

# **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FORESTRY TOWERS AND FORESTRY TOWER PROPERTIES**

## **A RESOURCE DOCUMENT**



Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Public Lands Policy and Planning  
April 2007

# STATE OF MARYLAND



Public Lands Policy & Planning  
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Cover photograph - Longhill Forestry Tower,  
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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## **Acknowledgements**

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Arnold Norden  
Shawn Clotworthy



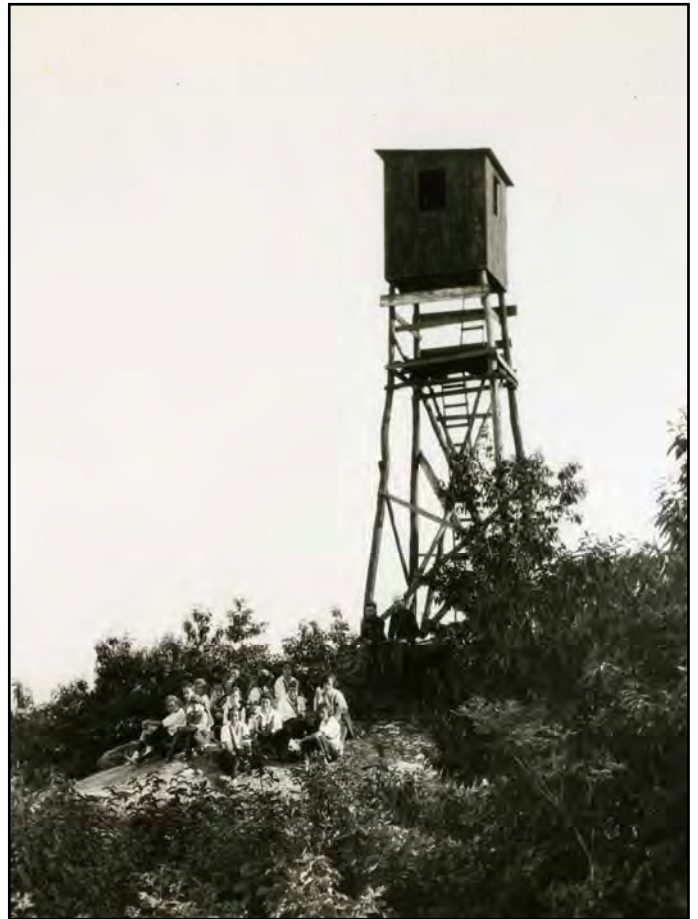
## Introduction

The protection of forests from fire has always been a very important element of forestry work. Back in the days before coast-to-coast satellite imagery, before every county was crisscrossed by roads, and before every vehicle had a cell phone, getting early warning of forest fires was a very serious challenge. The best solution then was to establish a state-wide cadre of dedicated forest wardens who were constantly on the lookout for fires. It was often the responsibility of those wardens to respond to fires, and to alert and deploy as many hand “registered crews” as could quickly be brought together to control fires once they were discovered.

During the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Maryland State Board of Forestry began looking at ways to further reduce fire danger. A major element in that effort was construction of lookout towers that would increase the effectiveness of the forest warden’s efforts. Maryland’s first forestry lookout tower was constructed atop Meadow Mountain in 1915. It was originally envisioned that 30 to 35 towers would be erected at various high points around the State. According to information included in the various annual “Reports of the State Department of Forestry,” eleven towers were installed between 1915 and 1927, 30 towers were in place by 1937, and 32 were operating by 1940. Those figures demonstrate that towers were being installed at a rapid rate between 1915 and the mid thirties, but the pace slowed as World War II gained momentum. That reflects different war time priorities, budgets and manpower resources, but it also reflects having reached the initial goal of the state-wide system of 30 to 35 towers that the Department of Forestry initially proposed.

Maryland’s first towers were wooden structures on spindly metal legs. Guy wires were required to keep them erect. Maryland’s first Forestry Tower, the Meadow Mountain tower, is shown in a photograph on the next page as it was constructed in 1915. Comparing that image to the photographs of the modern towers given in the following text clearly demonstrates the differences in design and construction. The “second generation” towers were generally fabricated by Aermotor of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and designed to be shipped in and put together onsite. They were of steel lattice design with an inside wooden stairway leading to a glass enclosed cab at the top. Some cabs had a “widow’s walk on the flat roof. The height of each tower was designed to suit local topography and to maximize visibility. With the exception of the original Dan’s Rock Tower, which was only 15 feet tall, State forestry towers typically ranged from 50 to 120 feet tall. When it was erected, the 120 foot Nassawango Tower was the tallest forestry lookout tower in the United States. Table 1 provides the height and condition of the State owned towers that were erected on land now managed by DNR. Some of the original towers were replaced in later years, or their legs were lengthened to increase their elevation and expand the area of visibility. During the years of Civilian Conservation Corps operation, the CCC installed many of Maryland’s towers.

During World War II the lookout towers also served as spotter posts for aircraft identification. By the late 1950s, the importance of towers was waning, and they were no longer manned on a regular basis. At that time forestry towers were already being turned to use as platforms for communications equipment. Initially, the equipment was typically owned and operated by the Forest Service, the Park Service or another of Maryland’s natural resource agencies, often in tandem with ATT or Western Union, but ultimately they came to serve as vital communications links for all State agencies, many federal agencies, as well as local governments. In addition, tower sites have frequently found use as Maryland Forest Service Regional Offices, field offices or storage facilities.



**Early Maryland Forestry Towers.** Original Meadow Mountain tower on left, constructed in 1915. Snaggy Hill Forestry Tower on right, constructed at about the same time. Note differing methods of construction. The Snaggy Mountain Tower was actually in West Virginia, located on land leased by the State of Maryland. It could only be accessed by a road running west from Swallow Falls State Park. As the photograph reproduced above (taken in 1921) clearly shows, that tower was a makeshift affair that was not an Aeromotor kit.

Over the years ownership of a number of DNR towers and/or tower sites were transferred. This report includes only those towers and tower properties that were managed by DNR as of December 2006. The following towers were moved from their original location and now reside at other sites.

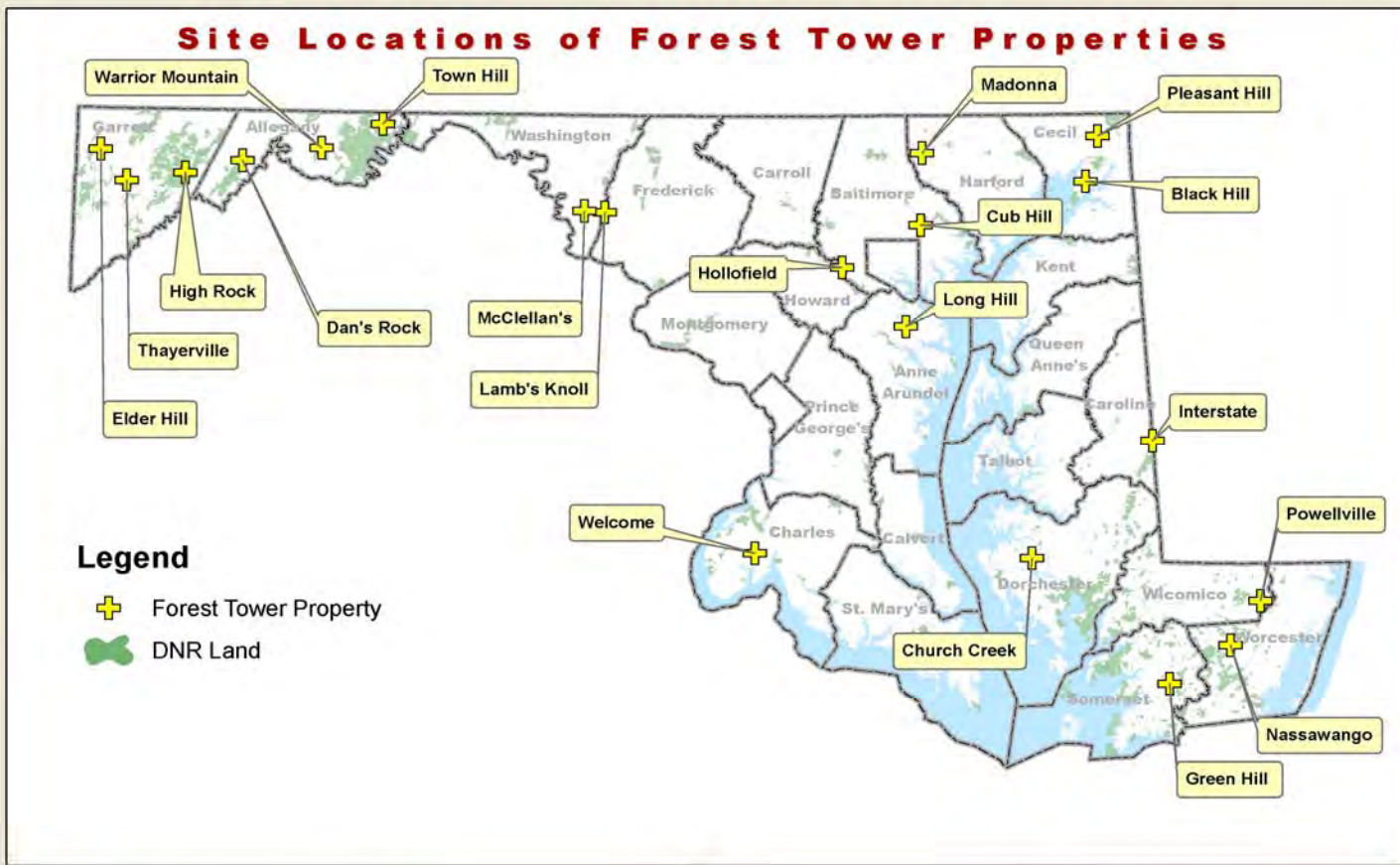
- Brandywine Forestry Tower. Property was transferred to the University of Maryland. The tower now resides at the Fairview Outdoor Education Center, Clear Spring, Washington County, Maryland.
- Great Mills Forestry Tower. Property was transferred to St. Mary's County. The tower now resides at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center in Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Hollofield Forestry Tower. Property has been retained by DNR (Patapsco Valley SP), the upper portion of the tower without the cab is now an observation platform at the Merkle NRMA.
- Quantico Forestry Tower. The property was transferred, and the tower now resides at Chesapeake Fire Museum in Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland.

The following pages provide descriptions of all Forestry Towers and Forestry Tower properties



Also included are location maps and photographs (2006). The towers are arranged alphabetically by Region, as listed in the Table of Contents. A synopsis of pertinent information is given in Table 1 and the statewide location of all DNR Forestry Towers is shown below.

In some instances the land on which towers were constructed came to the State with deed stipulations that specify reversion of the property to the heirs or assigns of the original owners if the property should no longer be used for forestry management purposes. Such clauses are present on at least some of the deeds for the Church Creek, Interstate, Nassawango, Longhill, Welcome, Elder Hill, Town Hill, and Warrior Mountain tower sites. Maintaining DNR communications equipment on the towers, or at those tower sites, fulfills that requirement. One of the three deeds for the Nassawango Forestry Tower requires that the actual tower itself remain onsite or the property will revert. In addition, the High Rock and Thayerville Towers are situated on LU Tracts, which require appropriate use or the property could revert to the Federal Government. Since both of those sites are imbedded within large tracts of Public Land, the federal requirements should be met even if all communications use is ended and the towers removed.



This map was created for general planning purposes. Public Lands Policy and Planning compiled it from data sets available at the time of analysis; current conditions may differ.

Feb 13, 2007

## Synopsis of useful information on DNR Forestry Towers and Forestry Tower Properties.

<b>Tower Name and County</b>	<b>Forestry Tower Present</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Forestry Tower Condition</b>	<b>Other Tower Present</b>	<b>Field Office Present</b>	<b>Communication Equipment Present</b>	<b>Reversion Clause</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Creek (DO)	Yes	120'	Good	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Green Hill (SO)	Yes	120'	Fair	No	No	No	No
Interstate (CA)	Yes	120'	Fair	No	No	No	Yes
Nassawango (WO)	Yes	120'	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Powellville (WI)	Yes	145'	Fair	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Central Region</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Hill (CE)	Yes	110'	Fair	No	Yes	No	No
Cub Hill (BA)	Yes	125'	Good	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hollofield (HO)	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No
Madonna (HA)	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pleasant Hill (CE)	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No
<b>Southern Region</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longhill (AN)	Yes	90+	Poor	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Welcome (CH)	Yes	120'	Fair	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Western Region</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dans Rock (AL)	Yes	90+	Poor	No	No	Yes	No
Elder Hill (GA)	Yes	110'	Good	No	No	Yes	Yes
High Rock (GA)	Yes	90+	Good	No	No	Yes	(LU Tract)
Lamb's Knoll (WA)	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No
McClellan's Lookout(WA)	No	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No
Thayerville (GA)	Yes	90+	Good	Yes	No	Yes	(LU Tract)
Town Hill (AL)	Yes	80'	Good	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Warrior Mountain (AL)	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

### Recommendations

- Engineering and Construction should conduct a structural analysis of all DNR Forestry Towers to determine if any are in need of repair. If so, repairs should be implemented, or unsound towers should be removed.
- All DNR Forestry Towers should be assessed to determine if they are eligible for either the Maryland or National Register of Historic Places.
- One or more Forestry Towers should be restored and made available to the public for interpretive purposes. Ideally, it should be possible for visitors to climb a tower and stand in the cab. However, should that not be feasible, consideration should be given to recovering and restoring a cab from another tower and mounting it on a low platform as part of the interpretive exhibit.
- Reverter Clauses in the deeds of DNR Forestry Towers require that the property be used for forestry management purposes, or the land will revert to the heirs and assigns of the original owners. Forest Service operations at those sites, including DNR communications, fulfill that requirement. However, if any tower sites are excess to the needs of DNR, consideration should be given to allowing them to revert, or to be declared 'excess' and sold.



- A survey of all existing forestry towers should be conducted to determine what communication equipment is now present.
- If a site has been determined not to be useful for state communications purposes, its use as a private communication site should be assessed.

# Eastern Region Towers



**Quantico Tower** (DNR, no date). DNR transferred ownership of this 0.60-acre site to the University of Maryland in 1993.

