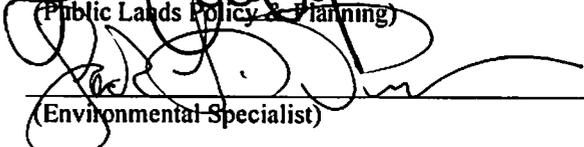


POCOMOKE STATE FOREST

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2009

Prepared:	 _____ (Forest Manager)	2-12-09 _____ Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Regional Manager)	2/12/09 _____ Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Public Lands Policy & Planning)	3/09/09 _____ Date
Approved:	 _____ (Environmental Specialist)	3.11.09 _____ Date

POCOMOKE STATE FOREST
PROPOSED ANNUAL PROGRAM OF WORK
FISCAL YEAR 2009

Prepared by:
Samuel J. Bennett, Forest Manager

A. FOREST OVERVIEW

Pocomoke State Forest (15,163) is located in Worcester County Maryland, generally between Snow Hill and Pocomoke City. The State Forest is noted for the native loblolly pine stands and cypress swamps that border the Pocomoke River.

The State Forest is managed for a variety of resources including recreation; water; wildlife; timber; and natural beauty. Of the forests 15,163 acres, 53% (7,997 acres) is reserved for multiple use management with an emphasis on forest management; 35% (5,286 acres) is for preservation and protection of special habitat, historical areas, research areas and threatened or endangered species; 12.0% (1,880 acres) for the protection of water quality.

There are several important features of this forest that affect the management of its nature resources:

- When the majority of the State Forest was required (1930s & 1940s) much of it was in a cutover condition and abandoned farmland.
- Soils associations are level or nearly level, well drained to poorly drained, and have subsoil dominantly of sandy clay loam or silty clay loam.
- More than 50% of the forest is dominated by loblolly pine. Loblolly pine is a very fast growing southern pine; therefore, it is fully mature at 50 – 60 years of age. It is well adapted to moist, sandy soils and will invade abandoned fields and cutover areas.
- As a southern pine, it is very susceptible to the southern pine bark beetle (especially once it reaches maturity.) This insect thrives in the warm climate of the Lower Eastern Shore. Cyclic infestations explode into full-scale epidemics every six to eight years. These (epidemics) have a significant effect on normal harvesting schedules.

B. AWP Summary

Pocomoke State Forest will harvest 215.5 acres within seven different sales. The regeneration harvest method will be used on two sites totaling 51.4 acres. The seed tree method will be used on two sites totaling 64.4 acres. Three sites totaling 99.7 acres will be commercially thinned. Volume estimate for these sales totals 1,700 000 board-feet of pine sawtimber and 1,300 cords of pine pulpwood.

Standard Harvest Requirements:

The following requirements are pertinent to all timber sales. In effect, these are “Best Management Practices” (BMP) and are accounted for when preparing the sale, supervising the logging operation, closing the sale or otherwise embodied within the contract itself. These requirements were applied to each sale area when the Interdisciplinary Team conducted on-site reviews.

- Continue to drain, regenerate and stabilize all haul roads, skid trails and landings where appropriate.
- Provide scenic “buffers” along main travel roads and trails as deemed appropriate.
- Provide sediment control buffers adjacent to streams and wetlands.
- Provide buffers adjacent to rare and endangered natural communities.
- Prohibit cutting within “buffers.”
- Provide timbered wildlife corridors between sale areas.
- Feature and retain pine within the sale areas.
- Retain wildlife trees (mast and den trees,) when available.

C. Maintenance Projects

- *Visitor parking areas will be monitored monthly and kept free of debris and vegetation.
- * Gates and bulletin boards throughout the forest will be repaired as needed.
- *Woods road maintenance will involve mowing, grading, filling holes, cleaning culverts and removal of sapling and pole size trees. Herbicides may also be utilized to control invasive plants and improve access.
- *Artificial nesting boxes (wood duck, bluebird, and osprey) will be checked for needed repairs and if necessary removed or replaced.
- *Boundary lines are maintained on a 6-8 year cycle. This involves removal of brush and small trees, and marking boundary lines with yellow paint. Signs will also be placed along the boundary lines designating the public land boundary.

D. Recreation Projects

*General trail maintenance work is proposed for the Pusey Branch Hiking Trail, Milburn Landing Hiking Trail, Tarr Tract Bike Trail, Chandler Tract Off Road Vehicle Trail and the Disabled Hunter Access Trails. The Pusey Branch Hiking Trail (1/2) mile and Milburn Landing Hiking Trail (4.5 miles) are foot trails along woods roads that require routine maintenance to provide users with a quality outdoor experience. The Tarr Tract Bike Trail is 4.5 miles in length and consists of three trails (Yellow Trail, Green Trail and Blue Trail) which require occasional maintenance to improve trail conditions. The ORV Trail consists of three main trails (Blue Trail, Red Trail and Yellow Trail). The entire ORV Trail System is 6.5 miles in length and requires annual maintenance to keep trail degradation to a minimum. The Disabled Hunter access trails consists of three trails totaling 4.0 miles that require maintenance to allow for disabled hunter access. Maintenance work will involve mowing and removal of overhanging/encroaching vegetation. Trail markers and signs will also be posted. Stone and fill material will be used to maintain the ORV trail.

*Funds from a National Recreational Trails Grant were applied for to improve existing trail/road system in the Nazareth Church Tract. The Nazareth Church Tract is 4,237 acres and contains approximately 16 miles of woods roads. The road system is utilized by various user groups including hikers, mountain bikers, hunters and horseback riders. Maintenance work would involve mowing, brush removal, sign posting, gate construction and eradication of invasive plants.

E. Special Projects

- * Seek dual forest certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI).
- * Provide and assist with local and regional tours and environmental programs.
- * Provided assistance to the State Tree Nursery with maintenance of Seed Orchards.
- * Create a GIS database to maintain forest information.
- * Protect the integrity of historic and archaeological areas.

