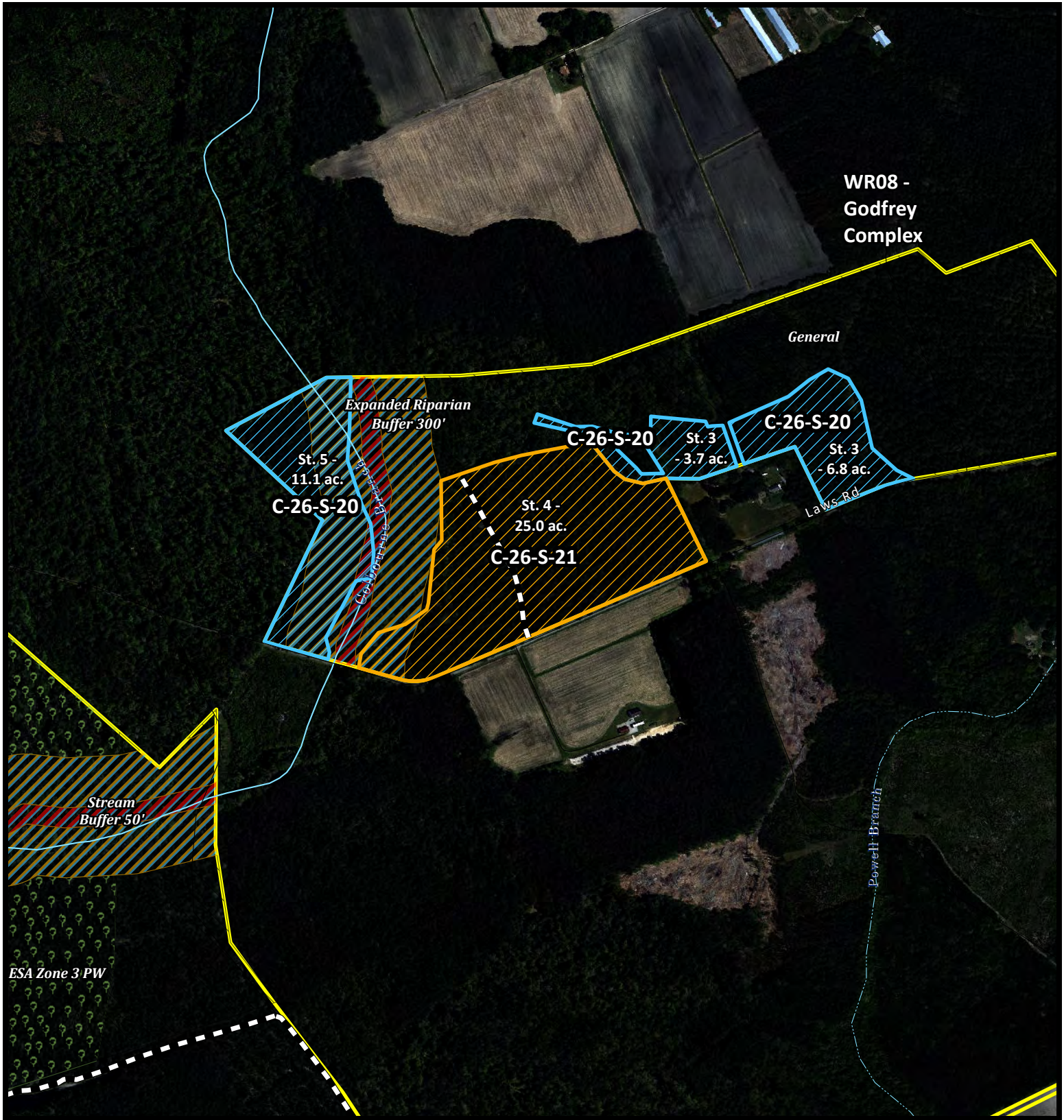
Date: 07/2025



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WR08 -  
Godfrey  
Complex

General

Expanded Riparian  
Buffer 300'

St. 5 -  
11.1 ac.

C-26-S-20

C-26-S-20

St. 3 -  
3.7 ac.

C-26-S-20

St. 3 -  
6.8 ac.

Laws Rd.

St. 4 -  
25.0 ac.