## Church Creek Forestry Tower

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Dorchester

**DNR Land Unit:** Church Creek Forestry Tower

**Location:** 2.2 miles south of Town of Church Creek

**Access:** Fronts on east side of Golden Hill Road (MD Route 335)

**Base Elevation:** 4 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 61, Parcels 30 and 31

**Size of Unit:** 3.52 acres

**Liber/Folio:** Acquired in two separate transactions, as follows:

Vivian Carroll	29/224	0.82 acres	14 October 1932
Rida Phillips	122/548	2.7 acres	22 March 1961

**Deed Date:** See above

**Acquired From:** See above

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1932

**Tower Height:** 120 feet

**Condition:** The steel structure is in good shape. The wood steps were replaced around 1996. The old equipment building, and two frame structures presently used by Forest Service for storage (firefighting and excess communications equipment), and garage parking (tractor), are in fair to good shape.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** Forest Service field office and communications platform

**Potential Uses:** Communications site and field office

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as future communications site and possible field office

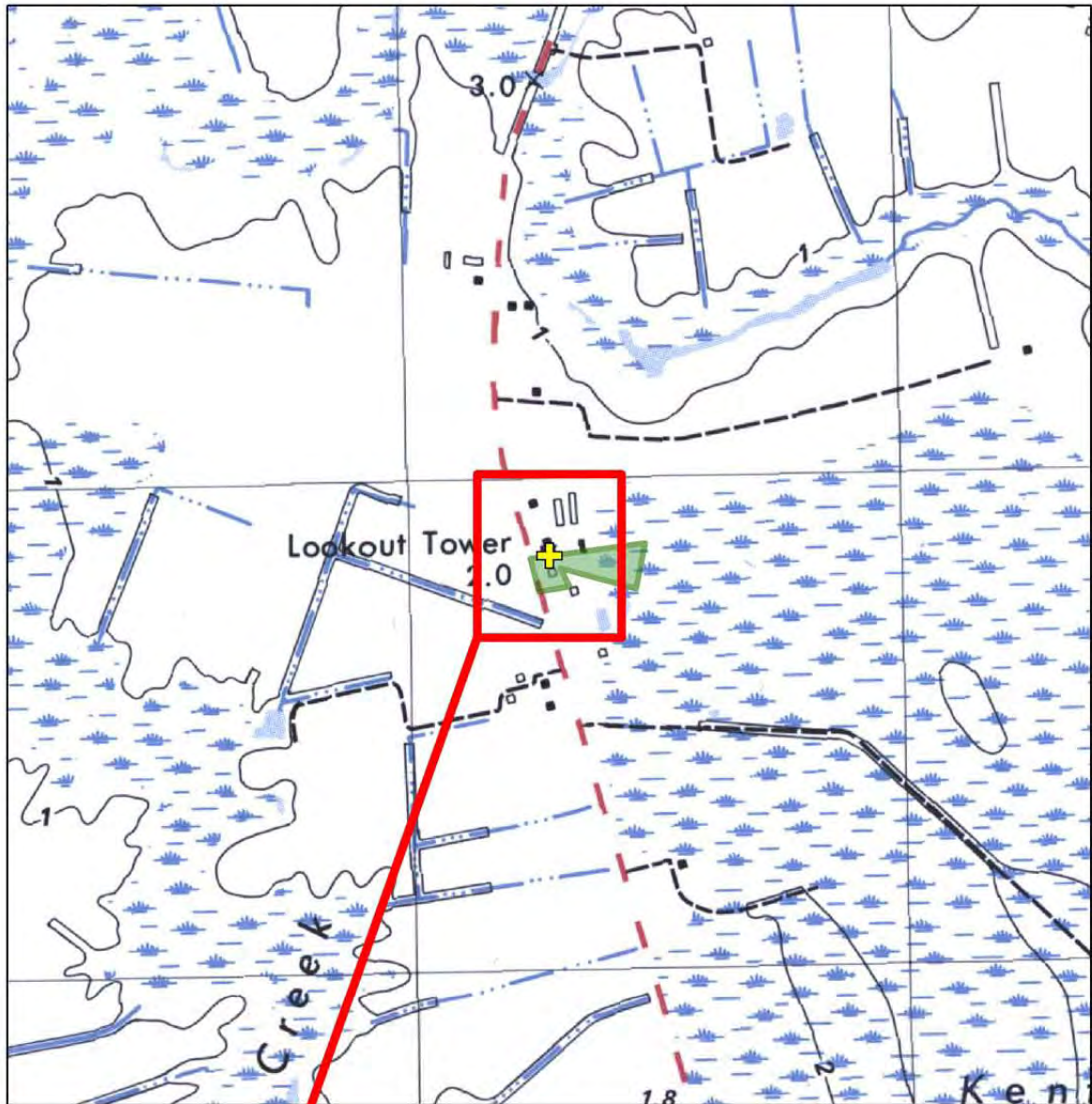
**Other Notes:** The Carroll deed (29/224) contains a reversion clause as follows: “so long, however, as said property shall be used by the said State of Maryland and its assigns in the administration of the laws of the State of Maryland, relating to Forestry, and whenever the said State of Maryland, or its assigns shall cease to use the aforesaid property for such purpose, then said property shall revert...” There is no reverter clause in the Phillips deed (122/548).



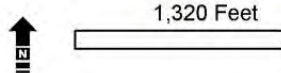
**Church Creek Forestry Tower**



# Church Creek



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery

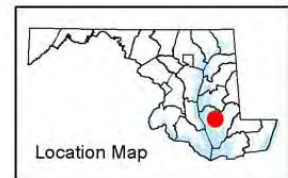


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



## **Green Hill Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Somerset

**DNR Land Unit:** Green Hill Forestry Tower

**Location:** Fronting Route 13 west of Mennonite Church Road

**Access:** From Route 13

**Base Elevation:** 15+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map & Parcel:** Map 41, parcel 125

**Size of Unit:** 2.63 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 106/253 (see note below)

**Deed date:** 19 September 1934

**Acquired From:** William Leibrand

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Tower Height:** 120 feet

**Condition:** The steel structure is in good shape. The wooden steps and cab are in bad condition. The first 20 feet of steps have been removed for safety reasons. The fenced-in compound with tower, equipment building and propane tank is becoming overgrown.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** No current use

**Potential Uses:** Communications site and field office

**Recommended Disposition:** Recommend consideration as possible future communications site

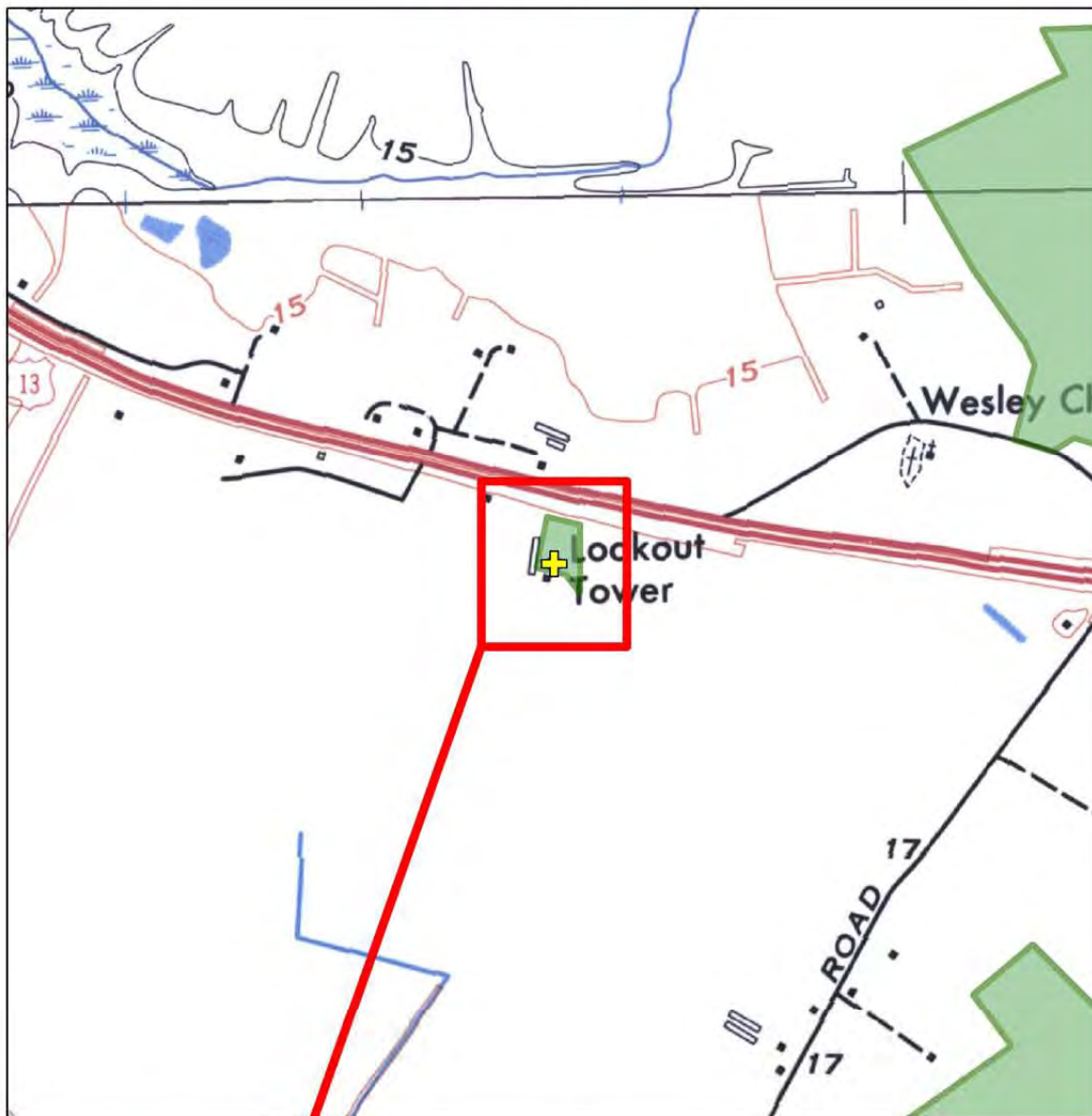
**Other Notes:** A property dispute with an adjacent property owner was resolved with a land exchange in 2006 (493/920, 28 February 2006, Norman Evans). There is no reverter clause in the deed.





**Green Hill Forestry Tower**

# Green Hill



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet



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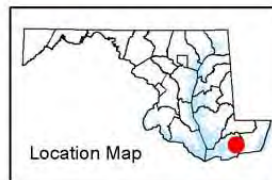
## Legend



Forest Tower Property



DNR Land



## **Interstate Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Caroline

**DNR Land Unit:** Interstate Forestry Tower

**Location:** Route 404 at Maryland/Delaware line.

**Access:** Fronts on Route 404.

**Base Elevation:** 50 above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 44, Parcel 21

**Size of Unit:** 0.5 acre

**Liber/Folio:** 92/403

**Deed Date:** 18 November 1931

**Acquired From:** Edward and Della Brown

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1931

**Tower Height:** 120 feet

**Condition:** The steel structure is in good shape. The wooden steps and cab are in disrepair. The first 20 feet of steps have been removed for safety reasons. The security fence and adjacent areas are somewhat overgrown.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** Fire Tower/Communications site (MSP). There is also a monument commemorating the resurvey of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1976, and an electrical utility cabinet on the property near the base of the tower.

**Potential Uses:** Communications

**Recommended disposition:** Retain as communications facility

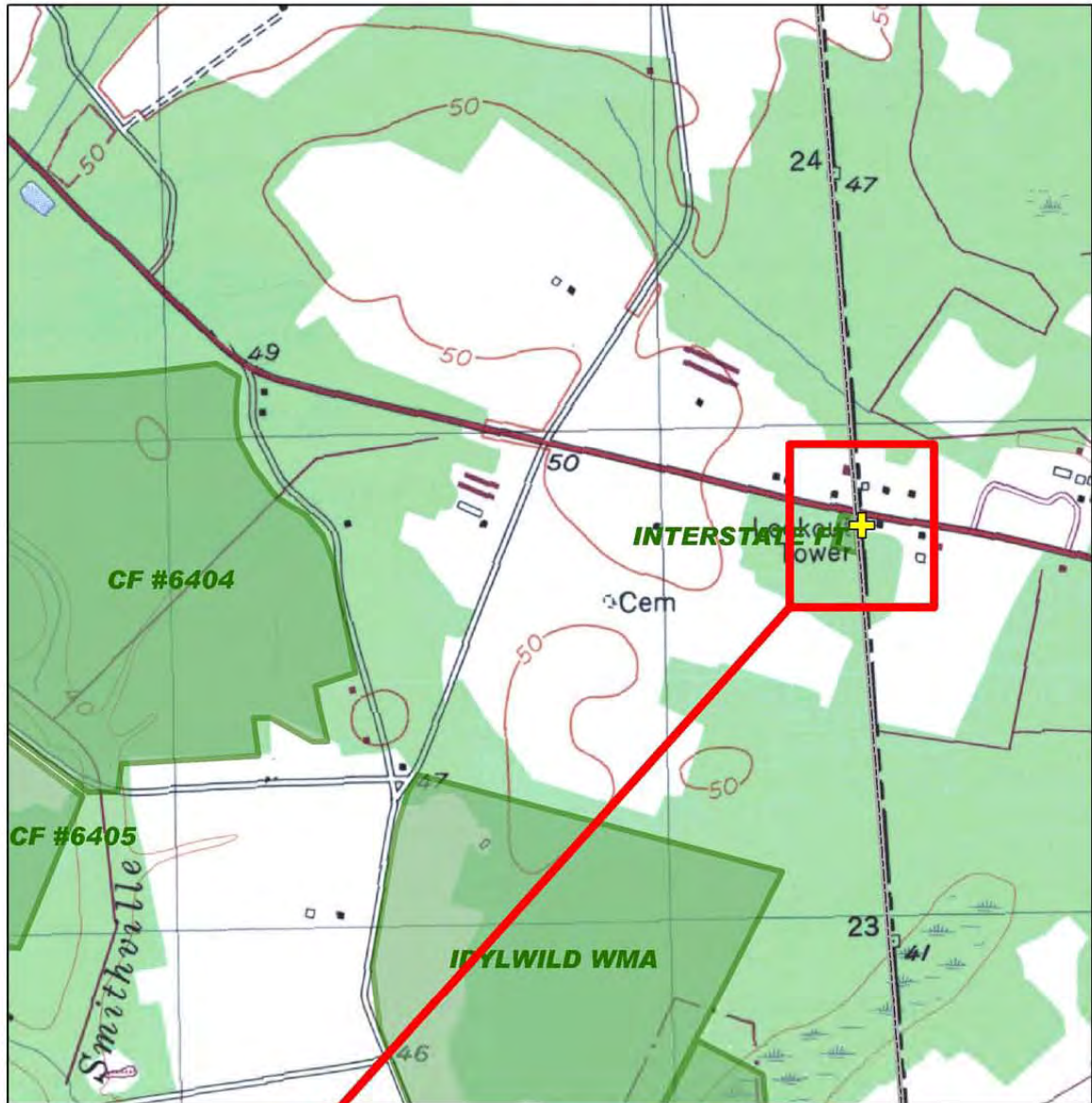
**Other Notes:** Deed does contain a reverter clause. Property reverts to previous owners or their assigns if the State of Maryland stops using the property for the "...administration of the laws of the State of Maryland relating to Forestry..." Portions of the property may cross the Delaware line.





**Interstate Forestry Tower**

# Interstate



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

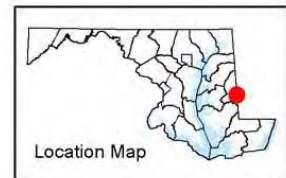


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## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



Location Map

## **Nassawango Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Worcester

**DNR Land Unit:** Nassawango Forestry Tower

**Access:** Property fronts on Snow Hill Road (Route 12)

**Base Elevation:** 42 feet above mean sea level

**Size of Unit:** 2 acres

**Liber/Folio:** Three separate acquisitions: 6/315, 12/322, and 1/589

**Deed date:** 24 November 1928, 17 March 1931, 21 June 1945

**Acquired From:** William and Cordelia Sirman (6/315, 12/322) and Paul and Louise Shockley (1/589)

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1929

**Tower Height:** 120 feet

**Condition:** The steel structure is in good shape. Wooden steps were replaced around 1996. The cab was also replaced at that time with a wooden deck.

**Sensitive features:** None

**Current Use:** Field office, shop complex and communications tower (NRP) site

**Potential Uses:** Field office and communications platform

**Recommended Disposition:** The forestry tower must be retained as per the reverter clause; therefore, it is recommended the State retain for communications and other ongoing uses.

**Other Notes:** The two earliest deeds contain reverter clauses. The deed recorded as 6/315 states that the land will revert if the tower is removed and/or its services be stopped for a two year period. Deed 12/322 states that the land shall revert if it is not used in connection with a fire lookout tower. There is not a reverter in 1/589.