F. Silvicultural Projects

Timber Sales

1. **Compartment # 3 – Nazareth Church Tract – 25.0 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 25.0-acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. Access is off Old Furnace Road. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Soils present include the well-drained Runclint, and the poorly drained Askecksy and Hurlock. Site index is 67. Average age of the stand is 85. Last 10-year radial growth is 0.4 inches. Current basal area is 100 for pine and 33 for hardwoods. The stand will be allowed to seed in naturally and supplemented by hand planting, if necessary. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained. A fifty foot uncut buffer will be maintained along Old Furnace Road.
2. **Compartment #5 – Nazareth Church Tract – 34.4 Acres**
A seed tree harvest is proposed for this 34.4 acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. Access will be off Old Furnace Road. No new roads will be established. No streams have been identified in the sale area. Approximately 1.0 acre of the sale area is classified as Palustrine Forested Broad Leaved Deciduous Temporarily Flooded wetland. Soils present include the moderately well drained Klej and the poorly to very poorly drained Askecksy, Hurlock, Mullica and Manahawkin. Average age of the stand is 88. Site index is 72. Last 10-year radial growth is 0.7 inches. Current basal area is 113 for pine and 40 for hardwoods. The stand will be allowed to seed in naturally. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained. The sale area is adjacent to the Furnace Road Power-line Special Management Zone (SMZ). No equipment will be allowed in the SMZ and extra care will be taken to prevent any slash from falling into the Special Management Zone.

3. **Compartment #8 – Nazareth Church Tract – 26.4 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 26.4-acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. Access will be off Old Beech Road. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Soils present include the poorly to very poorly drained Mullic-Berryland and Fallsington, and the excessively drained Evesboro. Average age of the stand is 84. Site index is 80. Last 10-year radial growth averages 0.8 inches. Current basal area is 101 for pine and 30 for hardwoods. The stand will be regenerated naturally and supplemented by hand planting if necessary. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained.
4. **Compartment #2 – Old Furnace Tract II – 30.0 Acres**
A seed tree harvest is proposed for this 30.0-acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Old Furnace Tract II. Access will be off Route 12. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Soils present include the poorly drained to very poorly drained Mullic-Berryland and Askecksy loamy sand. Average age of the stand is 89. Site index is 75. Last 10-year radial growth averages 0.3 inches. Current basal area is 90 for pine and 35 for hardwoods. The stand will be regenerated naturally. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained.
5. **Compartment #6 – Nazareth Church Tract – 17.0 Acres**
A commercial thinning is proposed for this 17.0 acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. The stand was harvested in 1985 and allowed to seed in naturally. Access will be off Old Furnace Road. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands are present. Basal area will be reduced to 70 sq. ft. per acre.
6. **Compartment # 20 Whitesburg Tract – 44.5 Acres**
A commercial thinning is proposed for this 44.5 acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Whitesburg Tract. The stand was harvested in 1984 and regenerated naturally. Access will be off Sand Road. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Basal area will be reduced to 70 sq. ft. per acre.
7. **Compartment # 40 – Chandler Tract – 38.2 Acres**
A commercial thinning is proposed for this 38.2 acre pine plantation located in the General Management Zone of the Chandler Tract. This thinning involves two stands. Stand A (21.4 acres) was harvested in 1982, site prepared (drum chopped) in 1982, and planted in 1983. Herbicide was applied to residual hardwoods in 1984. Stand B (16.8 acres) was harvested in 1984 and planted in 1986. Herbicide was

applied to residual hardwoods in 1987. Access will be off Route 113. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Basal area will be reduced to 70 sq. ft. per acre.

Reforestation

This work will involve planting recently cutover areas with loblolly pine seedlings. Planting will be done on a 10' X 10' spacing. Natural regeneration will also be favored. In addition to pine, other plants and grasses will be allowed to regenerate the sites. Regeneration surveys will be performed to determine stocking levels prior to planting.

Salvage Cutting

In the event of trees being killed or damaged by various injurious agents (insects, fire, weather related damage, etc.) an emergency salvage timber sale procedure will be performed to utilize the injured trees while minimizing the loss. The severity of the cutting depends upon the proportion of the stand occupied by the damaged trees. While carrying out the process of timber evaluation, the DNR interdisciplinary team and the Pocomoke State Forest Advisory Committee will be notified of the event and given two weeks to review and comment on the sale. Upon completion of the timber evaluation and review of comments, the timber sale will be advertised and mailed to prospective bidders, and submitted for pre-approval if no adverse effects are acknowledged.

Pre-commercial Thinning

Nazareth Church Tract - Compartment # 6

A pre-commercial thinning is proposed for this 20.0 acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. The stand was harvested in 1998 and regenerated naturally. Thinning the stand at this time will reduce the stocking to an acceptable level, improve the growth rate of the remaining trees and shorten the time interval to the first commercial thinning. Hard mast producing trees will be retained for wildlife and species diversity. This project will be contracted out and residual trees will be left on a 10' X 10' spacing.

Review Process

The annual work plan is reviewed by the DNR Interdisciplinary team and the Pocomoke State Forest Citizens Advisory Committee. The general public is also provided a 30 day comment period. Members of the DNR interdisciplinary team included representatives from Forest Service, Land Acquisition and Planning, Fisheries Service, Wildlife & Heritage Service, & Park Service.

Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee represent the following disciplines: Recreational User; Forestry Professional; Wildlife Professional; Economic Interest; Conservation Interest; Recreation Professional; Ecologist; Student

Representative; Timber Industry; Recreational Hunter; Recreational Fisherman; Indigenous Peoples.

G. Monitoring Projects

*Forest personnel will make routine ground and aerial surveys to observe the presence of damaging insects throughout the Forest. Once an outbreak area is observed, it will be assigned a control priority and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) would be notified.

*Visitor surveys will periodically be performed to determine types of forest users and numbers.

*Logging site inspections will be performed to ensure forest products operator is in compliance with contract and best management practices.

*Wildlife and Heritage service will be looking at the impacts of patch size, landscape connectivity and land-use history on invertebrate and plant species richness on inland sand dunes.

*The Forest will continue to provide areas for research. Current and past projects include seed source study, reptile and amphibian abundance and distribution, gypsy moth impacts in mixed pine / hardwood stands, songbird population and breeding success in loblolly pine ecosystems, sediment and nutrient deposition in forested floodplain's, hydric soils and associated vegetation, summer roost selection of forest bats, survey of land snails and slugs, lichen survey, old growth inventory, beetle collection and survey, investigation of the northern pine snake and other faunal communities within sand ridge complexes, collection and study of ticks, genetic study of yellow -throated Warblers, and the effects of temporal and spatial factors on population structure.