C-26-S-21

Stream  
Buffer 50'

ESA Zone 3 PW

Powell Branch

### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

First Thinning

Second Thinning

#### CF Management

ESA Zone 3 PW

General

Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

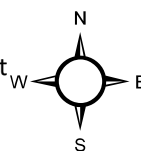
### C-26-S-21

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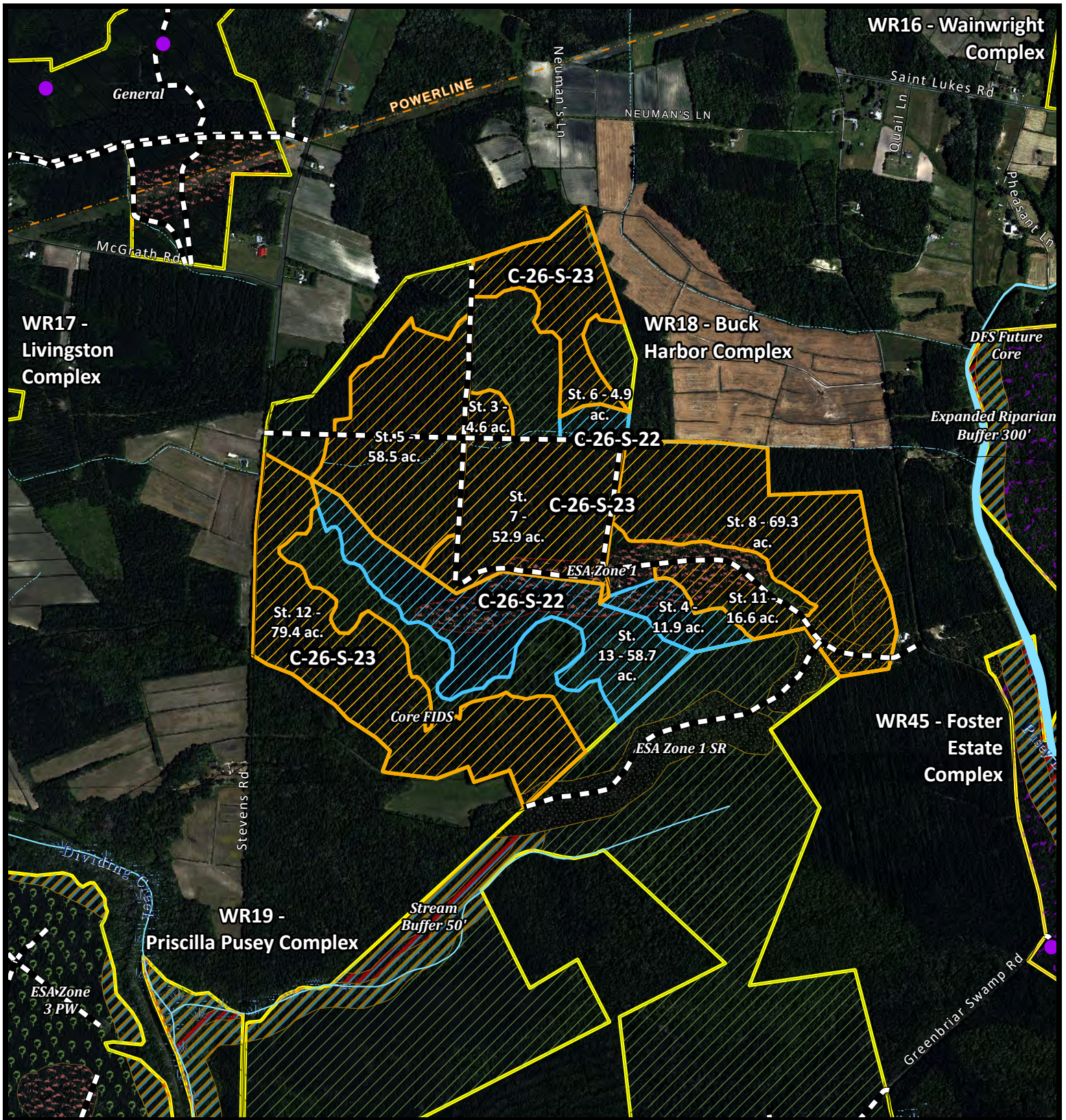
Date: 07/2025



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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