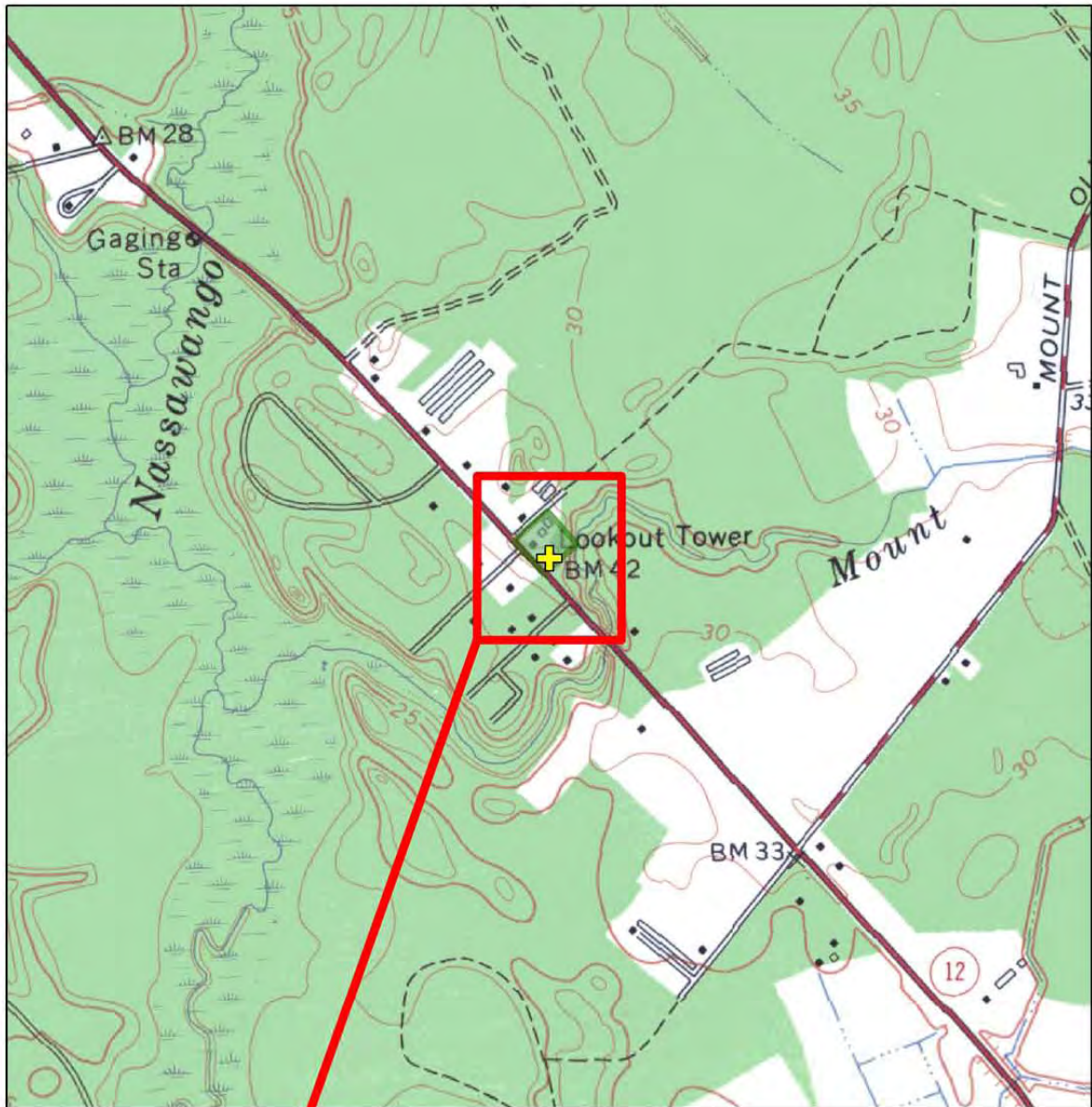




**Nawassango Forestry Tower Complex**



# Nassawango



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

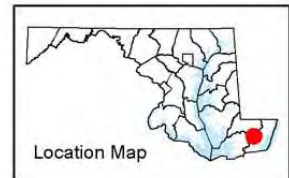


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## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



## **Powellville Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Wicomico

**DNR Land Unit:** Powellville Forestry Tower

**Location:** 2.9 miles NE of Powellville

**Access:** Fronts on Mt. Pleasant Road

**Base Elevation:** 13 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 52, Parcel 43

**Size of Unit:** 2.9 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 252/247

**Deed Date:** May 31, 1943

**Acquired From:** William and Hattie Rayne

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Tower Height:** 145 feet

**Condition:** The tower is in good condition. The wooden steps were replaced around 1996. The top cabin was removed and replaced with a wood deck. The site is overgrown. An abandoned block building sits at the tower's base. The building is stripped, the windows and doors have been removed, and there are holes in the roof. There is no communications equipment on the tower at the present time, although an Emergency Management Tower is located adjacent to the fire tower where a DNR repeater antenna is now located.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** Forestry tower

**Potential Uses:** Communications site

**Recommended Disposition:** The site should be retained for future communications uses. The property should be cleaned up, and the abandoned block building should be removed.

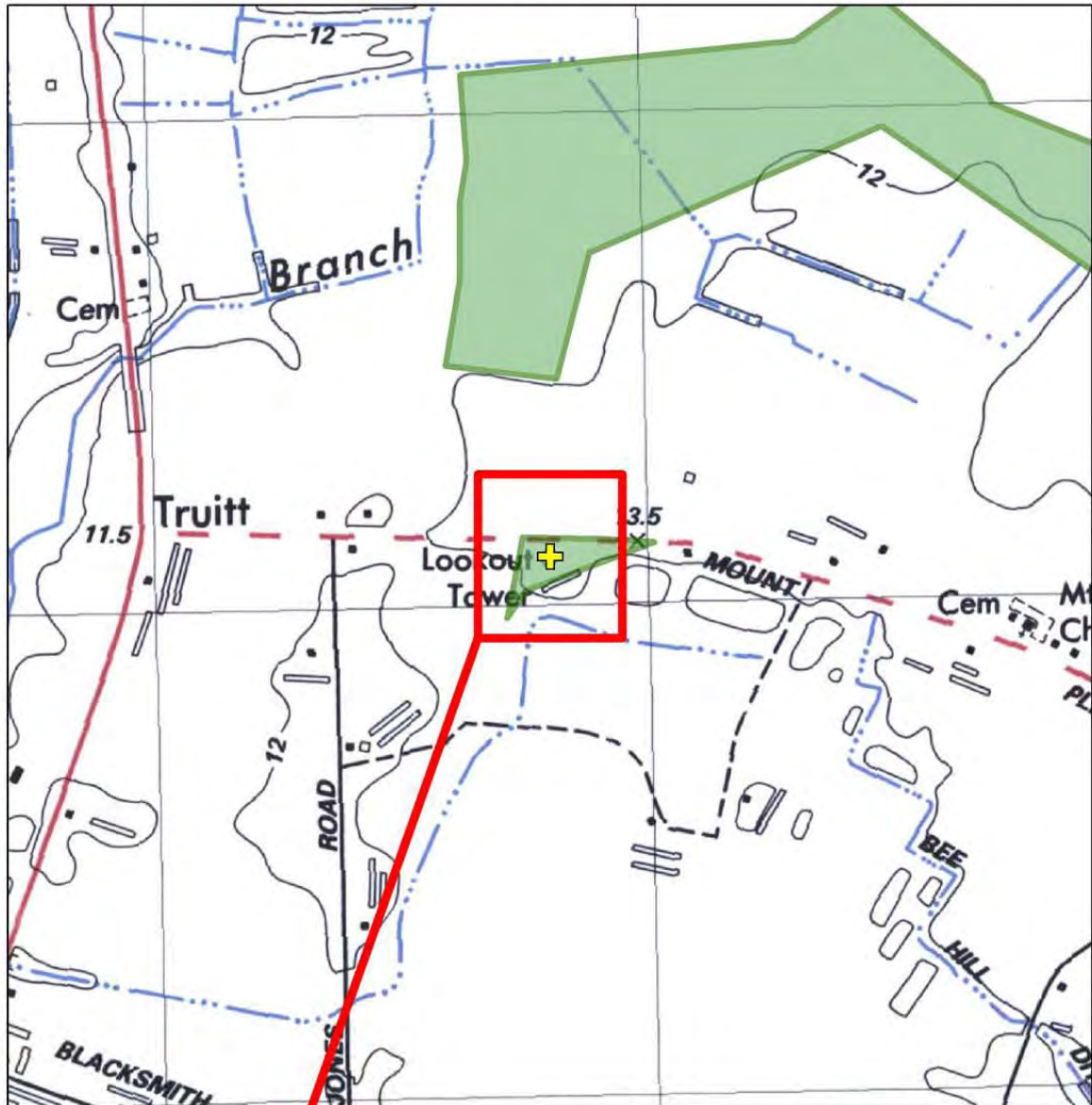
**Other Notes:** Deed transfers land "...unto the State of Maryland, for the use of the Department of State Forests and parks, and its assigns..."



**Powellville Forestry Tower**



# Powellville



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery





1,320 Feet

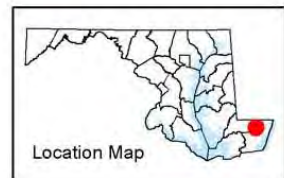


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land



# Central Region Towers



**Burtonsville Forestry Tower** (DNR, No Date). DNR transferred ownership of this 0.32 acre-site to the University of Maryland in 1985.



## **Black Hill Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Cecil County

**DNR Land Unit:** Elk Neck State Forest, Black Hill Ranger Station, Cecil County Project Office

**Location:** South of North East at 130 McKinneytown Road

**Access:** South from North East on Turkey Point Road (Route 272), left on McKinneytown Road, and about one mile down a gravel road.

**Base Elevation:** 280+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 41, Parcel 393

**Size of Unit:** 165 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 1/390

**Deed Date:** July 13, 1943

**Acquired From:** Elmer and Mary Puro

**Date of Tower Installation:** Probably the late 1940's, the tower may have been erected jointly by DNR and ATT.

**Description:** The steel tower is unusual in having two cabs (see photographs), one above the other, possibly resulting from early joint use of the structure by DNR and ATT.

**Condition:** Steps and tower structurally sound, but the cab is in disrepair. The equipment building is also in disrepair and no longer in service. The tower needs to be painted.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** No current use

**Potential Uses:** Communications site

**Recommended Disposition:** The property should be retained as part of the State Forest. If the tower is not to be restored or repaired and secured, the structure and associated improvements should be removed.

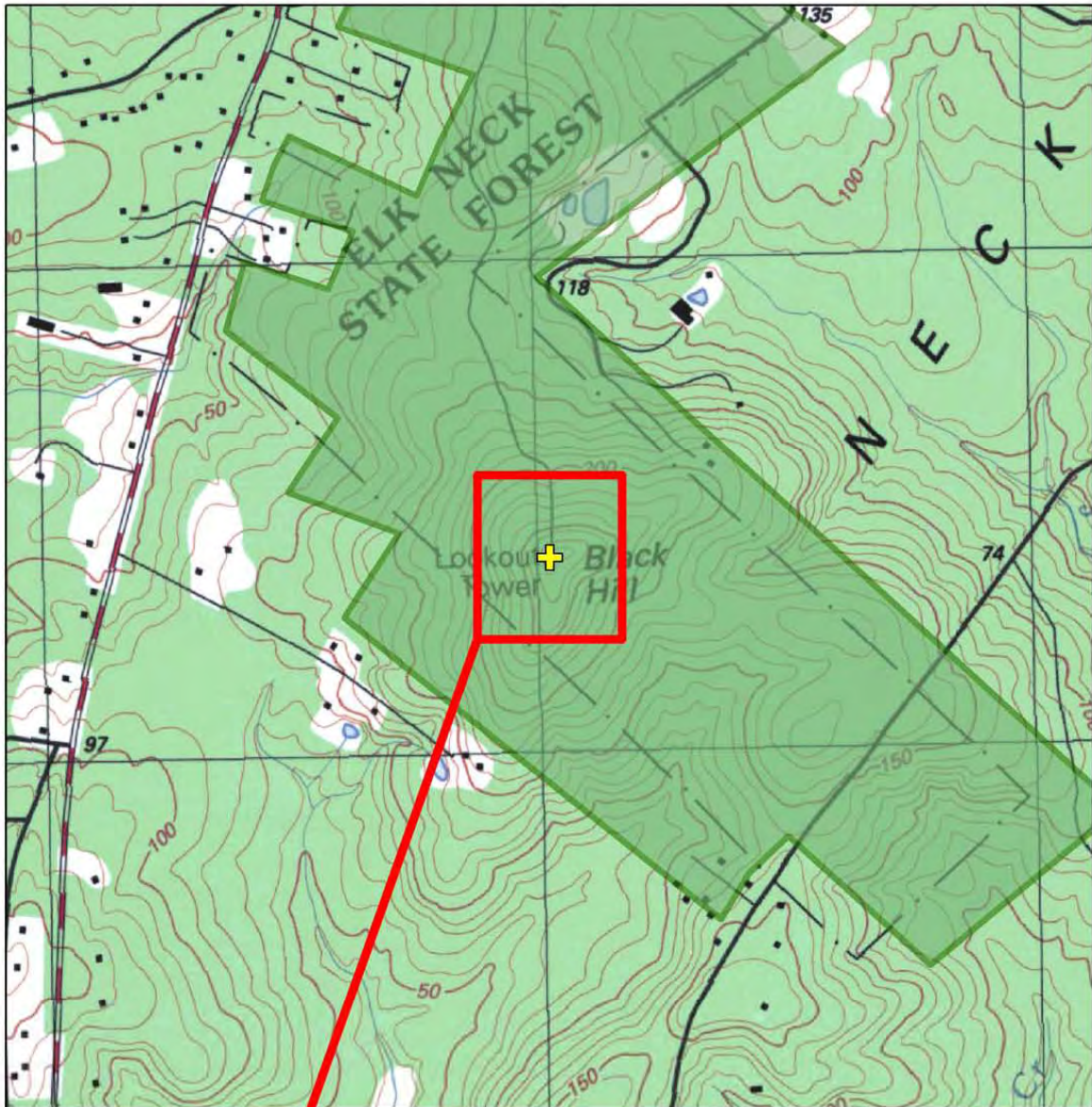
**Other Notes:** This property was not acquired specifically for tower use and the deed contains no protective covenants. We have a R-O-W for an access road to the site dated 19 December 1946.



**Black Hill Forestry Tower**



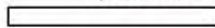
# Black Hill



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1,320 Feet

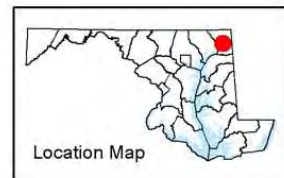


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## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



## **Cub Hill Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Baltimore

**DNR Land Unit:** Baltimore County Project Office, Cub Hill Ranger Station

**Location:** Carney/Cub Hill, 9405 Old Harford Road

**Access:** On the left side of Old Harford Road, north of Summit Avenue

**Base Elevation:** 480 above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 71, Parcel 481

**Size of Unit:** 2.18 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 1243/292

**Deed Date:** 24 July 1942

**Acquired From:** Mary and Frank DeSantis

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Tower Height:** 125 feet

**Condition:** The steel structure is in good condition. The cab has been removed and a wood deck with a railing has been installed. Monitoring and communications equipment has been mounted on the tower. Office and storage buildings range from fair to good condition.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** The platform is being used for long-term research by the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education and the US Forest Service's Neighborhood Ecosystem Project in cooperative effort with DNR Forest Service. Climatological and atmospheric monitoring equipment is mounted on tower.

**Potential Uses:** Communications, climatological/atmospheric monitoring, ecological research

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as regional forest ranger station, communications facility and central platform for ecological/ atmospheric study

**Other Notes:** The deed contains no reverter clause. The State does own the access corridor, but deed grants right of ingress/egress to previous owners to access their remaining land and specifies that access "roadway is to be not less than 16 feet in width."

