

P OCOMOKE STATE FOREST

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2010

Prepared:	<u>Samuel Berned</u> (Forest Manager)	<u>10-30-09</u> Date
Reviewed:	<u>[Signature]</u> (Regional Forester)	<u>11/13/09</u> Date
Reviewed:	<u>[Signature]</u> (Public Lands Policy & Planning)	<u>12/11/09</u> Date
Approved:	<u>[Signature]</u> (Environmental Specialist)	<u>12-16-09</u> Date

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 99.3 acres within five different sales. The regeneration harvest method will be used on four sites totaling 84.0 acres. The seed tree method will be used on one site totaling 15.3 acres. Volume estimate for these sales totals 1,518,950 board-feet of pine sawtimber.

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.
- *New windows and doors will be installed at the Milburn Landing Shop Complex.

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 # 24 - Dividing Creek Tract – 10.0 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 10.0-acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Dividing Creek Tract. Access is off Whiteburg Road. No new roads will be established. No wetlands have been identified in the sale area. A stream located along the eastern boundary will be protected with a fifty-foot un-cut buffer. Soils present include the well-drained Hambrook sandy loam and the moderately well drained Woodstown sandy loam. Site index is 95. Average age of the stand is 73. Last 10-year radial growth is 0.8 inches. Current basal area is 90 for pine and 20 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.
2. **Compartment #27 – Milburn Landing Tract – 21.0 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 21.0-acre pine/hardwood stand located in the General Management Zone of the Milburn Landing Tract. Access will be off Nassawango 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 Needle Leaved Evergreen Temporarily Flooded wetland. Soils present include the moderately well drained Mattapex silt loam and the well drained Matapeake silt loam and Matapeake fine sandy loam. Average age of the stand is 72. Site index is 84. Last 10-year radial growth is 0.6 inches. Current basal area is 80 for pine and 40 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.

3. **Compartment #19 – Nazareth Church Tract – 15.3 Acres**
A seed tree harvest is proposed for this 15.3-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 or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. The sale area is adjacent to an archaeological area associated with the Nassawango Iron Furnace. No forestry operations will occur in that area. Soils present include the excessively drained Evesboro loamy sand, Runclint loamy sand and Galestown loamy sand. Average age of the stand is 79. Site index is 60. Last 10-year radial growth averages 0.5 inches. Current basal area is 80 for pine and 20 for hardwoods. The stand will be regenerated naturally. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained. Shortleaf Pine will be left as seed trees to provide a seed source for pine regeneration.
4. **Compartment #14 – Nazareth Church Tract – 25.0 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 25.0-acre pine/hardwood stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. Access will be off Forest Road. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. Soils present include the moderately well drained Klej loamy sand and the poorly drained to very poorly drained Mullic-Berryland and Askecksy loamy sand. Average age of the stand is 81. Site index is 73. Last 10-year radial growth averages 0.4 inches. Current basal area is 75 for pine and 40 for hardwoods. The stand will be regenerated naturally and supplemented by hand planting if necessary. Pond pines within the sale area will also be marked as seed trees to aid in natural regeneration. Dominant and co-dominant oaks within the stand will be retained.
5. **Compartment #13 – Nazareth Church Tract – 21.4 Acres**
A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 21.4-acre pine/hardwood stand. Approximately 8.0 acres is in the Special Management Zone and 13.4 acres is in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. The area within the Special Management Zone contains part of the buffer associated with the Furnace Road Power-lines Ecologically Significant Area (ESA). No equipment will be allowed in the right-of-way. A fifty-foot buffer will be maintained along the power-line right-of-way to protect endangered plant communities within the power-line. Trees with-in this buffer may be harvested to help expand the unique vegetation along the power-line. Access will be off Old Furnace Road. No new roads will be established. Stream present will be protected with a fifty-foot un-cut buffer. Approximately 1.0 acre of the sale area is classified as Palustrine Forested Broad Leaved Deciduous Temporarily Flooded wetland. Soils present include the poorly drained Askecksey