#### CF Management

- Core FIDS
- DFS Future Core
- ESA Zone 1

- ESA Zone 1 SR
- ESA Zone 3 PW
- General

- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')
- Home Site

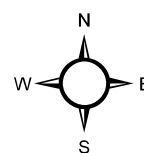
**C-26-S-22**

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Date: 07/2025

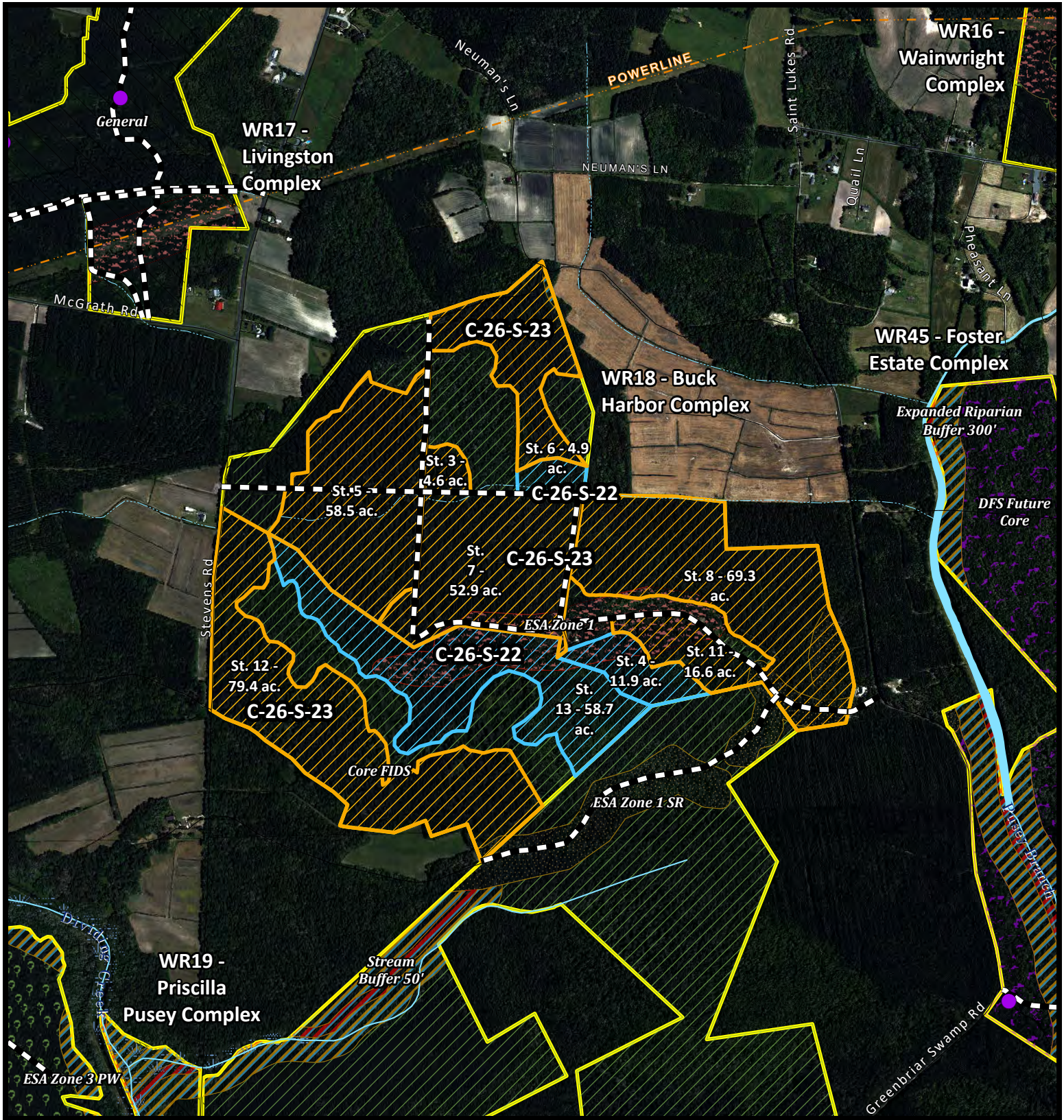
1,320 0 1,320 2,640  
Feet

This map is for planning purposes only.  
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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

- First Thinning
- Second Thinning

#### CF Management

- Core FIDS
- DFS Future Core
- ESA Zone 1

- ESA Zone 1 SR
- ESA Zone 3 PW
- General

- Stream Buffer (50')
- Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')
- Home Site