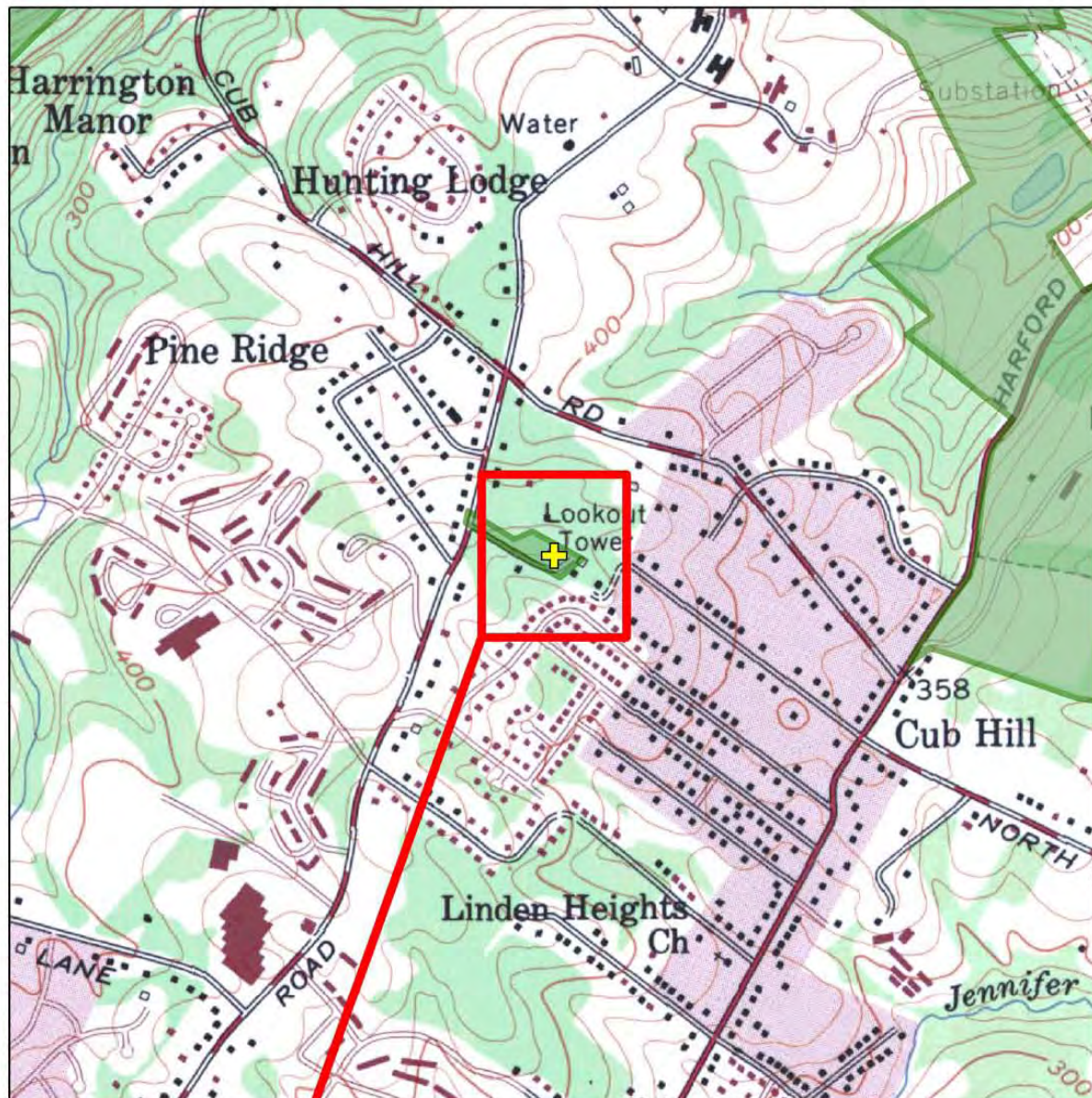




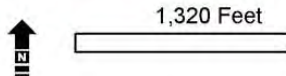
**Cub Hill Forestry Tower Complex**



# Cub Hill



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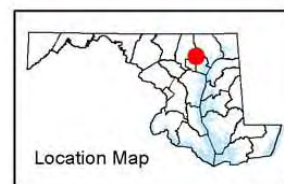


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## Legend

- + Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



## **Hollofield Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Park Service

**County:** Howard County

**DNR Land Unit:** Patapsco Valley State Park

**Location:** NE edge of Ellicott City

**Access:** Church Lane

**Base Elevation:** 550 above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 18, no parcel number provided

**Size of Unit:** 9.43 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 153/331

**Deed Date:** December 5, 1935

**Acquired From:** Emma and William Thompson

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Description:** The forestry tower has been removed and replaced with a modern communications tower. The fenced area at the tower's base includes a propane tank, emergency generator, and a concrete block equipment building.

**Sensitive Features:** None

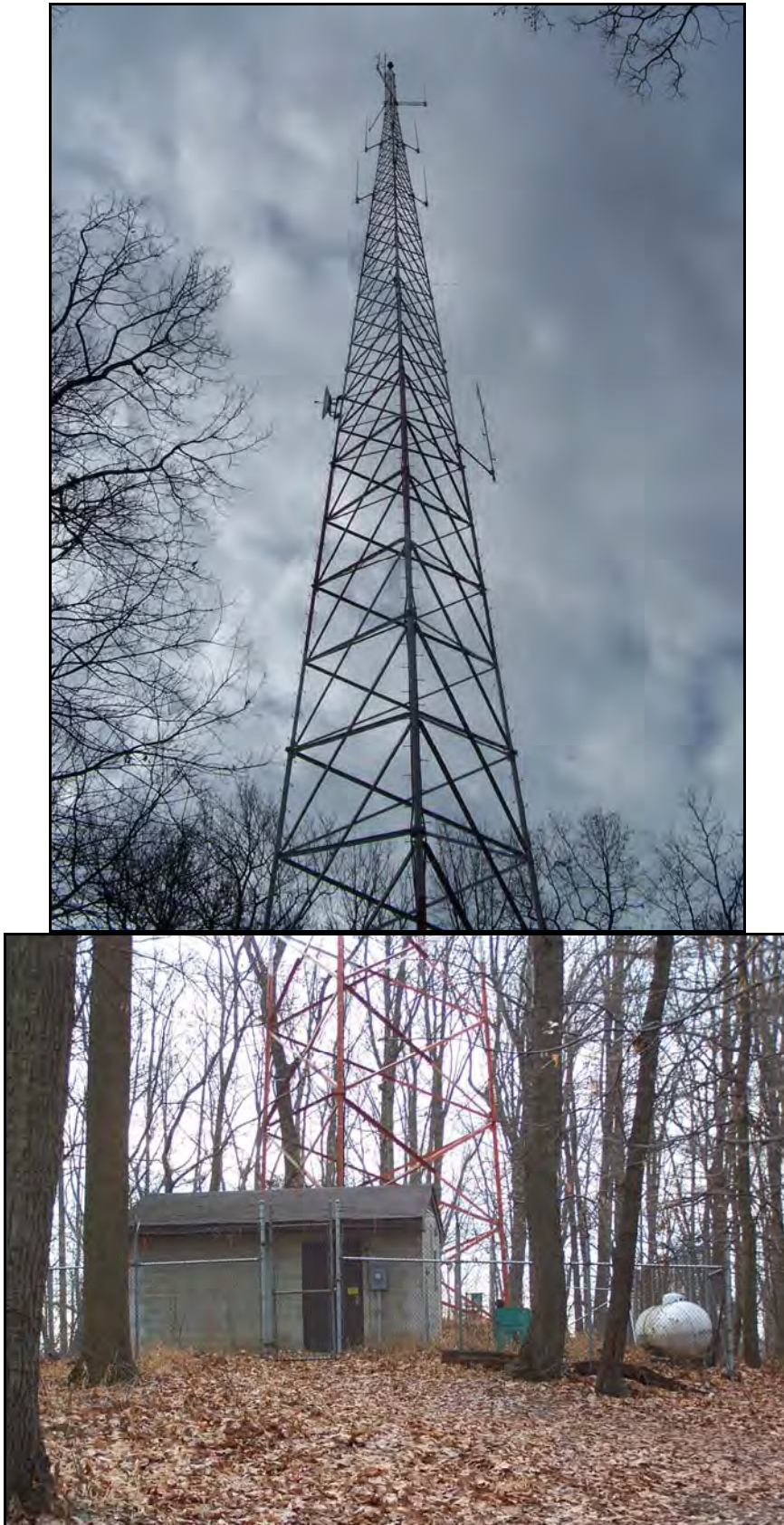
**Condition:** The tower has been removed and is presently used as observation platform at Merkle NRMA.

**Current Use:** Public parkland and communication tower site

**Potential Uses:** Public parkland and communications site

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as part of Patapsco State Park and as a communications facility.

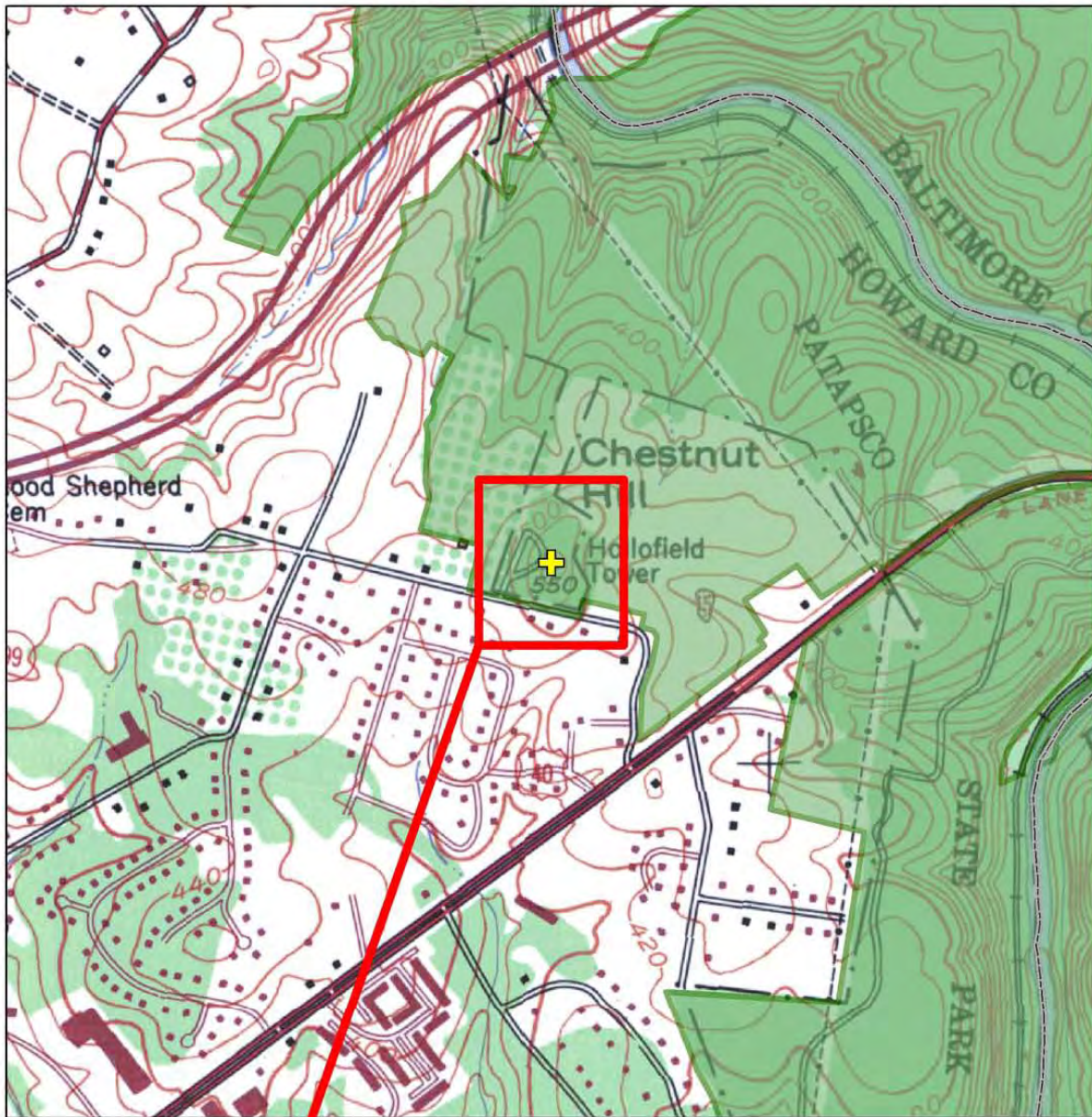




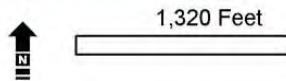
**Hollofield Forestry Tower Site**



# Hollofield



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery

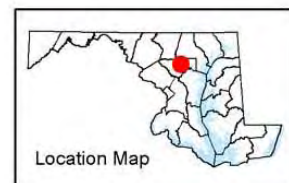


This map was created for general planning purposes.  
Public Lands Policy and Planning compiled it from data sets  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land





## **Madonna Property**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Harford

**DNR Land Unit:** Madonna Work Center

**Location:** Town of Madonna

**Access:** North on Madonna Road from Norrisville Road, the facility site is on the right.

**Base Elevation:** 750+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 23, Parcel 63

**Size of Unit:** 1.67 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 241/19

**Deed Date:** 10 February 1936

**Acquired From:** Upton and Bertha Almony

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1939

**Description:** Forestry tower was removed years ago. Previously, three communications towers were present but have since been replaced by one tower for State agency, federal and local use.

**Condition:** The existing communications tower is new. The Work Center is scheduled for renovation.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** Forest service regional work center and multi-use communications complex

**Potential Uses:** Existing uses to continue

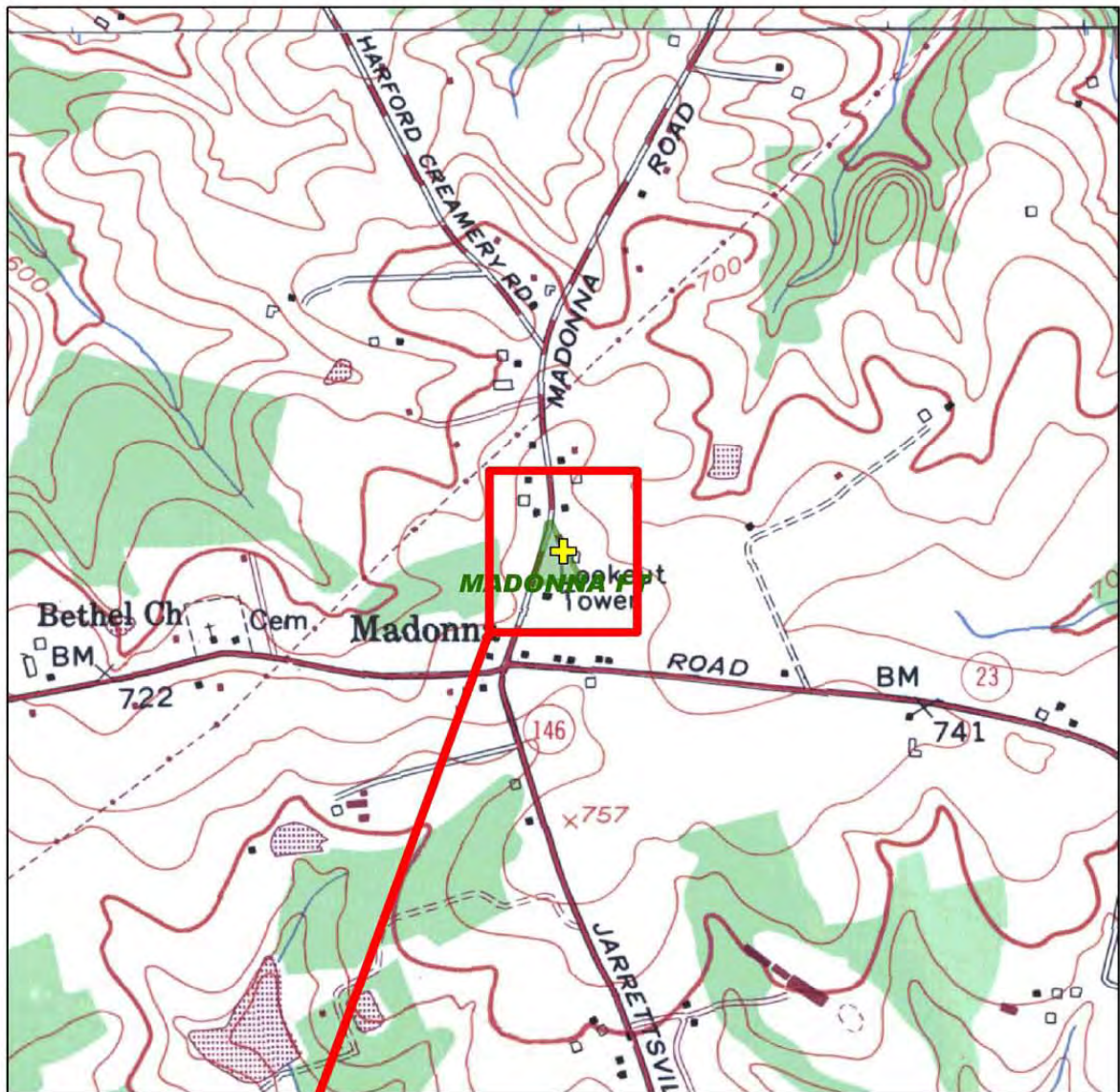
**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as regional forestry operations center and major communications facility