Pre-commercial Thinning

Nazareth Church Tract - Compartment #12

A pre-commercial thinning is proposed for this 21.0 acre pine stand located in the General Management Zone of the Nazareth Church Tract. The stand was harvested in 2000 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 10'X10' 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 thirty day comment period. Members of the DNR interdisciplinary team include representatives from the 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 -----	\$200,000.00
Land Operation -----	\$75,000.00
Sustainable Forest Certification-----	\$5,000.00
County Payment (25% of revenues) -----	\$70,000.00
TOTAL COST-----	\$350,000.00

Operating Revenues

Forest Products Sale Revenues -----	\$280,000.00
Off-Road Vehicle Funds-----	\$14,500.00
Recreational Trail Grants-----	\$28,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES-----	\$322,500.00

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

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CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008
IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS
PLEASE ADD TO THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forest FY2010 Annual Work Plan Meeting

Participant Name: (Please Print) Jean Maloof	Unit: CAC Email address: jemaloof@salisbury.edu
Larry Beauchamp	Unit: Email address: llbeauchamp@hotmail.com
William Giese JR	Unit: Email address: bill_giese@fws.gov
	Unit: Email address:

loamy sand and the very poorly drained Mullica-Berryland complex. Average age of the stand is 70. Site index is 75. Last 10 years radial growth averages 0.6 inches. Current basal area is 80 for pine and 40 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. This sale has been removed from the proposed work plan to allow for additional study of the stand community type found in the sale area.

6. **Compartment # 38 Hudson Tract – 28.0 Acres**

A regeneration harvest is proposed for this 28.0-acre pine/hardwood stand located in the General Management Zone of the Hudson Tract. Access will be off Route 113. No new roads will be established. No streams or wetlands have been identified in the sale area. The stand is in the Critical Area and all regulations for harvesting in the Critical Area will be adhered to. Soils present include the poorly drained Zekiah silt loam, Hurlock loamy sand, Fallsington sandy loam, and the moderately well drained Klej loamy sand and Hammonton sandy loam. Average age of the stand is 85. Site index is 88. Last 10 years radial growth is 0.7 inches. Basal area is 70 for pine and 60 for hardwood. The stand will be regenerated naturally. Dominant and co-dominant oaks will be retained.

Reforestation

This work will involve planting recently cutover areas with loblolly pine seedlings. Planting will be done on 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.

Joan Maloof
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December 12, 2008

Comments on the Proposed 2010 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 2010 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:

The work plan. This year the work plan was not available for reviewing before the advisory committee meeting, therefore I could not visit the forests planned for cutting prior to the meeting. There were only three people present at the advisory committee meeting. I suggest finding members who are more serious about their duties, or finding some other way to encourage participation.

The maps with outlines of areas planned for harvest were very useful. Ideally these maps would also indicate the best route for access.

Stop harvesting of older mixed forests. The majority of the Chesapeake Forest and the Pocomoke State Forest (General Management Zone) is 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 State Forest, however, there are pockets of forest that still contain a rich diversity of plant and animal life. These forests are between sixty and ninety years old. Large oaks of many different species, hickories, and mature pines of different species tower over an understory of magnolias, dogwoods, hollies, azaleas, blueberries, 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 2010 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 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. The oaks that are not removed will be subject to windthrow and root damage as a result of the harvest. Even though these older, species rich, forests are in the multiple General Management Zone they 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 again proposes harvesting of over 100 acres of this sort of forest.

If logging must occur in the Pocomoke State Forest it should be done in the areas which have already been converted to pine plantation. Now, in 2008, we know enough about forest ecology to understand that we should preserve the structure and diversity of the precious older mixed forests that remain, especially in publically owned forests such as the Pocomoke State Forest.

Comments on specific tracts planned for harvest:

Dividing Creek Tract, Compartment #24(10 acres): I did not have an opportunity to visit this tract.

Milburn Landing Tract, Compartment #27 (21 acres): Directions – From Rt 12 near Snow Hill, turn onto Nassawango Road. Tract is past Camp Road, where Nassawango Rd curves left and then right just across from Milburn Landing State Park.