H. Budget

Cost of Management

Classified and Contractual Salaries -----\$

Land Operation -----\$

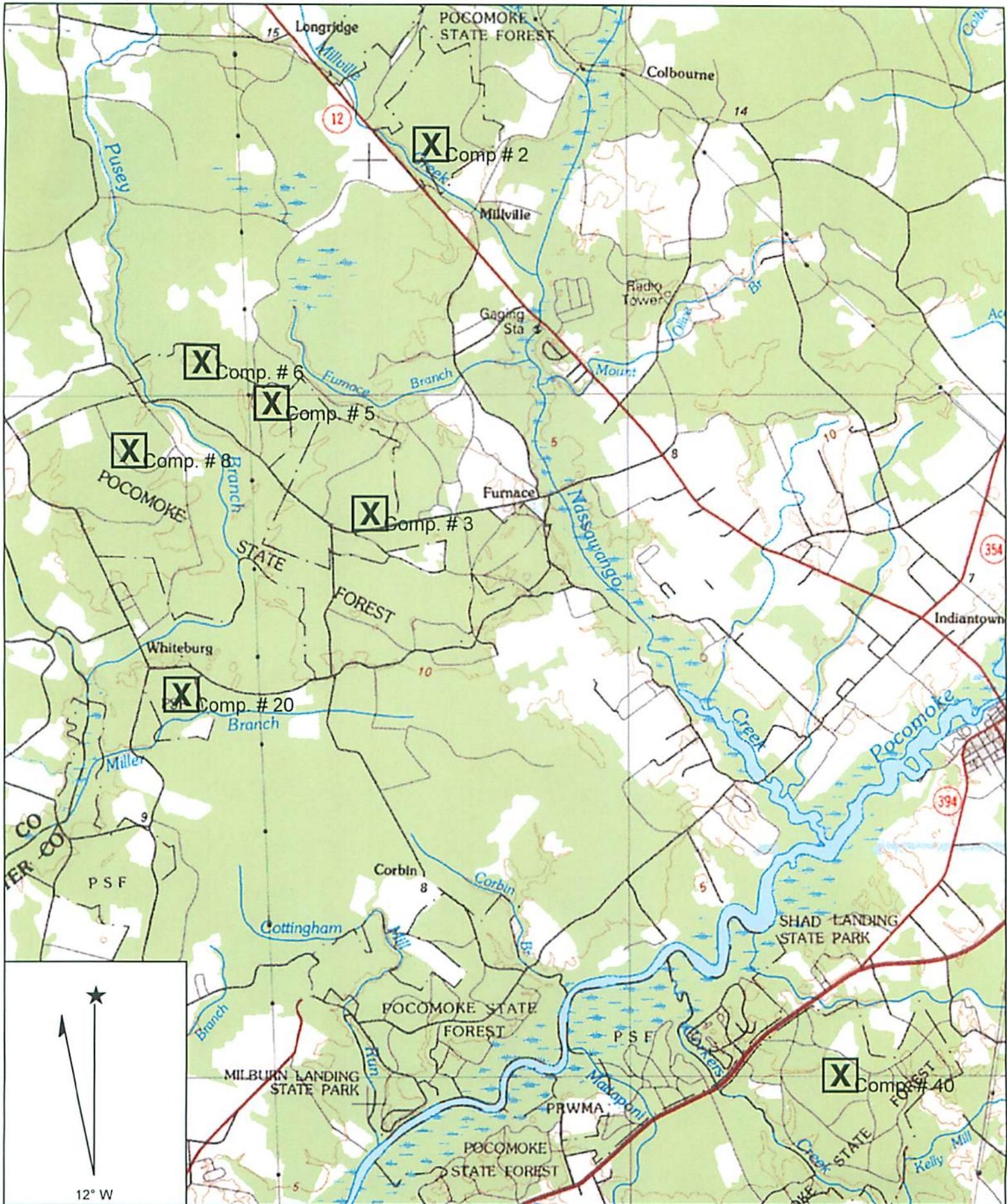
County Payment (15% of revenues) -----\$