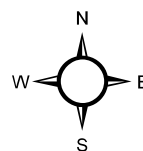
### C-26-S-23

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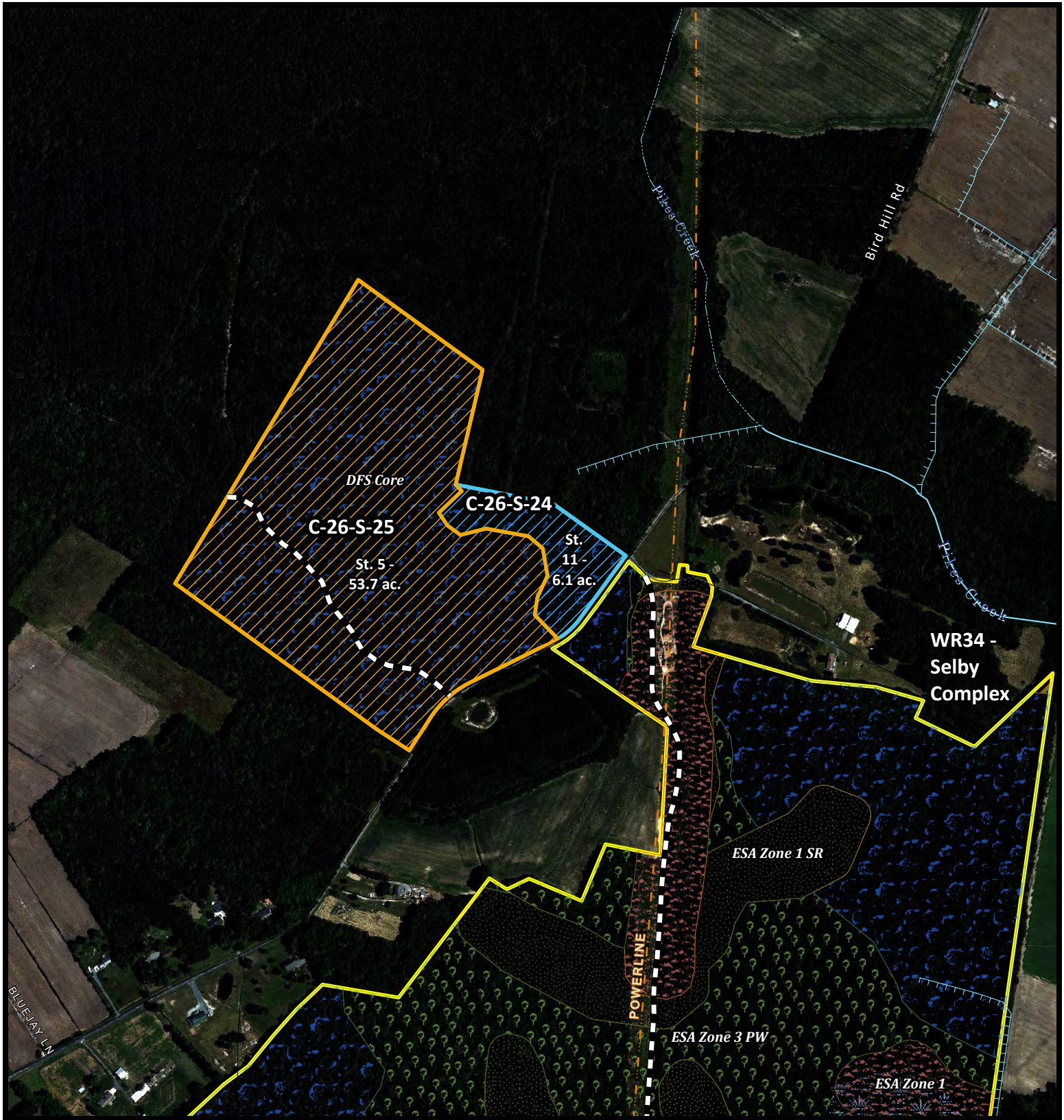
Date: 07/2025



This map is for planning purposes only.  
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### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

-  First Thinning
-  Second Thinning

#### CF Management

-  DFS Core
-  ESA Zone 1
-  ESA Zone 1 SR

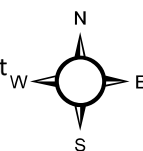
-  ESA Zone 3 PW
-  Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