This nice forest, over 70 years old, has a multi-storied canopy structure and contains many different species. The understory includes mountain laurel, holly, young beech, and magnolia; while the overstory is a nice mix of oaks and pine. As an ecologist I think it would be a mistake to harvest this forest which is bordered by pine plantation on one side and the park on the other.

Nazareth Church Tract, Compartment #19 (15 acres): Directions – From Furnace Town, continue west on Old Furnace Road about a mile to the parking area on the left where there is a trail which leads to the proposed cut area.

This forest is of a very rare type. It is one of the best examples of a sand ridge Eastern Shore pine forest not dominated by loblolly pine. In adjacent areas that have been cut more recently loblolly pine dominates. There are numerous types of pine here (including short-leaf, Virginia, pitch) and most likely hybrid pines as well. The oaks are interesting also (s. red oak, white oak, post oak), and it appears that

there are hybrid oak species too. This forest contains important genetic diversity and it should not be logged. These unusual pines should be allowed to mature further. In another 40-50 years this forest will become a mixed oak-pine forest of the type preferred by the Delmarva Fox Squirrel. From the parking area at Furnace Town there is a trail that leads to this tract making it convenient for horseback riding and hiking. This State Forest would be better left as a place of recreation, habitat, and genetic diversity.

Nazareth Church Tract, Compartment #14 (25 acres): Directions – Take Millville Road south from Furnace Town. Make the first right onto Sand Road and continue for some miles until you see Forest Road on your right. Turn right onto Forest Road. Very soon (under one mile) you will see a mature forest on your left.

This forest, over 80 years old, is well on its way to becoming a fine example of one of our original pine/ hardwood forests. It is unfortunate that the State want to harvest it, but at least the harvest area has species of the same type surrounding it.

Hudson Tract, Compartment #38 (28 acres): Directions- Take Rt 113 southwest past Snow Hill. Just after passing the entrance to Shad Landing State Park cross the bridge over Corker's Creek and the forest will be immediately on your right.

Once again, one of the finest, oldest, forests has been identified for cutting. This 85 year old mixed hardwood/ pine forest is located along a major tributary leading into the Pocomoke River. Numerous rare species have been found in the Corker's Creek watershed. Mountain laurel and cross-vine are found in the understory.

Better advertising of public comment period and better website management. Please keep past work plans and comments posted on the website. As of this writing the DNR website (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/workplans/>) states that: "The comments will be available for viewing online and updated on a weekly basis" yet there were no comments posted. Does this mean that there were no comments? (indicating poor advertising or public apathy). Or that the comments were not kept posted? Last year's work plan, which is posted on the website, does not include the comments from the Citizen's Advisory Committee members. Should we bother to keep writing comments when our comments seem to fall into a black hole?

Please improve advertisement of the public comment period and make the comment period the same time each year. Currently there is no way for the average citizen to know when the next comment period will begin and end. This information is not posted on the website (as of this writing), and to

complicate matters further the comment period is a different date each year. This is a recurring problem that I have commented on before.

No spraying of herbicides or applications of fertilizer. The 2010 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.

Seeking dual certification from FSC and SFI is a positive step. Certification will provide a needed layer of oversight and could improve economic return as demand for sustainable timber and fiber increases.

11/14/08

Mr. Sam Bennett
Pocomoke State Forest Manger
Pocomoke State Forest
6572 Snow Hill Road
Snow Hill, MD 20863

Mr. Bennett:

As a member of the Chesapeake and Pocomoke Forest Citizens Advisory Committee, I had the privilege of attending the review of the 2010 Annual Work Plan on Nov. 13 at your office. I would like to submit the following comments:

The plan is comprehensive and well written, and in my opinion reflects the goals and intent of the acquisition of the Forest by the State. Primary and sensitive resources are resources continue to be protected and the plan continues down a path of maintaining a healthy, diverse, and productive Forest for the citizens of Maryland.

I urge the State of MD to continue to explore the Forest Certification process for the Pocomoke Forest, if possible, to maintain a third party oversight of management activities.