TOTAL COST-----\$

Operating Revenues

Forest Products Sale Revenues -----\$

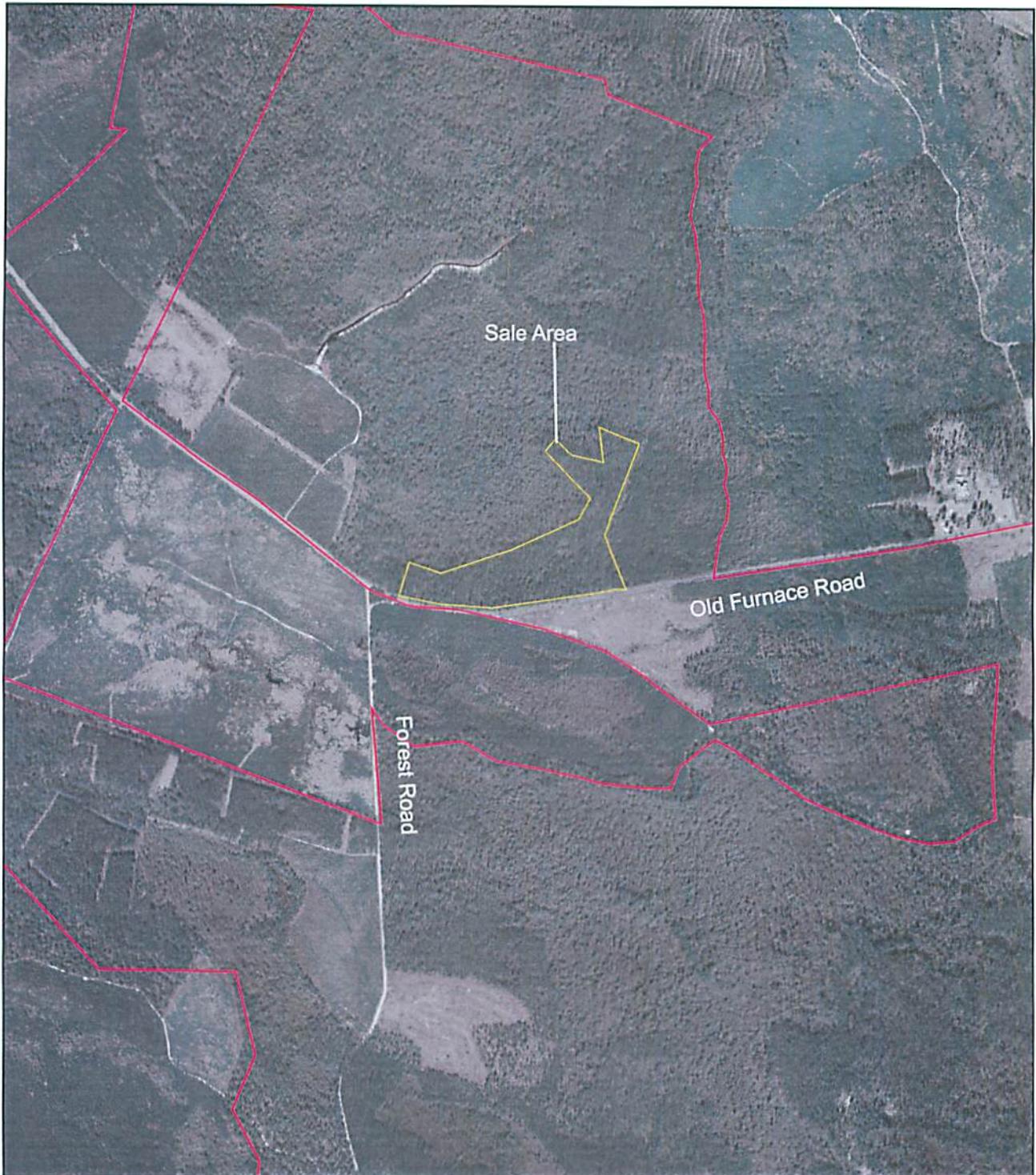
TOTAL REVENUES-----\$



Name: SALISBURY
 Date: 10/11/2007
 Scale: 1 inch equals 1.127 miles

Location: 038° 11' 27.9" N 075° 28' 38.6" W
 Caption: Pocomoke State Forest
 FY 09 Annual Work Plan
 Timber Sale Area

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 3
Snow Hill & Dividing Creek Quadrangle

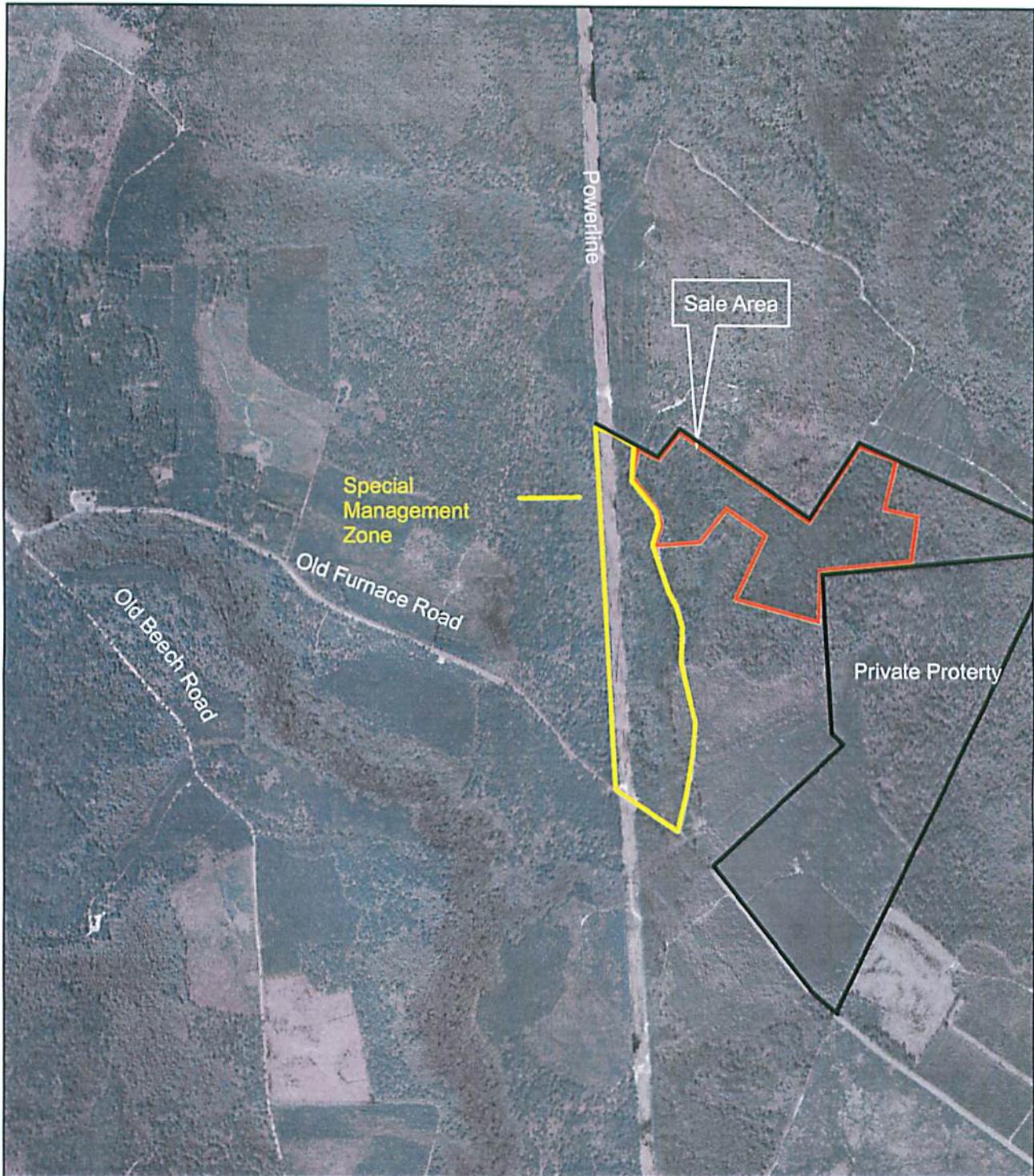


Area - 25.0 acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Regeneration
Age - 85
Site Index - 67
Pine Basal Area - 100
Hardwood Basal Area - 33
Growth Rate - .4" last ten years
Soil Type - Runclint, Askecksy and
Hurlock

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 09 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 5
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



Area - 34.4 acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Seed Tree
Age - 88
Site Index - 72
Pine Basal Area - 113
Hardwood Basal Area - 40
Growht Rate - .7" last ten years
Soil Type - Mullica-Berryland, Klej
Askecksy, Hurlock and
Manahawkin

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 09 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 8
Dividing Creek Quadrangle