**C-26-S-24**

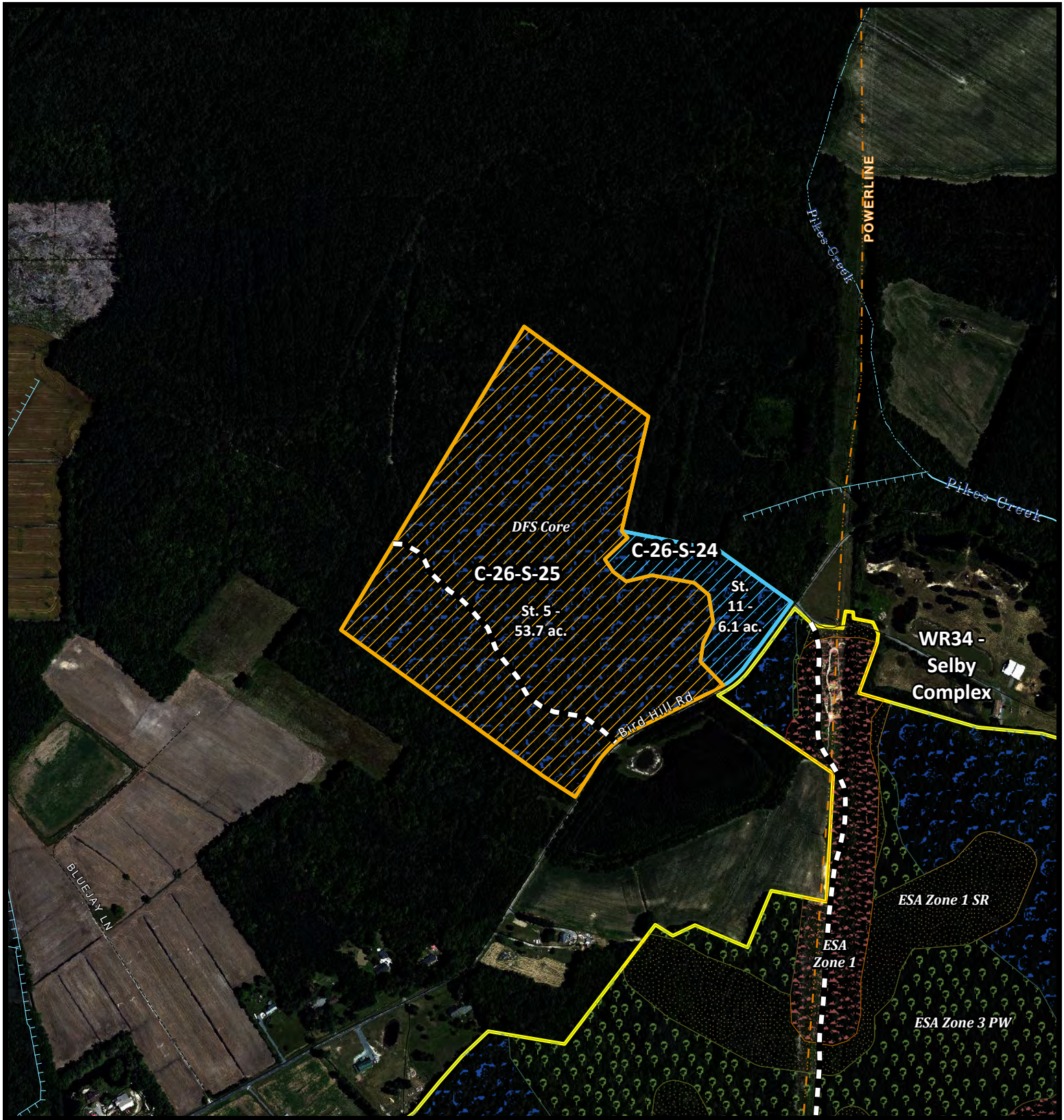
Scale: 1" = 660'  
Date: 07/2025



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










### Legend

#### CF AWP Activity

-  First Thinning
-  Second Thinning

#### CF Management

-  DFS Core

-  ESA Zone 1
-  ESA Zone 1 SR

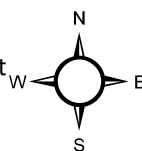
-  ESA Zone 3 PW