**Other Notes:** No reverter clause



**Madonna Work Center**

# Madonna



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet



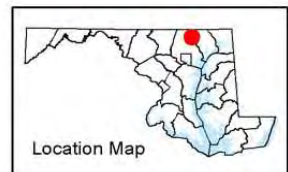
**MARYLAND**  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



Location Map

## **Pleasant Hill Forestry Tower Property**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Cecil

**DNR Land Unit:** Pleasant Hill Forestry Tower

**Location:** Town of Pleasant Hill

**Access:** North on Union Church Road from I-95, the property is on right, at the end of a deeded R-O-W.

**Base Elevation:** 400+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 20, Parcel 584

**Size of Unit:** 10.1 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 24/433

**Deed Date:** 29 June 1935

**Acquired From:** Stockford Farms, Inc.

**Date of Tower Installation:** Tower erected in late 1930's.

**Description:** Unimproved Property, only the concrete footings for the original tower remain.

**Sensitive Features:** No sensitive features, although parcel supports a maturing stand of chestnut oak (12-28" dbh) with a thick mountain laurel shrub layer (see photo).

**Condition:** The tower has been removed, the site is heavily transected with ORV trails, and some dumping has occurred.

**Current Use:** Currently no official use. Recent site visit and examination of aerial photographs shows significant unauthorized use by ATV's.

**Potential Uses:** Site may be suitable for State or private communications use

**Recommended Disposition:** The site should be considered for its potential as a future communications facility. If infeasible, consideration should be given to declaring the tract surplus and sold.

**Other Notes:** The deed contains no reverter clause, and includes a deeded R-O-W for access to property.

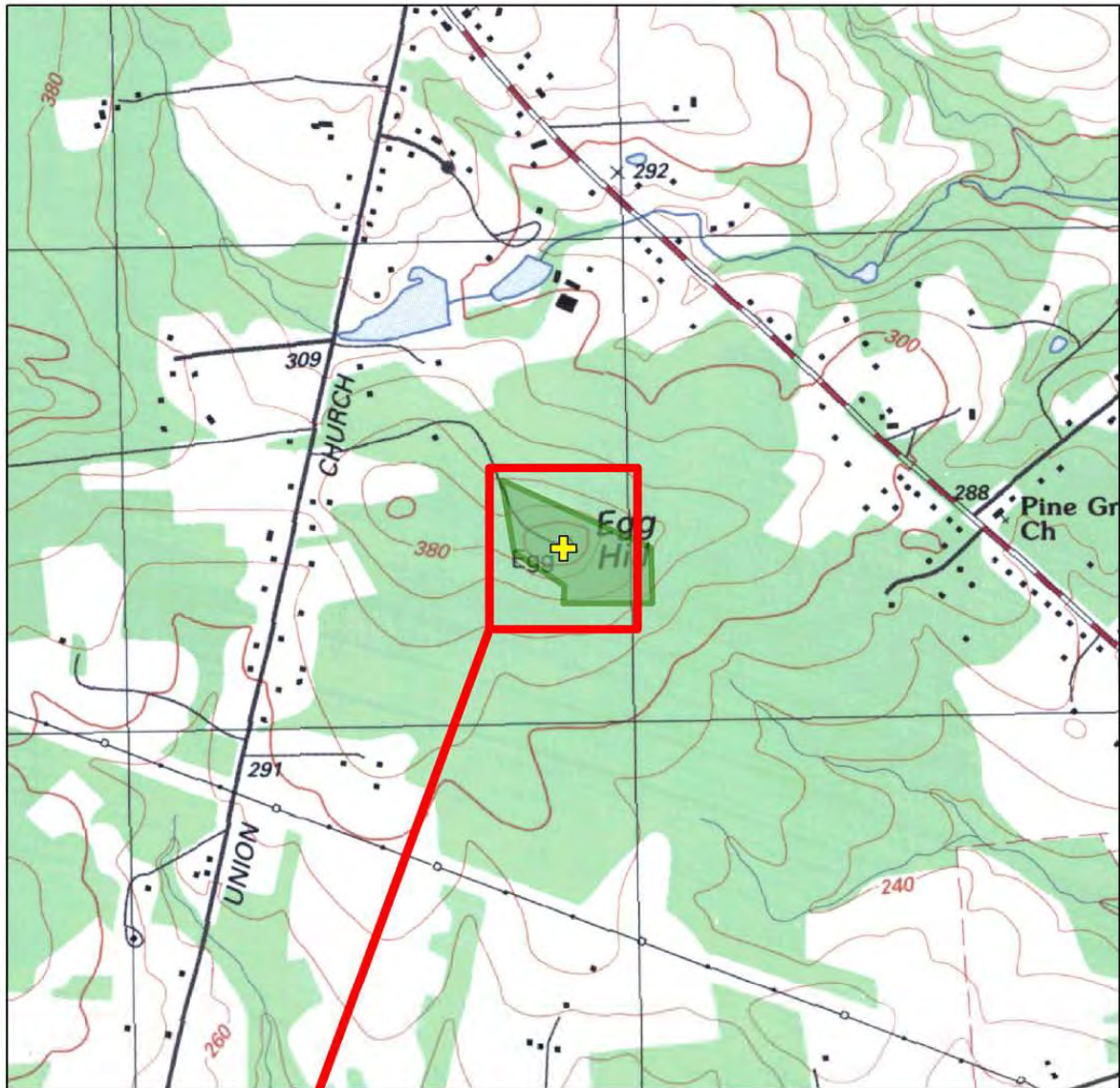




**Pleasantville Forestry Tower Site**



# Pleasant Hill



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

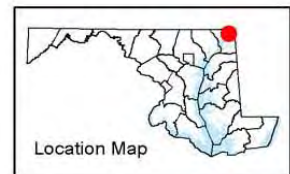


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



# Southern Region Towers



**Great Mills Tower** (DNR, do date). DNR had transferred ownership of the entire property to the county by 2006. The tower structure was removed and reassembled for new duties at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center in Rockville.



## Longhill Forestry Tower

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Anne Arundel

**DNR Land Unit:** Longhill

**Location:** Northeastern Anne Arundel County, along Longhill Road, southeast of Harundale

**Access:** Mountain Road east from Route 2 to Longhill Road (Route 915). Tower site is a left turn off of Longhill Road. Deed Liber/Folio 69/489 includes a ten foot wide ROW from Annapolis Road.

**Base Elevation:** 150+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 16, Parcel 16

**Size of Unit:** 5.25 acres

<b>Acquisition</b>	68/489	Gustove and Victoria Lotze	28 January 1924 (0.01 acre)
<b>Information:</b>	205/368	Gustove Lotze	28 September 1939 (.98 acre)
	298/228	Gustov Lotze	13 January 1944 (0.35 acres)
	531/71	Bernadine and Paul Cumbo	19 June 19490 (0.41 acre)
	696/302	Gustov Lotze	2 May 1952 (3.5 acres)

**Liber/Folio:** See above

**Deed Date:** See above

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1923

**Tower Height:** 60 feet

**Condition:** The tower is in need of repairs, new guy wires and fencing. Prior to publication, funding through Critical Maintenance had been requested. Occupied wooden frame residence, wooden frame office building, several block and/or metal garage and storage buildings are in good to fair condition. Road and paved parking area are in good condition.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** Cab supports antenna and contains local communications base station. Residence building is leased. Newer building contains a local forestry office. Original forestry office is presently not in use.

**Potential Uses:** Residence and buildings are usable as leased property and local office space. Potentially suitable as communications tower site, and local office.

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as communications facility and ongoing local office use.

**Other Notes:** Of the five deeds for this property, only 69/489 has a reverter clause. The property is to be used for the "State's Fire Prevention System," and if "said land and ROW shall cease to be used for such purposes for two years, land and ROW shall revert..." Current use as local forestry office and communications base station meets required usage

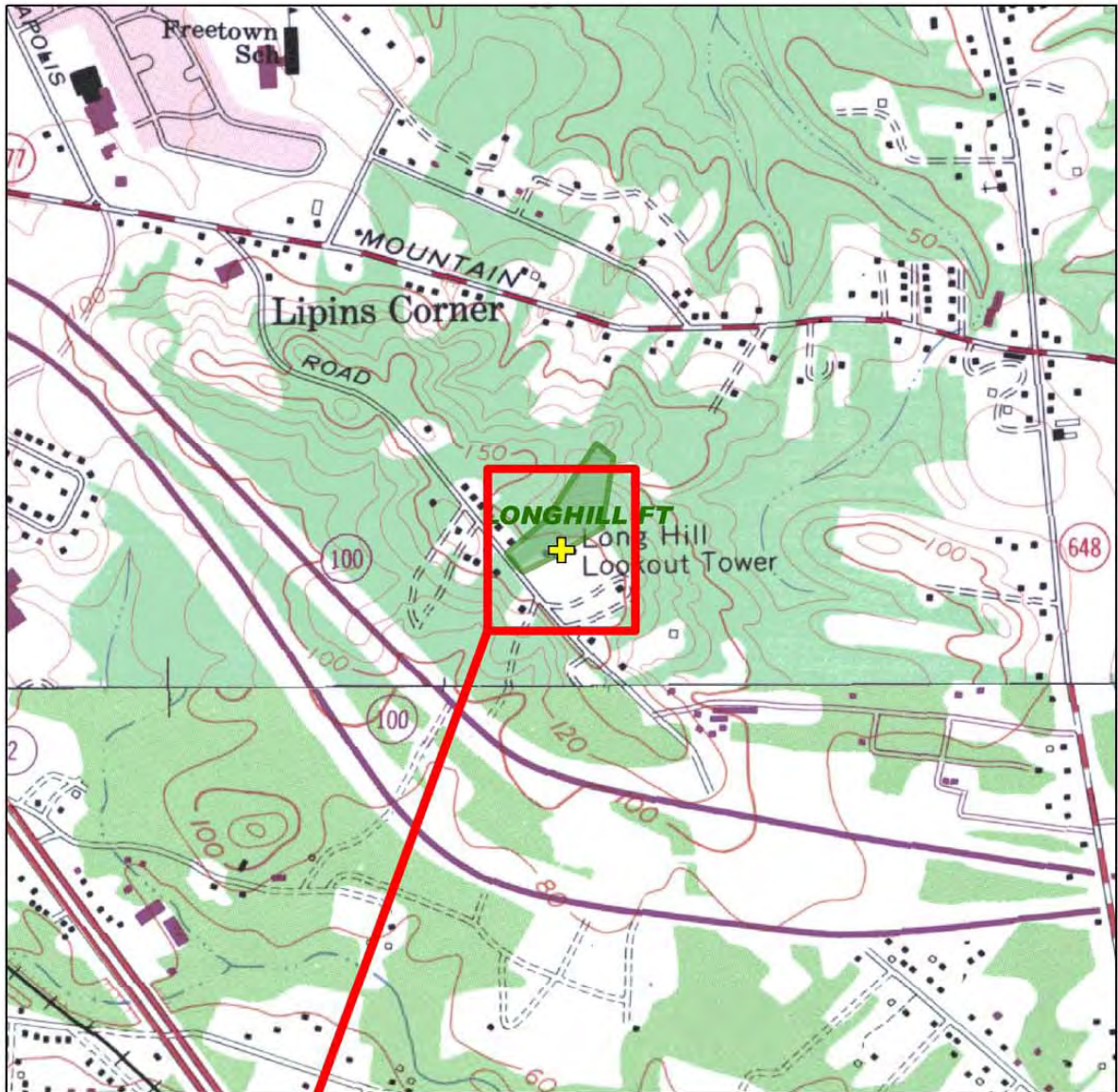




**Longhill Forestry Tower Complex**



# Long Hill



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

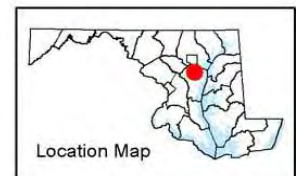


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land



Location Map

## **Welcome Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Charles

**DNR Land Unit:** Welcome Forestry Tower

**Location:** Town of Welcome

**Access:** North on Fire Tower Road from Route 6, the tower is located on left.

**Base Elevation:** 150+ feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 53, Parcel 162

**Size of Unit:** 0.75 acre

**Liber/Folio:** 59/281

**Deed Date:** 18 July 1934

**Acquired From:** Charles T. Ford

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1934

**Tower Height:** 120 feet

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Condition:** Wooden steps need to be replaced, several guy wires are broken, and adjacent trees are growing over into tower. A small block equipment building sits at tower's base. Building and tower, enclosed by chain link fence, are in fair condition. Funding of repairs through Critical Maintenance had been requested as of publication.

**Current Use:** Holds State Police and DNR (NRP) antennas

**Potential Uses:** A repeater 403 antenna may be placed back on the tower.

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as communications link

**Other Notes:** The deed contains a reverter clause: "shall be used by the said State of Maryland and its assigns in the administration of the laws of the State of Maryland relating to Forestry." The tower was erected by CCC (Doncaster Camp) in 1934. When placed in service, the U.S. Navy Power Plant at Indian Head, MD, the Potomac River and the Virginia shoreline were visible from the tower. To become operable, 20 miles of telephone line was constructed to reach the tower.