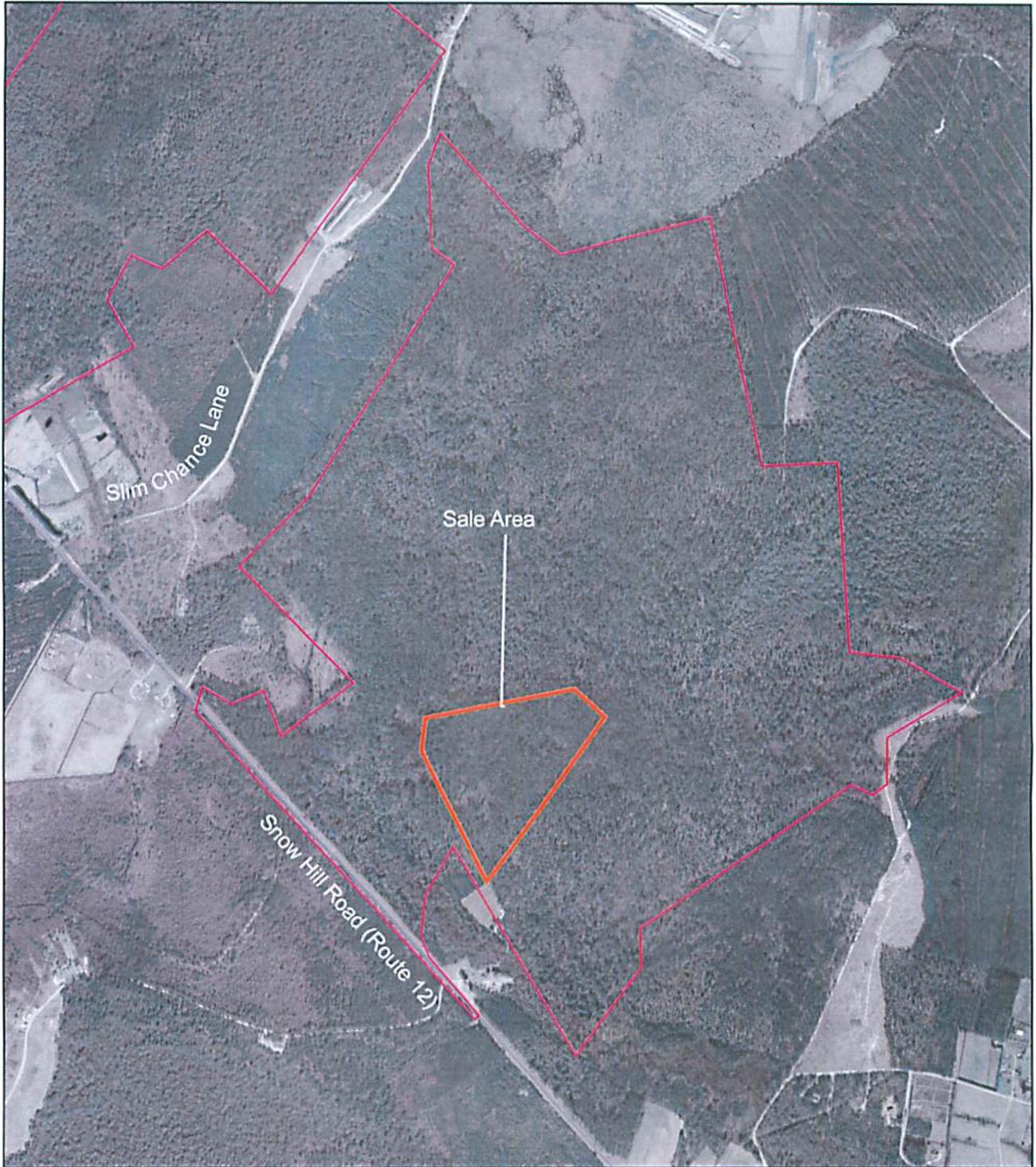


Area - 26.4 Acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Regeneration
Age - 84
Site Index - 80
Pine Basal Area - 101
Hardwood Basal Area - 30
Growth Rate - .8" last ten years
Soil Type - Mullica-Berryland, Fallsington
and Evesboro

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 09 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Old Furnace II Tract
Compartment # 2
Snow Hill & Wango Quandrage



Area - 30.0 acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Seed Tree
Age - 89
Site Index - 75
Pine Basal Area - 90
Hardwood Basal Area - 35
Growht Rate - .3" last ten years
Soil Type - Mullica-Berryland and
Askecksy

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

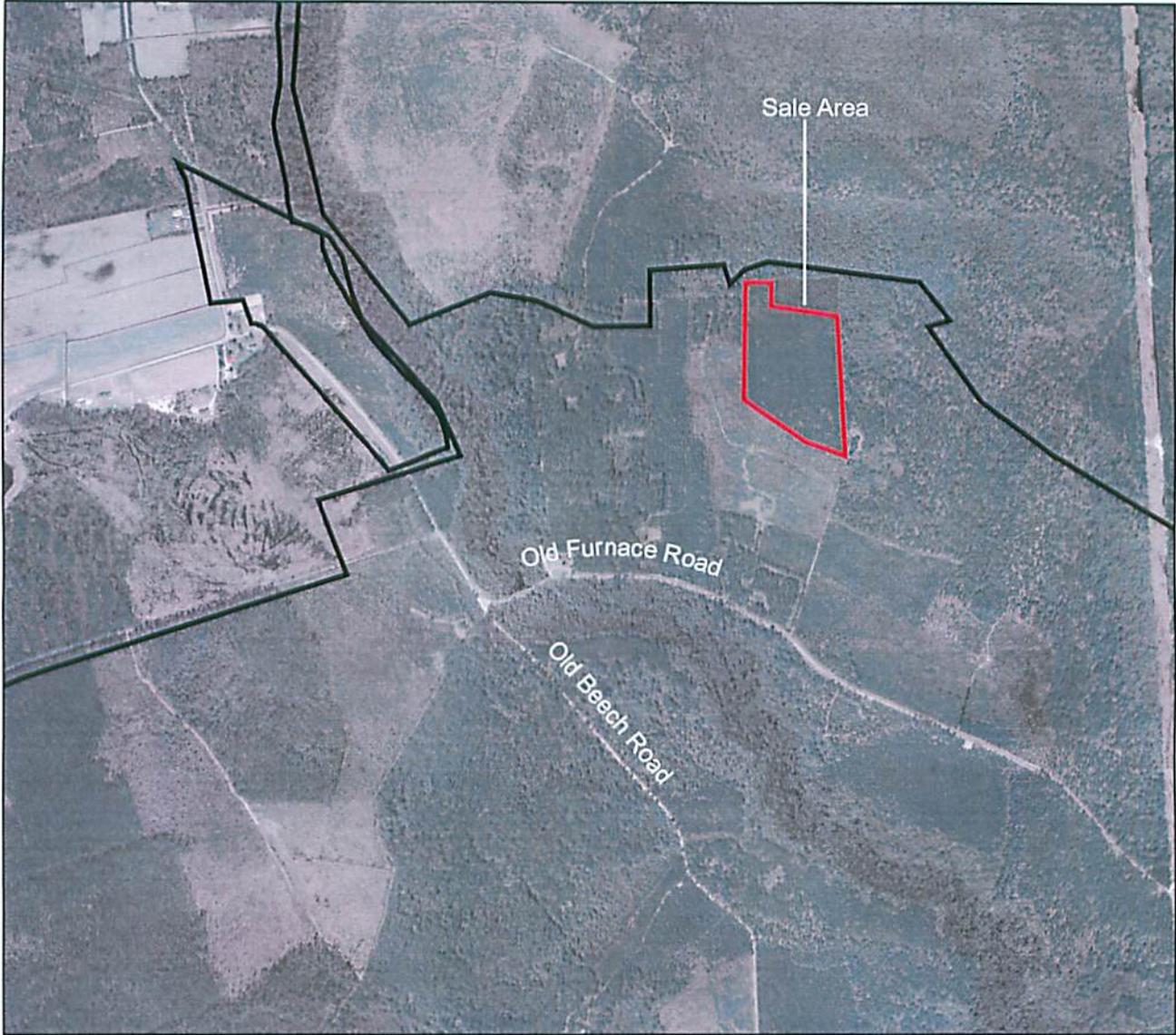
Pocomoke State Forest
Whitesburg Tract
Compartment # 20
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