**C-26-S-25**

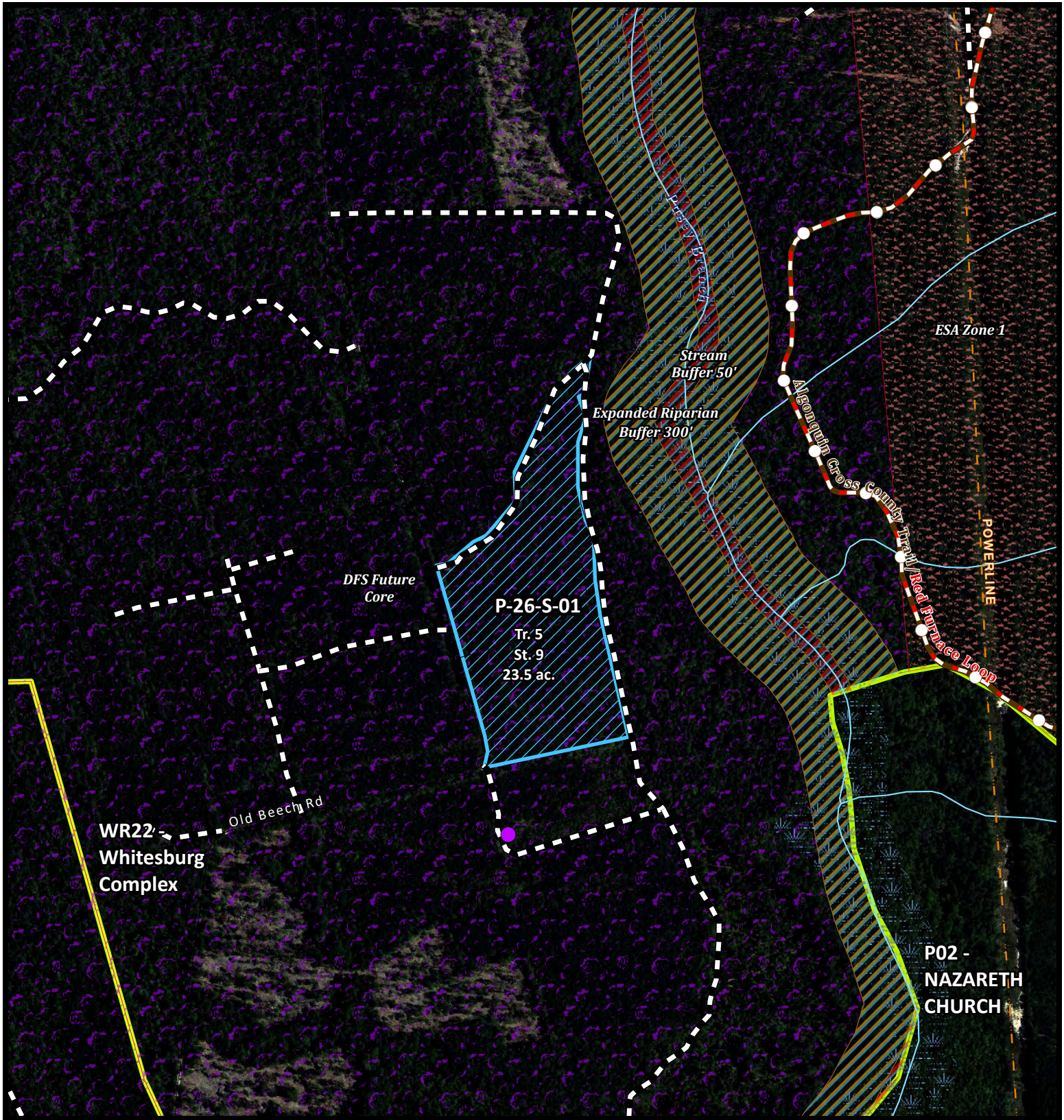
Scale: 1" = 660'  
Date: 07/2025



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### Legend

#### PSF AWP Activity



First Thinning

#### PSF Management



DFS Future Core



ESA Zone 1



Stream Buffer (50')



Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')