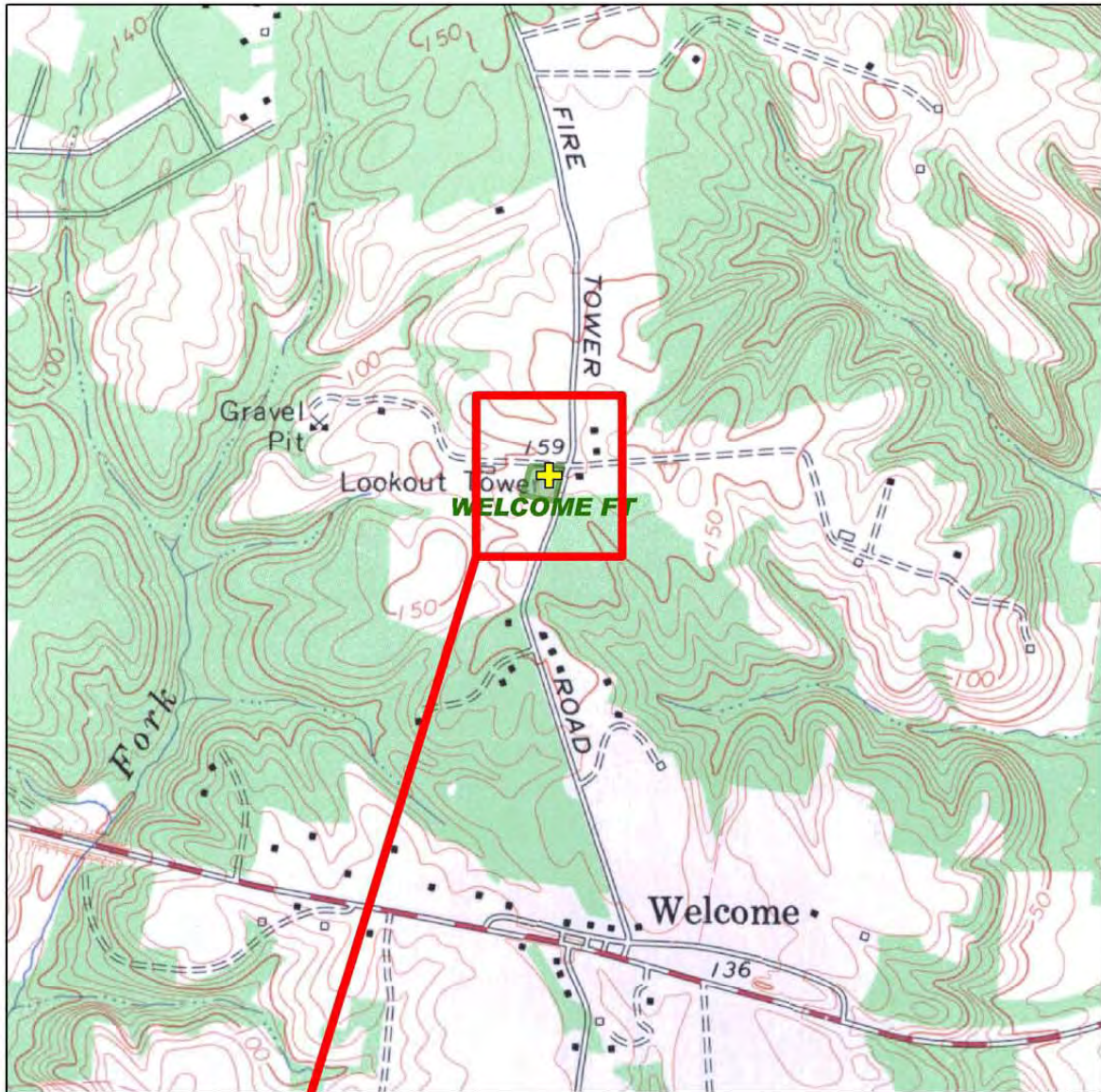




**Welcome Forestry Tower**



# Welcome



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery





1,320 Feet

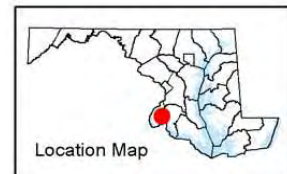


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land



Location Map



# Western Region Towers



**Warrior Mountain Tower** under construction, (DNR, 1922). Tower was removed during the mid 1980s, but the tract remains as part of Warrior Mountain WMA



## **Dan's Rock Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Maryland Forest Service

**County:** Allegany

**DNR Land Unit:** Dan's Rock Forestry Tower

**Location:** Dan's Mountain east of Midland

**Access:** Termination of Old Dan's Rock Road

**Base Elevation:** 2895 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 48, Parcel 37

**Size of Unit:** 10,000 square feet

**Liber/Folio:** 199/627

**Deed date:** April 20, 1944

**Acquired From:** The Crichton Company

**Current Use:** Communications equipment

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1921

**Description:** The quarter-acre tract includes a utility easement for a phone line running eastward. Facility is surrounded by off-site private communications towers and equipment. The tower operates as a repeater station for Forest Service, Park Service, Wildlife and Heritage, and provides Channels 1 and 2 for Allegheny County.

**Condition:** The tower structure, the step structure and cabin are all in disrepair. The equipment building is in fair condition, and is owned by the State Police which operates a communications tower just off-site.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Current Use:** DNR and Allegany County communications site

**Potential Uses:** Communications site

**Recommended Disposition:** Consider disassembling fire tower and erecting modern communications tower

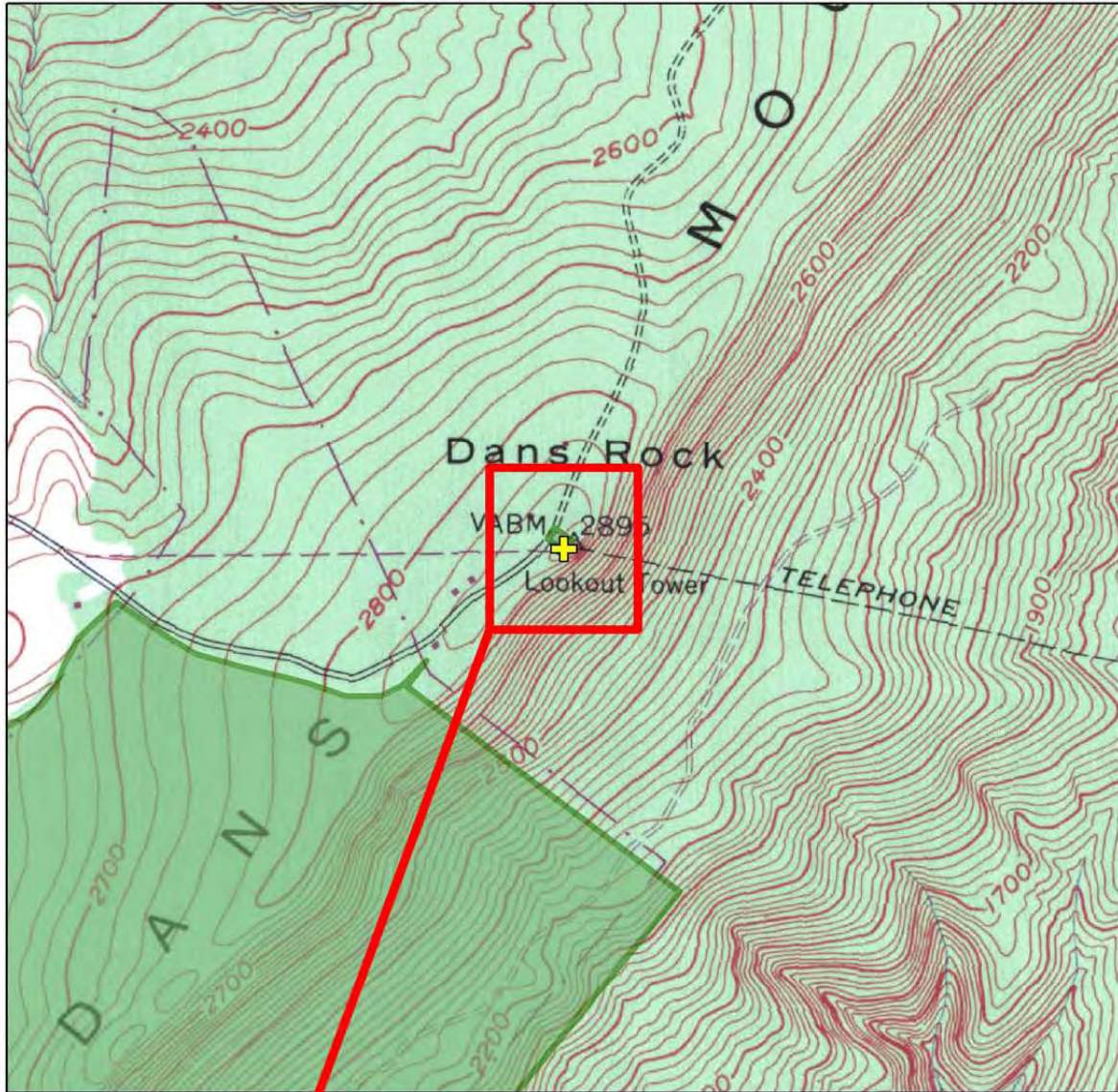
**Other Notes:** Deed contains no reverter clause. The Dan's Rock Forestry Tower was originally erected on private property owned by two coal companies, under a three party agreement with the State executed on 5 August 1920. The tower was jointly installed. The property was not actually conveyed to the State until 1944. A copy of the original agreement is in the files maintained by Public Lands Policy and Planning.



**Dan's Rock Forestry Tower**



# Dan's Rock



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery





1,320 Feet

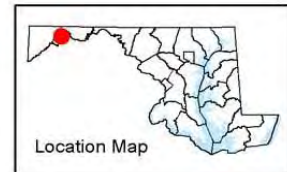


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land



Location Map



## **Elder Hill Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**DNR Land Unit:** Elder Hill Forestry Tower

**County:** Garrett

**Location:** Elder Hill, south of Friendsville

**Access:** Foot access only. Vehicular access was never formalized and was severed by owner of adjacent property about 1984, after 50 years of use. The private road to the tower will not provide for the passage of trucks or construction vehicles.

**Base Elevation:** 2818 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 32, Parcel 109

**Size of Unit:** 1.4 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 107/243

**Deed Date:** 22 January 1934

**Acquired From:** Clayton and Harriett Frazee

**Date of Tower Installation:** Late 1930's

**Tower Height:** 110 feet tall

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Condition:** Tower structure is in fair condition. Step structure and cabin are in moderate to poor condition.

**Current Use:** Tower supports DNR (Forest Service) and county EMS communications. The State no longer has legal access to the property.

**Potential Uses:** MIEMS is currently studying feasibility of erecting a new State tower on this site. If so, existing equipment would be moved to that new tower.

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as communications facility

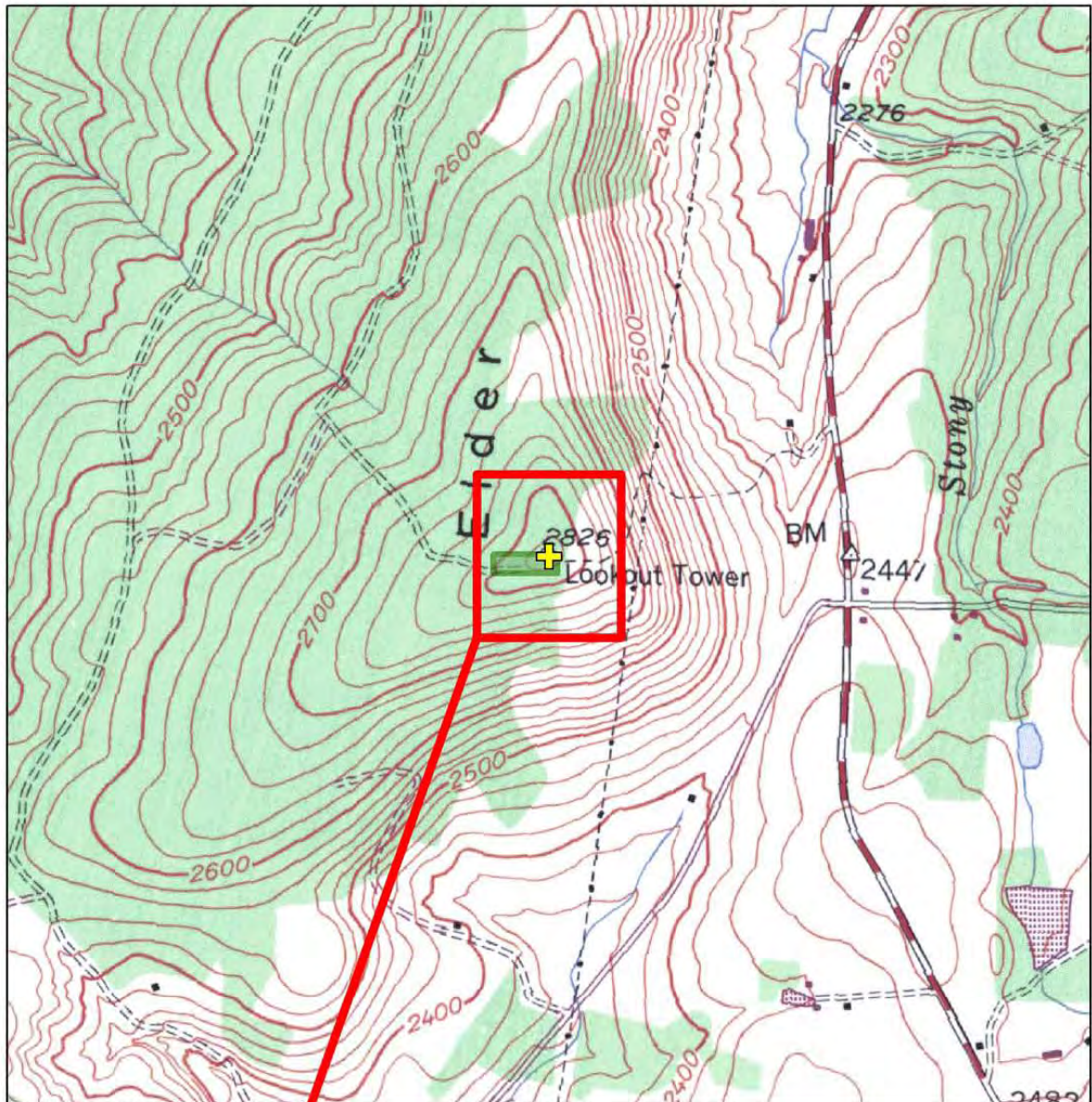
**Other Notes:** This property was part of Military Lot 1576. The deed does include a reverter clause, as follows: "...so long, however, as said property shall be used by the State of Maryland and its assigns, the administration of the laws of the State of Maryland relating to Forestry, and whenever the said State of Maryland or its assigns shall cease to use the aforesaid property for such purposes, then said property shall revert..." Rights of ingress egress were not acquired with the property.



**Elder Hill Forestry Tower**



# Elder Hill



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet





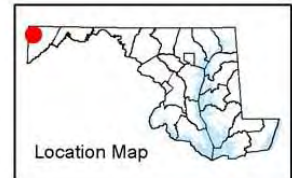
**MARYLAND**  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land





## High Rock Tower

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Garrett

**DNR Land Unit:** Savage River State Forest

**Location:** Crest of Big Savage Mountain SW of Westernport Road

**Access:** Unnamed access road from Westernport Road

**Base Elevation:** 2991 feet above mean sea level

**DNR Index Number:** Savage River State Forest #151

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Tax Map 54, no Parcel number is provided.

**Size of Unit:** Part of adjoining state forest

**Liber/Folio:** 187/553

**Deed Date:** December 1954

**Acquired From:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Description:** Approximately 90 feet in height. No overhead wires lead to site. Tower operates as a solar-powered repeating station serving Forest Service, Park Service, and the Maryland State Police and Natural Resources Police. The chimney and foundation of a ruined cabin are located near the base of the tower.

**Sensitive Features:** Adjacent SF is a designated Wildland. Entrance road to the tower site transects Wildland.

**Condition:** Tower structure has been recently painted and is in good shape. Step structure and cabin are in fair condition. No fencing or equipment buildings are present.