While there is tremendous demand for other user group activities, such as ORV trails etc., I would urge the State of MD to avoid those high impact activities if at all possible and concentrate on more passive activities such as hiking, biking, and bird watching. The current trail is heavily used and provides an opportunity to that user group, however any expansion of the current program needs to be looked at extensively prior to enacting. I would support raising the annual permit fee for this activity as it appears that additional funds may be needed to maintain the existing trail and prevent future environmental damage to the area. Hunting programs should be continued, as these lands provide opportunities to the average citizen, who may not be able to afford private lands hunting opportunities.

It appears that the Forest Managers have developed and continued an excellent relationship with the forest industry and work very well together.

As a member of the federal Delmarva Fox Squirrel Recovery Team, I believe that the current management plans for the Forest and the 2010 Work Plan support the DFS Recovery Plan goals and urge that work to continue in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity, to comment on the plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 410-228-2692 ext 129.

William M. Giese Jr.
4275 Maple Dam Rd.
Cambridge, MD 21613

**Pocomoke State Forest
Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Work Plan Review
Nassawango Field Office
October 28, 2008**

In Attendance:

Kip Powers, Forest Service, Eastern Region
Kenneth Jolly, Forest Service, Annapolis
Jack Perdue, Forest Service, Annapolis
Sam Bennett, Forest Service, Pocomoke SF
Wesley Knapp, Wildlife and Heritage, Eastern Region
Russ Hill, Wildlife and Heritage, Eastern Region
Scott Smith, Wildlife and Heritage, Eastern Region
Shawn Clotworthy, Land Acquisition and Planning, Annapolis
Brett Coakley, Fisheries Service, Eastern Region
Robert Feldt, Forest Service, Annapolis

Notes:

Wes Knapp suggested collecting cones from Short Leaf Pine from Compartment 19 as an alternative to receiving seed from North Carolina. He feels this would be easily accomplished and would be aided by the use of a bucket truck which should be able to access the site. There was general agreement that this course of action should be followed. Another suggestion was made to have the seeds planted and cultivated at the state tree nursery.

Scott and Wes recommend more cooperation during the planning phase to help avoid having to move a harvest

Stop #1 Nazareth Church Tract: Compartment 19

Kip and Sam propose a Seed Tree harvest on this 14.3 acre area to avoid a sensitive community type in an adjacent stand which was originally planned for harvest. Wes Knapp explained the sensitive community type identified has a large Short Leaf Pine component, and is situated over an Evesboro soil group, which is a typical characteristic. In the new harvest area, Short Leaf Pine will be flagged for retention and Oaks will be left in the understory, and it too will be a Seed Tree harvest. A potential concern was the close proximity to an archeological site adjacent to Furnace Town, a historic preservation area, but the new harvest area should not present any problem.

Unscheduled Stop to view a stand dominated by Short Leaf Pine. There was a suggestion that this could be a globally rare forest community type. No activities are planned for this stand for now.

Stop #2 Compartment 14

This sale area is a natural forest mix and there is concern from WHS personnel that the stand will not regenerate in a similar way, due to the heavy (loblolly) pine component in the overstory. Burning could possibly yield desired results, but personnel availability to control the burn would be an issue. There are also Pond Pines in this stand that are often marked as Loblolly Pine, and there is a desire to maintain those specimens where we are able. Some pines will be left for seed trees. The general consensus is to proceed with the sale.

Compartment 13 (not visited)

An area along power transition lines that was not visited. We would like to determine the stand community types, so any sale will be put on hold. While we make a decision, an alternative site for harvest will be chosen.

Reference Harvest (unscheduled stop: Compartment 15)

This area was not replanted to serve as a test to determine the regeneration potential of Pond Pine, and is about 15 acres. The adjacent stand was replanted. This was only a brief stop.

**Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife & Heritage Services**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pocomoke State Forest ID Team
FROM: Wesley Knapp
RE: FY10 Annual Work Plan
DATE: 22 October 2007

The following are the Natural Heritage Program's comments pertaining to the 2010 Annual Work Plan for Pocomoke State Forest. Some of the stands proposed for harvest are natural stands of pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) and/or mixtures of the two with loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). We feel visiting the recent clear-cuts off Forest Road and the stand south of Compartment 19 in the Nazareth tract (proposed below) can aid our discussion about regeneration of these rare naturally occurring pine forests on PSF.