Home Site

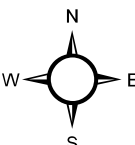
**P-26-S-01**

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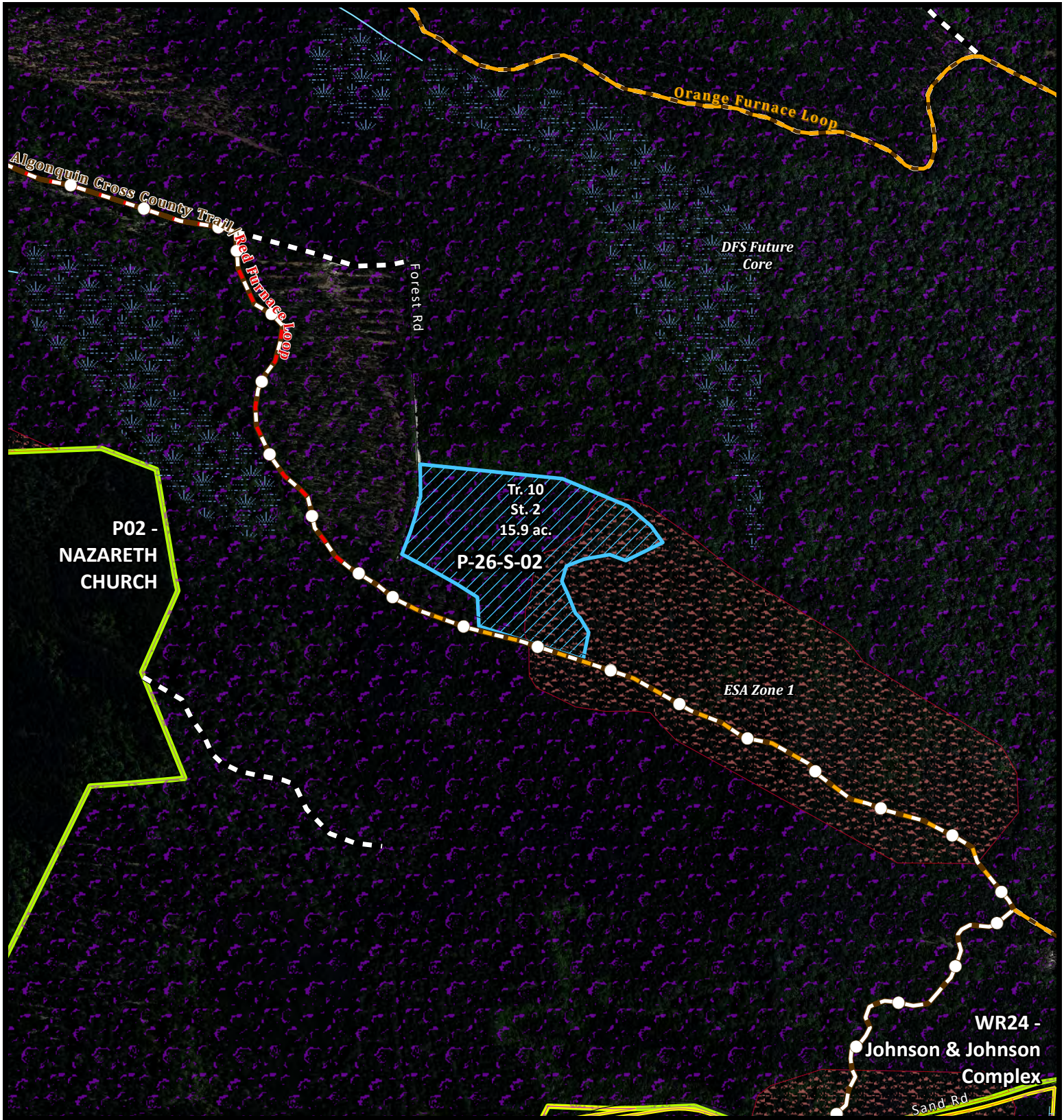
Date: 07/2025



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**Legend**

**PSF AWP Activity**

**PSF Management**



ESA Zone 1



First Thinning



DFS Future Core

**P-26-S-02**

Scale: 1" = 660'