**Current Use:** State Forest, tower is in place and supports DNR communications equipment.

**Potential Uses:** Retain as state forest land and communications facility

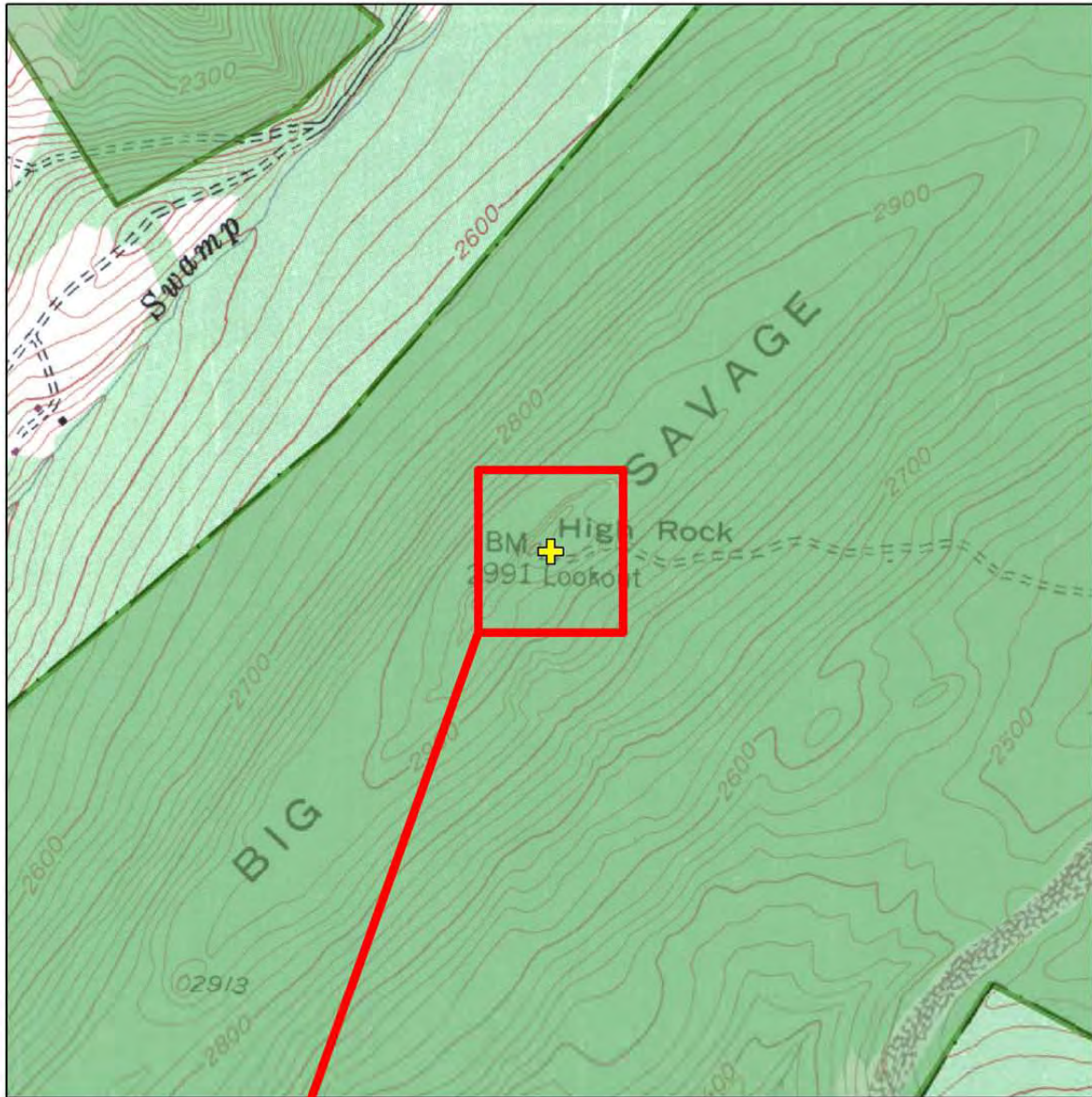
**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as SF land and DNR communications platform

**Other Notes:** Located on LU land; otherwise, no reverter clause.



## High Rock Forestry Tower

# High Rock



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

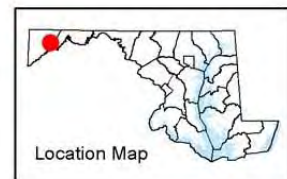


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land





## **Lamb's Knoll Forestry Tower Property**

**Managing Agency:** Park Service

**County:** Frederick County

**DNR Land Unit:** South Mountain State Park

**Location:** Lamb's Knoll, Washington/Frederick county line.

**Access:** Paved unnamed park road accessing site, south from Reno Monument Road.

**Base Elevation:** 1758 feet above mean sea level

**Size of Property:** 134.5 Acres

**Liber/Folio:** 659/654

**Deed Date:** 29 April 1959

**Acquired From:** Mary and Teddy Beachley

**Current Use:** Important communications site with State monopole tower

**Date of Tower Installation:** Original Forestry Tower erected in 1934

**Description:** The original 91 foot tall self-supporting lattice tower was removed in 2006 and replaced with a modern monopole. At the base of the new tower are several equipment buildings, emergency generators and a propane tank, all enclosed in a chain link security fence.

**Sensitive features:** Site overlooks national battlefields and is within meters of the Appalachian Trail (AT). The original tower was determined by MHT not to be historically significant. The tower and equipment building were removed in 2006. To minimize visibility from the AT, the fence is painted black and plastic slats have been inserted in the links of the fence.

**Condition:** The forestry tower has been removed, the site now houses a modern communications complex.

**Potential Uses:** Critical site for regional/local communications equipment

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as Public Service communications center

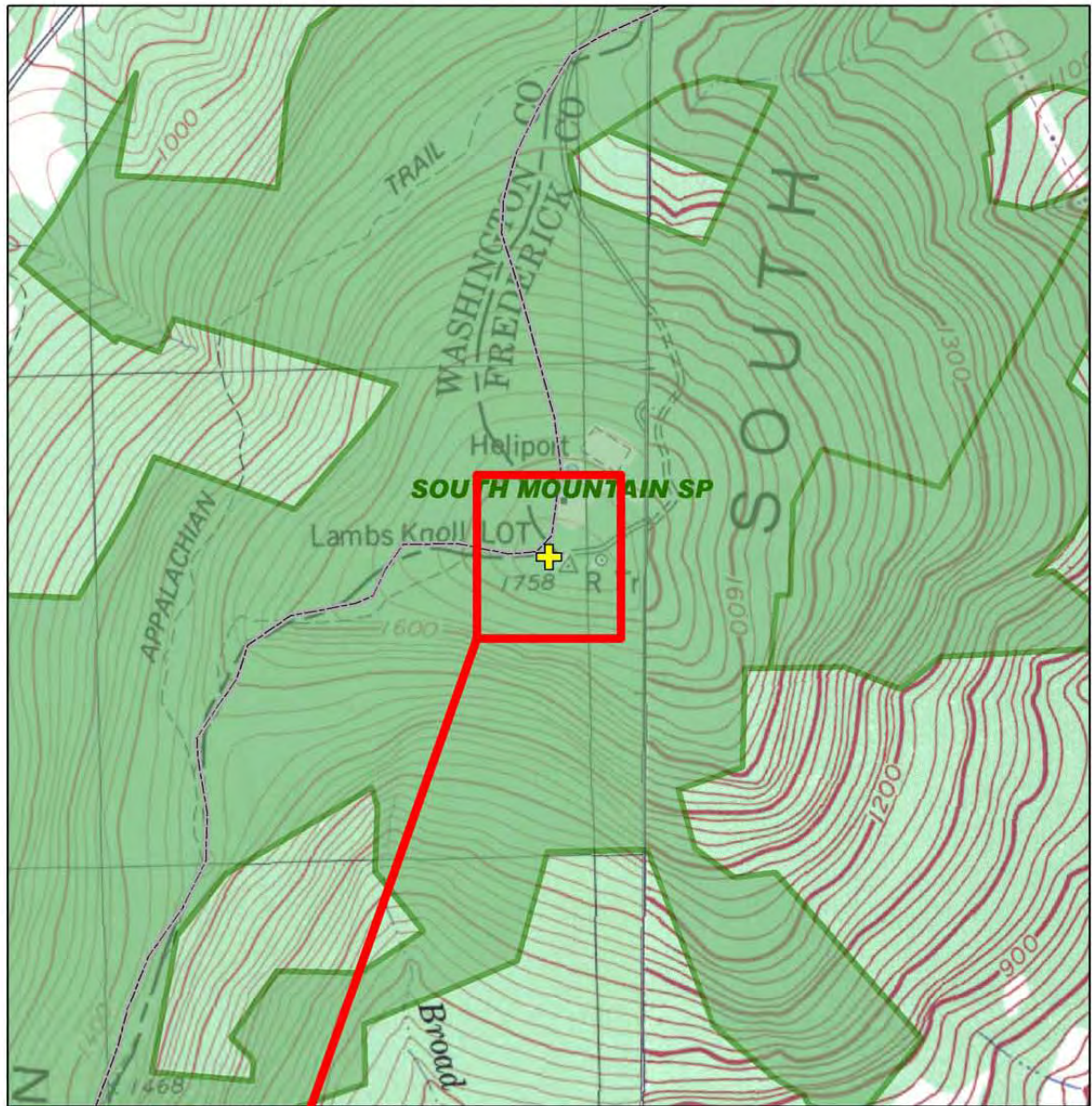
**Other Notes:** During review of proposed new State tower, citizen and agency opposition to original tower was expressed due to perceived adverse visual impact from the National Battlefields in the valley below. All communications equipment from original tower was transferred to the new State tower. Since the tower complex is within the AT Corridor, new construction must be coordinated with NPS and DNR's other AT Partners. An adjacent private communications tower was removed in 2000.



**Lamb's Knoll Forestry Tower Complex. Original forestry tower (shown in photograph above) was removed in 2006.**



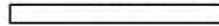
# Lamb's Knoll



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet





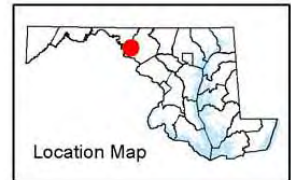
**MARYLAND**  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land





## **McClellan's Lookout Forestry Tower Property**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Washington

**DNR Land Unit:** McClellan's Lookout Forestry Tower

**Location:** Just South of Red Hill (south of Keedysville)

**Access:** Fronts on Red Hill Road.

**Base Elevation:** 1000 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 77, Parcel 132

**Size of Unit:** 8.5 acres

**Liber/Folio:** 211/146

**Deed Date:** 12 December 1939

**Acquired From:** John Miller

**Current Use:** None

**Date of Tower Installation:** Unknown

**Description:** Property has excellent view of valley and South Mountain to the east. Site presently supports regenerating forest.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Condition:** The tower has been removed, only concrete footings remain.

**Potential Uses:** Possible communications site

**Recommended Disposition:** The site should be considered as a possible future communications site or scenic overlook. Should these options not prove desirable, consideration should be given to declare the property excess to the needs of the State.

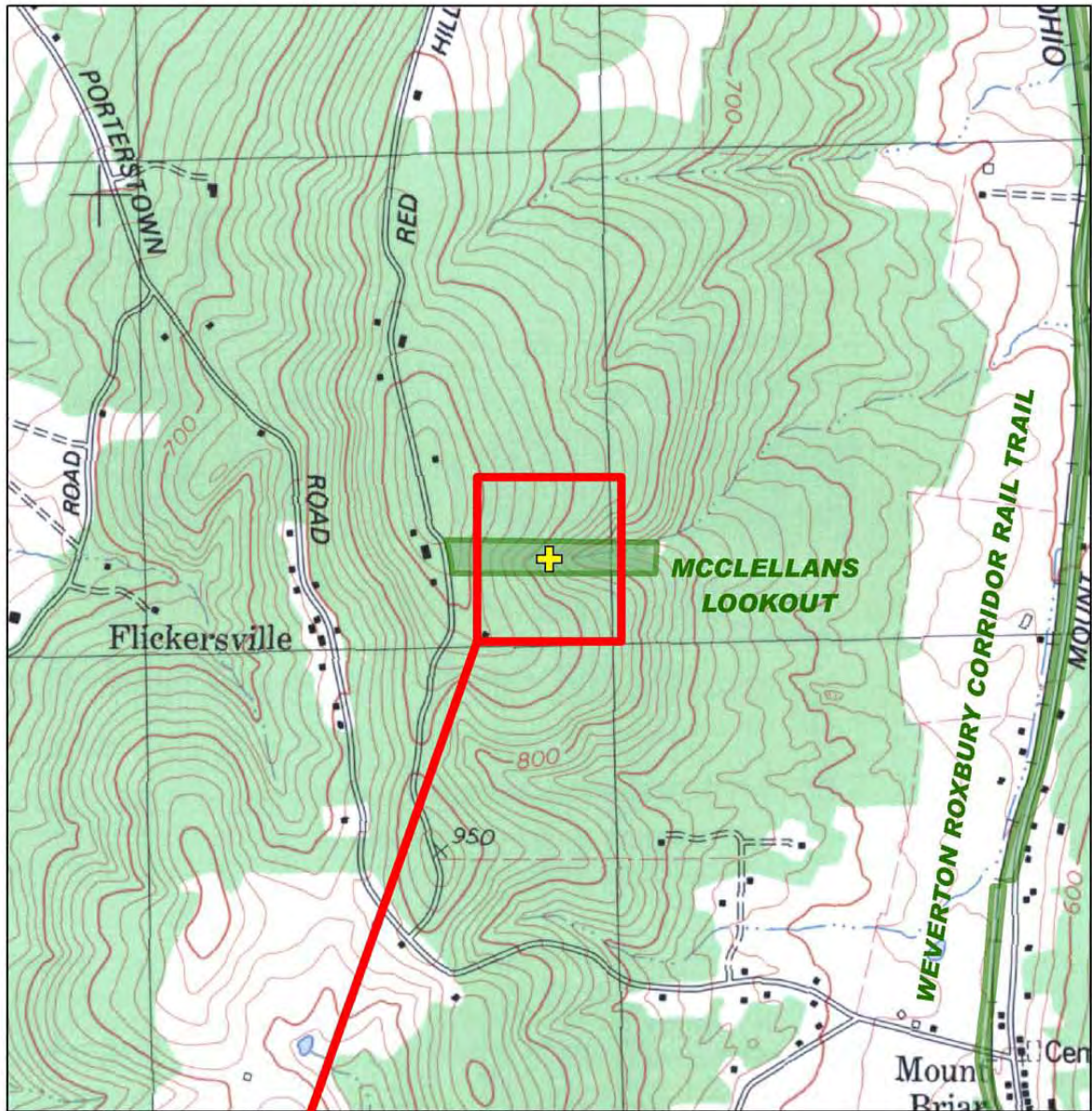
**Other Notes:** The deed contains no reverter clause. The USGS map shows actual "McClellan's Lookout" to be located farther south along the same ridge.



**McClellan's Lookout Forestry Tower Site, and view out across valley**



# MCCLELLAN'S



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet

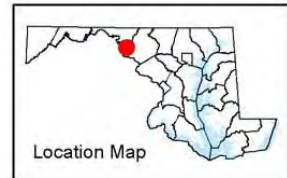


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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

- Forest Tower Property
- DNR Land





## Thayerville Forestry Tower

**Managing Agency:** Park Service

**County:** Garrett

**DNR Land Unit:** Deep Creek Lake State Park

**Base Elevation:** 3021 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 58, no parcel number

**Size of Unit:** Part of Deep Creek Lake State Park

**Liber/Folio:** 197/443

**Deed Date:** July 26, 1956

**Acquired From:** State of Maryland to Department of Forest and Parks

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1921

**Description:** The tower is located within a fenced compound. Also sharing this compound is a modern communications tower owned and operated by West Virginia Public television and several associated equipment buildings. A variety of commercial and public service users are on the WVA tower and the DNR forestry tower.

**Sensitive Features:** Park Service has applied to have the tower placed on the National Register of Historic Lookout Towers.

**Condition:** The tower structure is in good shape. The steps and cabin are in fair condition. Both equipment buildings are in good shape.

**Current Use:** Park Management occasionally allows park visitor access to the tower for interpretive purposes. Most of the communication equipment has been moved to adjacent public tower. A public hiking trail brings visitors to the tower and a plaque commemorating the tower will be mounted along the trail.