Area - 44.5 Acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Commercial Thinning
Age - 23
Basal Area to be reduced to 70 sq. ft. per acre
Soil Type - Fallsington, Hammonton and
Woodstown

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 6
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



1 inch equals 1,320 feet

Area - 17.0 acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Type - Commercial Thinning
Age - 21 years
Basal Area to be reduced to 70 - square feet per acre

Pocomoke State Forest Chandler Tract Compartment # 40 Snow Hill Quadrangle



Area - Stand A-21.4 acres; Stand B-16.8 acres
Total acres-38.2
Forest Type - Pine Plantation
Harvest Type - Commercial Thinning
Age - Stand A 24 years; Stand B 21 years
Basal Area to be reduced to 70 square feet per acre

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 6
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



A pre-commercial thinning is proposed for this 20.0 acre pine stand.

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

**POCOMOKE STATE FOREST AND CHESAPEAKE FOREST LANDS
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Vacant

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Accohannock@dmv.com

AGENDA
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE TOUR
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007

- 9:00** Meet at Nassawango (Public Lands Office)
- 9:15 - 10:00** Plan/Tour overview
- 10:00 - 10:45** Compartment #2 (Pocomoke State Forest)
- 11:00 - 11:45** Livingston Tract WR17 (Chesapeake Forest)
- 12:00 - 12:30** Lunch at Shad Landing (Pocomoke State Park) – provided
- 12:45 - 1:30** Creek Tract WR25 (Chesapeake Forest)
- 1:45 - 2:30** Compartment #5 (Pocomoke State Forest)
- 2:45** Return to Nassawango (Public Lands Office)

Joan Maloof
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jemaloof@salisbury.edu
December 5, 2007

Comments on the Proposed 2009 Annual Work Plan for the Pocomoke State Forest

As the ecology representative of the Chesapeake Forest/ Pocomoke Forest citizen's advisory committee I have been asked to comment on the 2009 work plan. Many of the suggestions will look familiar, as I have been making similar suggestions for the past few years. Unfortunately, I have no idea if my comments are taken seriously or if the work plans are ever altered per my suggestions. I do appreciate the opportunity to comment, however, and therefore I make the following suggestions:

Stop harvesting of older mixed forests. The majority of our State Forests (the Chesapeake Forest and the Pocomoke State Forest) are composed of young, early succession pines -- a result of past cutting practices. These pine plantations lack the natural biodiversity (species of plants and animals) that should be present in our forests. This situation is so serious that Chesapeake Forest lands are being aggressively thinned and managed to try to return some of their former biodiversity. In place of a monoculture of pines the management plans for the Chesapeake Forest encourage other hardwood species. In the Pocomoke Forest, however, there are pockets of forest that already contain a rich diversity of plant and animal life. These forests are between sixty and ninety years old. Large oaks of many different species and mature pines tower over an understory of magnolias, dogwoods, hollies, azaleas, vaccinium, mountain laurel, and many more species. In the spring these forests are a sea of bloom, in the fall they are filled with the color from the leaves of many species. The Pocomoke State Forest 2009 work plan proposes that a number of these mixed species, older, forests be logged. I objected to this practice last year and the year before that, and I object again this year. The logging plan calls for retaining dominant and co-dominant oaks, but the understory species; including the ancient mountain laurel, the beech, and the dogwoods, will be destroyed. Even the oaks that are not removed will be subject to windthrow and root damage as a result of the harvest. These older, species rich, forests should not be logged. They are an important reservoir of genetic

material, they provide food for birds and other animals – and they provide a beautiful serene refuge for humans. This year the work plan proposes harvesting of over 100 acres of this sort of forest.

As the ecology representative I suggest that you eliminate Compartments #3, 5, 8 of the Nazareth Church Tract from the harvest plan. As one drives down Old Furnace Road in the vicinity of Compartment #3 there are pine plantations of various ages dominating the landscape. These plantations are less biologically diverse than the recovering native forest of Compartment #3. How sad and inappropriate that this last island of diverse forest in a sea of young pines has been targeted for logging.

Compartment #5 is a lovely, diverse, older forest slated for seed tree harvest. According to the definition of seed tree harvest 12 to 14 dominant pines per acre will be left standing. Per the work plan, dominant and co-dominant oaks will also be retained. The dominant pines are not very dense in the stand and using this harvest prescription it seems to me that it is not worth disturbing this wetland forest for the limited amount of timber that can be harvested.

Better advertising of public comment period. I read the local newspapers and listen to the local radio news. Last year I saw no advertisement of the public comment period. When I checked for comments on the DNR website I saw very few comments listed for the Pocomoke State Forest Annual Work Plan, leading me to believe that the comment period had not been well advertised. As of the date of this letter the comments and the work plan for 2008 are no longer posted on the website. There is no notification of when the next comment period will be. I would like to suggest that the Pocomoke Forest have the public comment period during the same month as the Chesapeake Forest comment period and use public service announcements to advertise. Also, please keep past work plans and comments posted on the website.