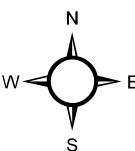
Date: 07/2025

1,320 0 1,320

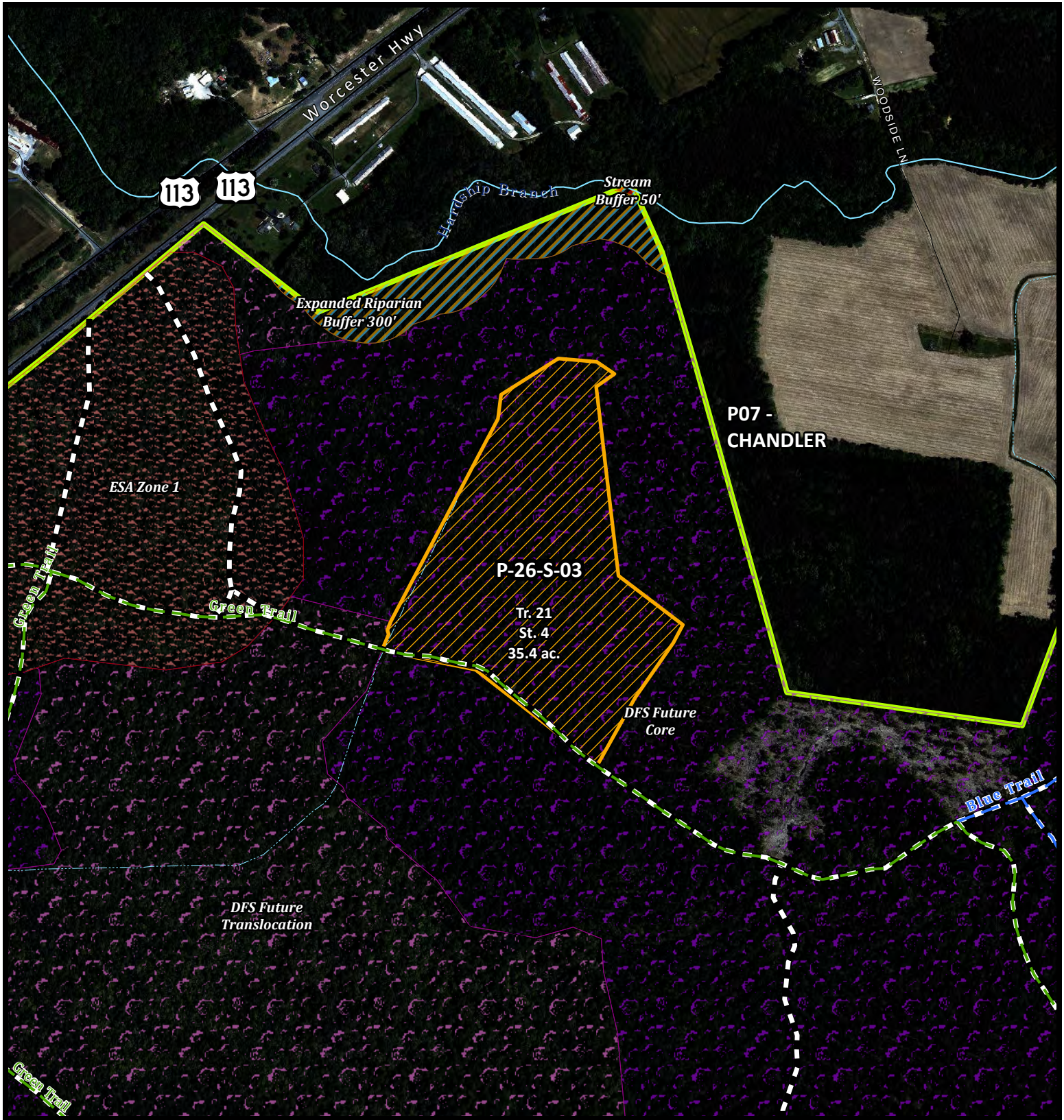
Feet

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

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### Legend

#### PSF AWP Activity

Second Thinning

#### PSF Management

DFS Future Core

DFS Future Translocation

ESA Zone 1

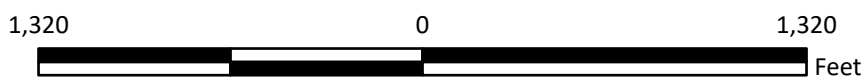
Stream Buffer (50')

Expanded Riparian Buffer (300')

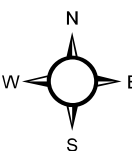
**P-26-S-03**

Scale: 1" = 660'

Date: 07/2025



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This map is not a boundary survey





## 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, Conservation Associate, and an Administrative Assistant.
2. Contractual Employee Salaries – There are typically two to four contractual employees working 10 to 12 months per year on the forest.
3. Land Management – This includes the cost of contract management services 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	\$	439,956
2. Timber	\$	577,244
3. Hunting Lease	\$	584,524
4. Ag Lease	\$	43,930
5. Grants	\$	-
6. Other	\$	3,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,649,437</b>
Operational Costs		
1. State Employee Salaries	\$	263,116
2. Contractual Employee Salaries	\$	82,887
3. Land Management	\$	834,294
4. Land Operations	\$	234,750
5. County Payments	\$	171,770
6. PDA Fees	\$	9,647
7. Forest Certification	\$	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,596,464</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>52,973</b>

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

Soil Series	SMG	Caroline	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester
Acquango sand	4					AcB, AcC
Annessex-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
Fallsington-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
Runcint loamy sand	4				RuA, RuB	RuA, RuB
Runcint sand	4		RsA, RsB	RsB	RsA, RsB	
Runcint-Cedartown complex	4			RwB, RwC	RwA, RwB	
Runcint-Evesboro complex	4			RxB		
Runcint-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	Elkton sandy loam
	Askecksy loamy sand	Elkton silt loam
	Corsica mucky loam	Othello and Kentuck soils
	Corsica mucky loam, Carolina Bay	Othello silt loam
	Crosiadore silt loam	Othello silt loam, loamy substratum
	Elkton loam	Quindocqua silt loam
	Elkton mucky 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	Klej-Galloway complex
	Corsica and Fallsington soils	Klej-Hammonton complex
	Fallsington loam and sandy loam	Lenni loam and sandy loam
	Fallsington-Glassboro complex	Mullica-Berryland complex
	Glassboro loam	Othello-Fallsington complex
	Hurlock loamy sand and sandy loam	Pone mucky loam and mucky sandy loam
	Klej loamy sand	

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

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 herbivores 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 – 2024

The 2024 Certification Audit for the Eastern Region Forests was held and completed in the Spring of 2024. 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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