**Potential Uses:** Communications site and continued controlled public access

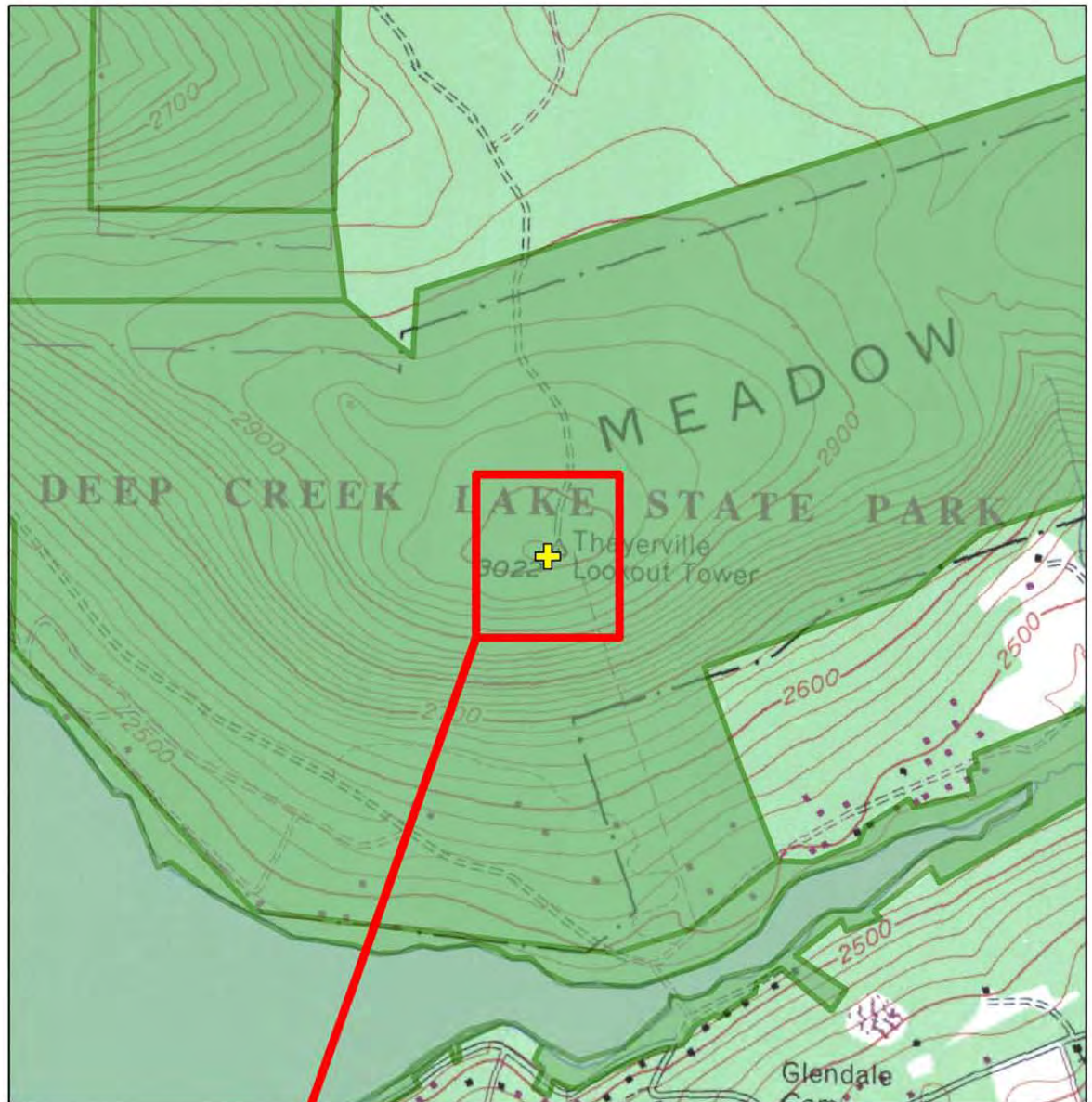
**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as a park amenity and potential communications facility

**Other Notes:** Located on LU land; otherwise, no reverter clause. Tower was moved to its present location from a lower elevation to the northeast some years ago.



### Thayerville Forestry Tower Complex

# Thayerville



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet





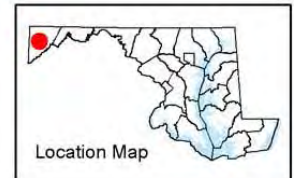
**MARYLAND**  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land



Location Map



## **Town Hill Forestry Tower**

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Allegheny

**DNR Land Unit:** Green Ridge State Forest

**Location:** On Town Hill

**Access:** Fronts on Mountain Road, north of Route 40

**Base Elevation:** 1685 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 20, Parcel 74

**Size of Unit:** 0.52 acre

**Liber/Folio:** 166/603

**Deed Date:** 12 November 1931

**Acquired From:** Resin and Martha Dillon

**Current Use:** Communications tower site

**Date of Tower Installation:** 1931

**Description:** The tower is 80' tall. The site presently includes the forestry tower, a modern communications tower (FBI), and equipment buildings within a fenced compound. County operates antennas on the forestry tower, while antennas for state use are mounted on the modern tower.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Condition:** Tower is structurally sound with recently repaired cabin windows. The cab, the stairs and the equipment buildings are in good repair.

**Potential Uses:** Communications tower site

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as communications site

**Other Notes:** The deed contains the following reverter clause: "The property hereby conveyed reverts to the said Grantors, their heirs or assigns, in case the State of Maryland ceases to use it for forestry purposes." The deed also provides right of ingress and egress over the established roadway.



**Town Hill tower -  
looking south**

05/25/2006



Town Hill Tower - looking south

05/25/2006



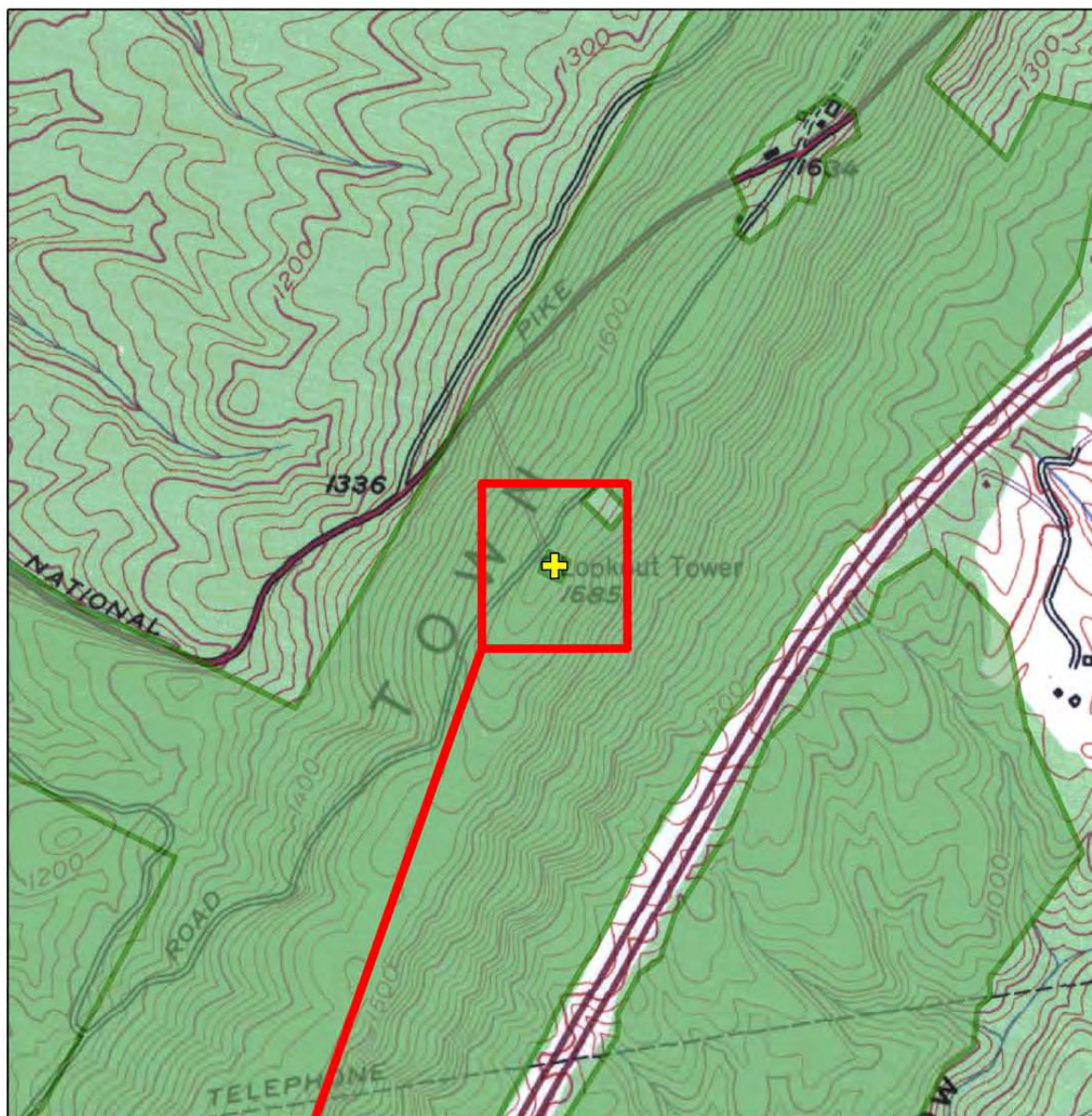
Town Hill Tower - looking east

05/25/2006

### **Town Hill Forestry Tower Complex**



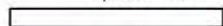
# Town Hill



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery



1,320 Feet





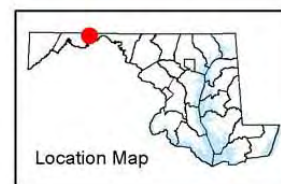
**MARYLAND**  
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Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land





## Warrior Mountain Forestry Tower

**Managing Agency:** Forest Service

**County:** Allegheny

**DNR Land Unit:** Warrior Mountain Forestry Tower

**Location:** Just beyond northern edge of Warrior Mountain WMA

**Access:** Fire Tower Road (unpaved) from Rocky Road

**Base Elevation:** 2185 feet above mean sea level

**Tax Map and Parcel:** Map 14, no parcel number given

**Size of Unit:** 0.25 acre

**Liber/Folio:** 161/173

**Deed Date:** 20 March 1923 (recorded 19 July 1929)

**Acquired From:** Warrior Mountain Orchard Company and Moskwa Land and Development Company

**Current Use:** Communications tower site

**Date of Tower Installation:** The original forestry tower was erected in 1922.

**Description:** Tract is a circular area of land 140 feet in diameter, with 10 foot wide R-O-W for a telephone line.

**Sensitive Features:** None

**Condition:** The forestry tower was removed about 20 years ago. A modern communications tower now occupies the site.

**Potential Uses:** Communications tower site

**Recommended Disposition:** Retain as communications site

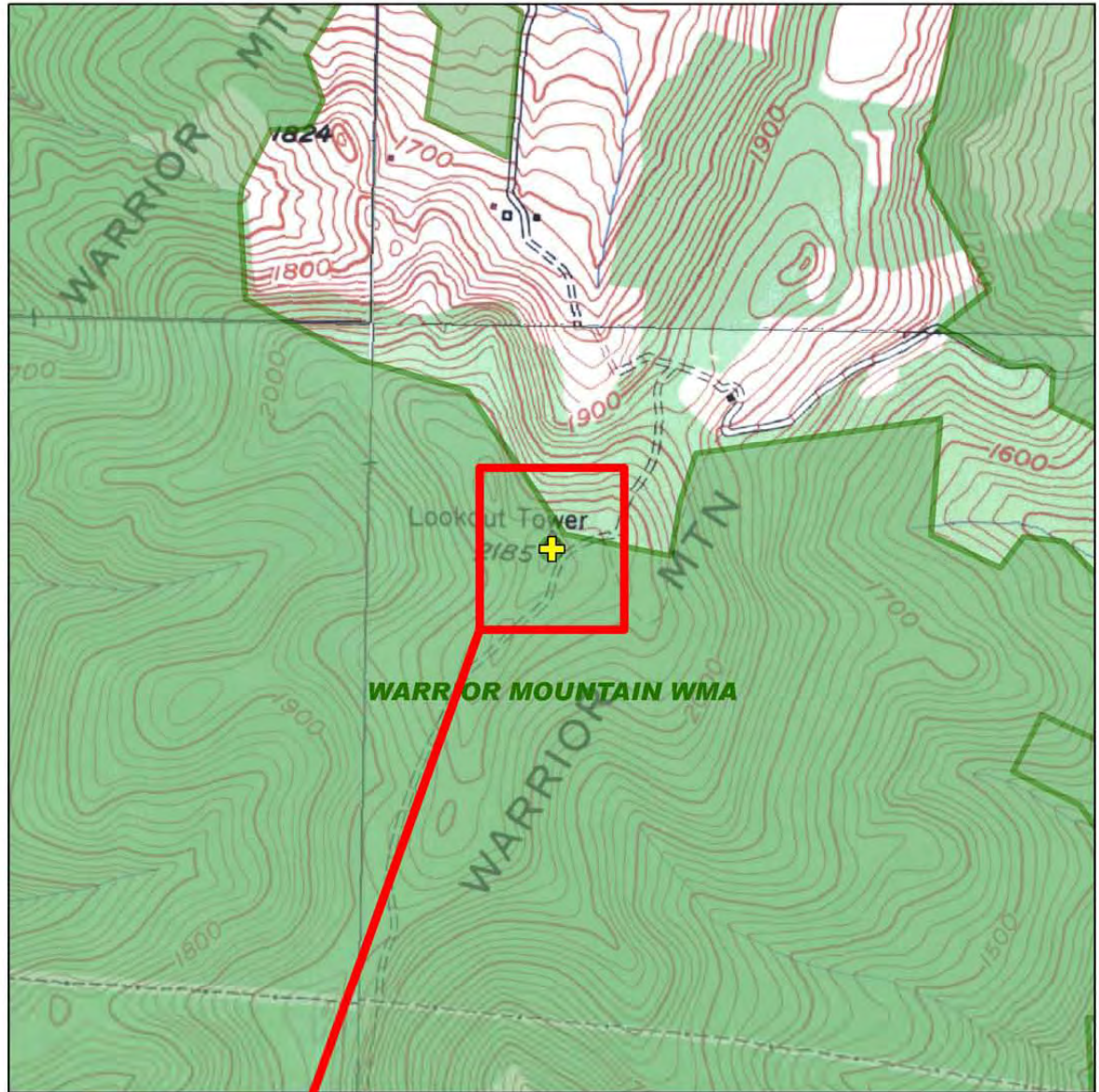
**Other Notes:** The deed contains a reverter clause, transferring land "...unto the State of Maryland for the use of the State fire protection system, and whenever they shall cease to be used for such purposes for a period of two years then they shall revert to the grantors, their heirs and assigns."



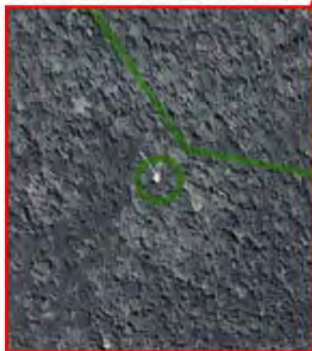
## Warrior Mountain Forestry Tower Site



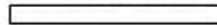
# Warrior Mountain



Enlarged with 2005 Imagery





1,320 Feet

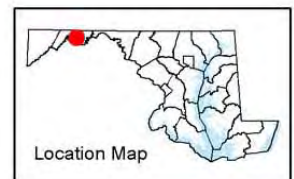


This map was created for general planning purposes. Public Lands Policy and Planning compiled it from data sets available at the time of analysis; current conditions may differ.

Apr 10, 2007

## Legend

-  Forest Tower Property
-  DNR Land



Location Map