- 1) Comp. # 12, Nazareth tract – 21.0 acre proposed pre-commercial thinning: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain hardwoods if any are present in the stand.
- 2) Comp. #13, Nazareth tract – 21.4 acre proposed clearcut: This is a natural pine stand composed of loblolly pine, pond pine, and infrequent short-leaf pine. We recommend this stand **NOT BE HARVESTED**. At this time PSF may contain the majority of this forest type that remains in the state.
- 3) Comp. # 14, Nazareth tract – 25.0 acre proposed clearcut: This is a natural pine stand composed of loblolly pine, pond pine, and infrequent short-leaf pine. We recommend this stand **NOT BE HARVESTED**. At this time PSF contains the majority of this forest type that remains in the state.
- 4) Comp. # 19, Nazareth tract – 11.8 acre proposed clearcut: This stand is dominated by short-leaf pine and is a remnant patch of a globally rare (G3) community type. We recommend this stand **NOT BE HARVESTED**. Areas just south stand (Compartment 19) were harvest in the recent past (ca. 4 years) and there is no short-leaf pine recruitment. This suggests this cut would result in a forest type conversion.
- 5) Comp. # 6 Dividing Creek Tract – 10.0 acre proposed commercial thinning: This is primarily a pine stand with a dense understory of non-native and invasive species. It is strongly recommended that these weeds be controlled before harvest. Invasive species documented during review are periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), and basket grass (*Arthraxon hispidus*).

- 6) **Comp. # 20, Hudson tract – 28.0 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. # 27, Milburn Landing tract – 21.0 acre proposed thinning: This is primarily a pine plantation with some hardwoods. Our only comments are to retain large hardwoods located in the stand.**

Tract	Compartment	DFS	FIDS	RT&E	WSSC	Eagle	300' Stream Buffer	Comments
Nazareath Church	12	no	Primary	no	no	no	no	None
Nazareath Church	13	no	Primary	Yes	no	no	no	Mixed natural stand pond, lob, & short-leaf
Nazareth Church	14	no	No	no	no	no	no	Mixed with areas of heavy lob
Nazareth Church	19	no	No	no	no	no	no	G3 Community short-leaf dominant
Dividing Creek	6	no	Primary	no	no	no	no	Invasive Control
Hudson	6	no	Primary	Yes	no	no	no	None
Milburn Landing	20	no	Primary	no	no	no	no	None

Bennett, Sam

From: Powers, Kip
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 1:11 PM
To: Clotworthy, Shawn; Feldt, Rob; Perdue, Jack; Bennett, Sam; Adelhardt, Gary; Hill, Russ; Smith, Scott A.; Coakley, Brett; Knapp, Wesley M.
Subject: RE: Pocomoke ID Team Meeting minutes

Comments below in red....

Kip V. Powers, Regional Forester
Maryland Forest Service
201 Baptist Str., Suite 22
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-713-3862

From: Clotworthy, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 11:29 AM
To: Feldt, Rob; Perdue, Jack; Bennett, Sam; Adelhardt, Gary; Powers, Kip; Hill, Russ; Smith, Scott A.; Coakley, Brett; Knapp, Wesley M.
Cc: Wilson, John F.
Subject: RE: Pocomoke ID Team Meeting minutes

Hello Rob. The following serve as my comments:

- I am encouraged to see inter-agency cooperation in what appears to be a direction toward re-balancing Pocomoke SF by encouraging other species, particularly oaks and other pine species to increase proportionally, and in particular promoting the reestablishment of the short leaf pine community.
- Have we abandoned the use of Basal Area as a benchmark? When we say we'll save 'some' pine, one is left to wonder whether 'some' means every 5th pine or every 3rd pine. Greater specificity would be helpful.