No spraying of herbicides or applications of fertilizer. The 2009 work plan for the Pocomoke Forest does not describe any spraying of herbicides (beyond road and trail maintenance) or applications of fertilizer. This is excellent. If any spraying or fertilization is to take place in the forest it should be included in the work plan and the public should be notified.

Schofield, Mike

From: Calvin Lubben [cdlubben@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 10:31 PM
To: Schofield, Mike
Subject: comments on the Ches and Pocomoke Forest Work Plans

I find the draft FY 2009 Annual Work Plans for the Chesapeake Forest and the Pocomoke State Forest to be well organized and reasonably thought through. The proposed harvests include acceptable silvicultural prescriptions and should be pursued aggressively to completion for the health of the forest, local forest economies, wildlife, and other values.

I have several specific comments about the Chesapeake Work Plan.

There is a page entitled "Maintenance" which describes activity to maintain forest roads. I find this section weak on details on the current condition of roads, how many miles will be improved, and by what means. This may sound picky, but the problems related to deferred maintenance are understated given the current condition of most of the Chesapeake roads. They are so urgent and critical that most of the money in the budget for Watershed Improvement and Restoration Projects (\$80,000) should be redirected for road maintenance. I do find the efforts by Mike and Dee in creating cooperative road maintenance arrangements with hunt clubs, and efforts to develop in house expertise and cost savings with the spray rig to be steps in the right direction. The rig can also be employed to control pine.

It seems that pre-commercial thinning is on the light side, given the propensity of loblolly pine to seed in prolifically. Any overstocked stands of appropriate age should be added to the list.

An exemption to the hunting lease lottery process should be given to the forest manager, within certain guidelines, so as to enable the the manager to lease the tract to adjoining landowners. There are situations where this would make obvious sense, but departmental policy doesn't allow it.

There is no forest fertilization. The budget may not allow much of this prescription to be done, but the Managers need to develop the organization's expertise and experience with this prescription, even if it is just a token amount.

There is a list of silvicultural definitions in the Chesapeake plan. Under "Reforestation", the word "chemicals" should be changed to "herbicides". This is a common mistake, but proper silvicultural techniques use herbicides. Uninformed public thinks foresters use chemicals, and we shouldn't encourage that wrong thought.

A section in the Chesapeake plan called "Silvicultural Activity Overview" has a subsection about adaptive management. I call attention to the words "... it may become necessary to slightly alter the prescription in order to maintain local economies". I think I know the spirit of the sentence, it doesn't directly say it. Does it mean the manager can change things in order to help out the local forest industry? I don't really think so. I'm for the forest industry, but not to the point of changing a work plan. Or does it mean other local economies? Also, my copy of the Forest Management Plan only refers to adaptive management in regards to Delmarva fox squirrel. I don't think for a moment that the squirrel is the only situation in which the manager is encouraged to employ adaptive management. I would like to see a better description, a better sentence, or both.

A comment about the Pocomoke State Forest Work Plan:

I highly commend the harvest that sustains the short leaf pine species component in the future stand. There is not much short leaf pine on the Eastern Shore and the Pocomoke Forest owns some nice stands.

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Bennett, Sam

From: Perdue, Jack
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 1:07 PM
To: Bennett, Sam
Subject: FY 09 ID Team

Sam,

Below is the list of your FY 09 ID Team and their addresses.

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Kip Powers

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Scott Smith / Wes Knapp

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...
Let me know if you have any questions.

Jack

Jack Perdue

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forestry is not rocket science
... it is far more complex

**POCOMOKE STATE FOREST
ANNUAL WORK PLAN FY 09
FIELD REVIEW AGENDA
September 19, 2007**

9:00 A.M. Meet at Nassawango

9-9:30 Review FY 09 AWP Projects

10:00 Comp. # 2 – Old Furnace Tract II – Final Harvest

11:00 Comp. #5 – Nazareth Church Tract – Final Harvest

12:00 Lunch

1:00 P.M. Open Site Visits/Wrap up/Adjourn

**POCOMOKE STATE FOREST
ANNUAL WORK PLAN FY 09
FIELD REVIEW ATTENDANCE
September 19, 2007**

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
1.	Scott Smith	WHS
2.	Russ Hill	WHS
3.	Wes Knapp	WHS
4.	Ann Carlson	FS
5.	S. Christopher	LAP (RP) (PLT & P)
6.	Tom McCarthy	LAP (POS, RLP)
7.	Gary Adelhardt	MPS
8.	Kip Powers	MFS
9.	Roy Miller	MFS
10.	Sam Bennett	MFS
11.	Pam Powers	MFS
12.	Jack Perdue	MFS
13.		
14.		

Pocomoke State Forest FY09 AWP Review

Submitted by:

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PSF FY09 AWP Review

Project Location Date Time

Snow Hill MD 9/19/2007 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Attendee(s)

Scott Smith sasmith@dnr.state.md.us
Russ Hill rhill@dnr.state.md.us
Wesley Knapp wknapp@dnr.state.md.us
Ann Carlson agcarlson@dnr.state.md.us
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Jack Perdue jperdue@dnr.state.md.us
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Thomas McCarthy tmccarthy@dnr.state.md.us

Agenda(s)

9:00 Meet at Nassawango
9:30 Review FY 2009 AWP projects
10:00 Compartment 2 -Old Furnace Tract II - Final Harvest
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1:00 Open Site visits / Wrap Up / Adjourn

Preliminary Comments from Heritage Program

Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife & Heritage Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pocomoke State Forest ID Team
FROM: Wesley Knapp & Scott Smith
RE: FY09 Annual Work Plan
DATE: 12 September 2007

Before we discuss the AWP an issue needs to be addressed. Field review would be aided if the stands proposed for management were delineated (flagged) in the field before being

proposed. Unlike many other forests (e.g. Chesapeake Forest) the boundaries of stands being proposed on PSF are difficult to discern which makes survey complicated.

The following are the Natural Heritage Program's comments pertaining to the 2008 Annual Work Plan for Pocomoke State Forest.

1) Comp. # 3, Nazareth tract - 34.4 acre proposed clearcut: This is primarily a mixture of loblolly and pond pine with scattered occurrences of short-leaf pine. Many of the trees along Old Furnace Road are large and mature pond pines. It is recommended that the trees along the roadside be retained for seed trees. We recommend that all large hardwood producing hardwoods be retained, natural regeneration be allowed to occur, and no Arsenal spraying or other hardwood control measures occur. A prescribed burn is desirable after the first growing season post-harvest. If hand planting is used to supplement natural regeneration, natural genotype pines (*P. serotina/rigida*) should be used. Heritage should be contacted to help determine if the stand should be planted before hand planting occurs.

2) Comp. #5, Nazareth tract - 34.4 acre proposed clearcut: This is a natural pine stand (*P. echinata*, *P. serotina* & *P. rigida*) with some large hardwoods and occasional loblolly pines. We recommend this stand NOT BE HARVESTED. Additionally, there is an abundance of hardwood species growing in low areas that normally would contain standing water. This stand forest type, supporting pond pine, short-leaf pine, loblolly pine and a mixture of hardwood species may be a significant forest type both regionally and nationally. A community analysis is currently being conducted to quantify these differences and determine their abundance. At this time PSF may contain the majority of this forest type that remains in the state.

3) Comp. # 8, Nazareth tract - 26.4 acre proposed clearcut: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.

4) Comp. # 2, Old Furnace tract - 25.0 acre proposed clearcut: This is a high quality sand ridge dominated by short-leaf pines and hardwoods. We recommend this stand NOT BE HARVESTED.

5) Comp. # 6 Nazareth tract - 17.0 acre proposed commercial thinning: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.

6) Comp. # 20, Whitesburg tract - 44.5 acre proposed clearcut: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.

7) Comp. # 40, Chandler tract - 38.2 acre proposed commercial thinning: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.

8) Comp. # 6 Nazareth tract - 20.0 acre proposed pre-commercial thinning: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.

Note(s)

ID Team Notes from Scott Smith
MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage

Based on our ID Team field meeting today I have summarized below what my interpretation is of what the ID Team decided for the proposed harvests that were in question:

Old Furnace II Tract, Compartment #2

1) The high quality sand ridge and a 100-foot buffer surrounding it will be removed from consideration for harvest. Wes Knapp will use GIS soil layers and the LIDAR image to determine the extent of the ridge, and then flag it in the field.

The 100-foot no-cut buffer around this is consistent with how we have defined Zone 1 on Chesapeake Forest for sand ridges.

2) DNR Forestry will attempt to gain landowner permission to use the adjacent field for a landing zone so that no equipment, roads, or landing zones will be on the sand ridge or in the 100-foot buffer. If landowner permission is not secured Forestry and Heritage will revisit this issue and attempt to come to a resolution that avoids impacts to the sand ridge.

3) The bridge that will need to be placed over the existing weakened stream crossing will be left behind as a permanent structure to allow the landowner and DNR safe access to this area. This will also be used as an enticement for the landowner to allow #2 above.

4) To offset the acreage lost to saving the sand ridge and buffer, an equivalent acreage will be harvested in the adjacent pond pine-dominated forest to the west and north; the acreage estimate will be based on Wes's delineation.

5) Because Heritage believes that this pond pine community may be unique to Delmarva and thus globally significant, we recommended a method of harvest be used to maximize regeneration of pond pine. The ID Team agreed that this area would be a seedtree harvest with 8-14 pond pine seed trees per acre be retained. Wes will work with Sam Bennett to mark the trees to be retained.

6) Regeneration surveys will be conducted 1-year (or more) post-harvest to determine if maples and gums are going to be a problem – if it is determined they are Forestry will consult with Heritage on control methods and timing. Surveys will also be conducted to assess pond pine regeneration. We consider this to be experimental as we are not sure if allowing this harvest will change the species composition and thus community structure.

It is very important that this site be closely monitored as results will have bearings on other proposed harvests in Pocomoke SF.

7) A prescribed burn should be considered 1-2 years post harvest.

8) If sufficient regeneration of pond pine has been documented, the seed trees may be harvested 8+ years post-harvest.

Nazareth Church Tract, Compartment #3

The ID Team agreed that a minimum 50 foot no-cut buffer would be retained along the road to allow the mixed pine community to persist and perhaps spread into the adjacent loblolly stand to be harvested.

Nazareth Church Tract, Compartment #5

1) This mixed pine stand will be treated similarly to Compartment #2, with a seedtree harvest, leaving 8-14 pond pine and short-leaf pine per acre. Wes will assist Sam in marking trees to be retained.

2) A prescribed burn should be considered 1-2 years post-harvest.

3) If sufficient regeneration of pond pine and short-leaf pine has been documented, the seed trees may be harvested 8+ years post-harvest.

That is all the comments that were generated from today's meeting. If anything needs clarification or if I have misinterpreted our discussions and conclusions please let me know.

Scott

P.S. Wes and I left today's meeting feeling very positive that DNR Forestry and Heritage appear to be working well towards common goals and respectfully recognizing each others missions and goals. This can only be good for the resource and the citizens we serve.

ID Team Notes from Jack Perdue
MD DNR Forest Service

Compartment 2 - Old Furnace Tract

Heritage has concerns that this is a very good example of dry short-leaf pine/oak site. It is a sustainable climax site. It was suggested to move the sale site to the North and exclude the short-leaf xeric area from the harvest area with a 100 foot buffer. This will push the sale into a mixed pitch pine/pond pine site. It was recommended to do a seed tree harvest with 8-14 seed trees remaining per acre. Wes Knapp said he would assist with the layout of the harvest boundaries. The landing and haul roads should be located outside the xeric site. We should try to negotiate with the private land owner adjacent to the tract to use the field as a harvest landing site. We should also, if possible, use an upgraded bridge at the stream crossing as a negotiating point with the landowner. A regeneration success check should be done the Spring following the harvest. Wes Knapp will also assist with the seed tree marking.

Compartment 3 - Nazareth Church Tract

We should leave a minimum 50-foot buffer for visual affect, but also to keep the pond pine in this area. They are found only close to the road. The interior is mostly loblolly pine.

Compartment 5 - Nazareth Church Tract

Pond and short-leaf pine are found on this site. We should use a seed tree harvest leaving 8-14 trees per acre. Also, hardwood pockets should be left intact from the harvest. Wes Knapp will assist with marking the seed trees.

Action(s)

Title Due Priority Status Note

Old Furnace Tract Boundary Location

1 Open Assist with Old Furnace Tract harvest boundary layout.

Old Furnace Tract Seed Tree Marking

1 Open Wes Knapp will assist with seed tree marking.

Old Furnace Tract Regeneration Check

1 Open Check for regeneration success the Spring after the harvest.

Nazareth Tract Seed Tree Marking

1 Open Wes Knapp will assist with seed tree marking.