We have not abandoned the BA benchmark, basal area will still be referenced especially when referring to commercial thinning, when it comes to leaving seed trees in a harvest we will do a better job of specifying the number of trees per acre to leave, such leaving eight 14inch dia cone bearing pond or shortleaf pine trees per acre. Note the excerpt from the Pine Tree Reforestation Law below:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, upon completion of any cutting operation the operator or landowner shall leave uncut and uninjured at least eight cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pine trees 14 inches or larger in diameter on each acre cut for the purpose of reseedling. If eight cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pines 14 inches in diameter are not present on any acre, the operator or landowner shall leave uncut and uninjured in place of each cone-bearing loblolly, shortleaf, or pond pine tree of the required diameter, at least two cone-bearing pine trees of the next largest diameter there standing. Trees left uncut pursuant to this section for the purpose of reseedling shall be healthy, windfirm, well-distributed throughout each acre, and with well-developed crowns possessing a sufficient number of cones to reforest the areas affected by the cutting operation.

- (2) Cone-bearing pine trees need not be reserved if there are at least 400 loblolly, pond, or shortleaf pine seedlings on each acre which are vigorous, well distributed throughout, and free to grow upon completion of the cutting operation.

Stop #2 Compartment 14

This sale area is a natural forest mix and there is concern from WHS personnel that the stand will not regenerate in a similar way, due to the heavy (loblolly) pine component in the overstory. Burning could possibly yield desired results, but personnel availability to control the burn would be an issue. There are also Pond Pines in this stand that are often marked as Loblolly Pine, and there is a desire to maintain those specimens where we are able. Some pines will be left for seed trees. The general consensus is to proceed with the sale.

- My impression was that we were referring explicitly to pond pines, and the usual smattering of oaks, if present, would be retained as well. I don't recall if we meant retention of all the pond pines, or most, or a few.

Reference Harvest (unscheduled stop: Compartment 15)

This area was not replanted to serve as a test to determine the regeneration potential of Pond Pine, and is about 15 acres. The adjacent stand was replanted. This was only a brief stop.

- It was noteworthy that little oak retention was manifest at this site, coupled with the fact that there was a pile of oaks stacked by the former staging area. Sam speculated that the oak pile constituted collateral damage during the harvest. It's possible the management prescription did not call for oak retention, but in the event that oak retention was one of the goals, perhaps we need to mark additional oak for retention, if we are resigned to that level of collateral damage.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide comment.

Bennett, Sam

From: Hill, Russ
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 11:07 AM
To: Feldt, Rob
Cc: Powers, Kip; Bennett, Sam; Knapp, Wesley M.; Coakley, Brett; Clotworthy, Shawn; Perdue, Jack; Jolly, Kenneth; Smith, Scott A.
Subject: RE: Pocomoke ID Team Meeting minutes

Rob,

I support the comments to protect the short leaf pine community as it is a very unique habitat type that supports diverse wildlife populations. Also, as always, during all harvest operations I recommend preserving areas of oaks, hickories and beeches and the use of prescribed fire where possible to improve habitat diversity for wildlife species utilizing the Pocomoke State Forest.

Russ

From: Feldt, Rob
Sent: Fri 10/31/2008 9:26 AM
To: Jolly, Kenneth; Powers, Kip; Bennett, Sam; Smith, Scott A.; Hill, Russ; Knapp, Wesley M.; Coakley, Brett; Clotworthy, Shawn
Cc: Perdue, Jack
Subject: Pocomoke ID Team Meeting minutes

Please review the minutes from Tuesday's ID team meeting for Pocomoke State Forest and send any additional comments or corrections to me. I would like to have comments or corrections soon so I can resend the final draft by the end of next week. Thanks

Rob

Robert Feldt
Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Coordinator
Maryland DNR Forest Service
580 Taylor Ave., E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 260-8529

Bennett, Sam

From: Clotworthy, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2008 11:29 AM
To: Feldt, Rob; Perdue, Jack; Bennett, Sam; Adelhardt, Gary; Powers, Kip; Hill, Russ; Smith, Scott A.; Coakley, Brett; Knapp, Wesley M.
Cc: Wilson, John F.
Subject: RE: Pocomoke ID Team Meeting minutes

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Thanks for the opportunity to provide comment.

Bennett, Sam

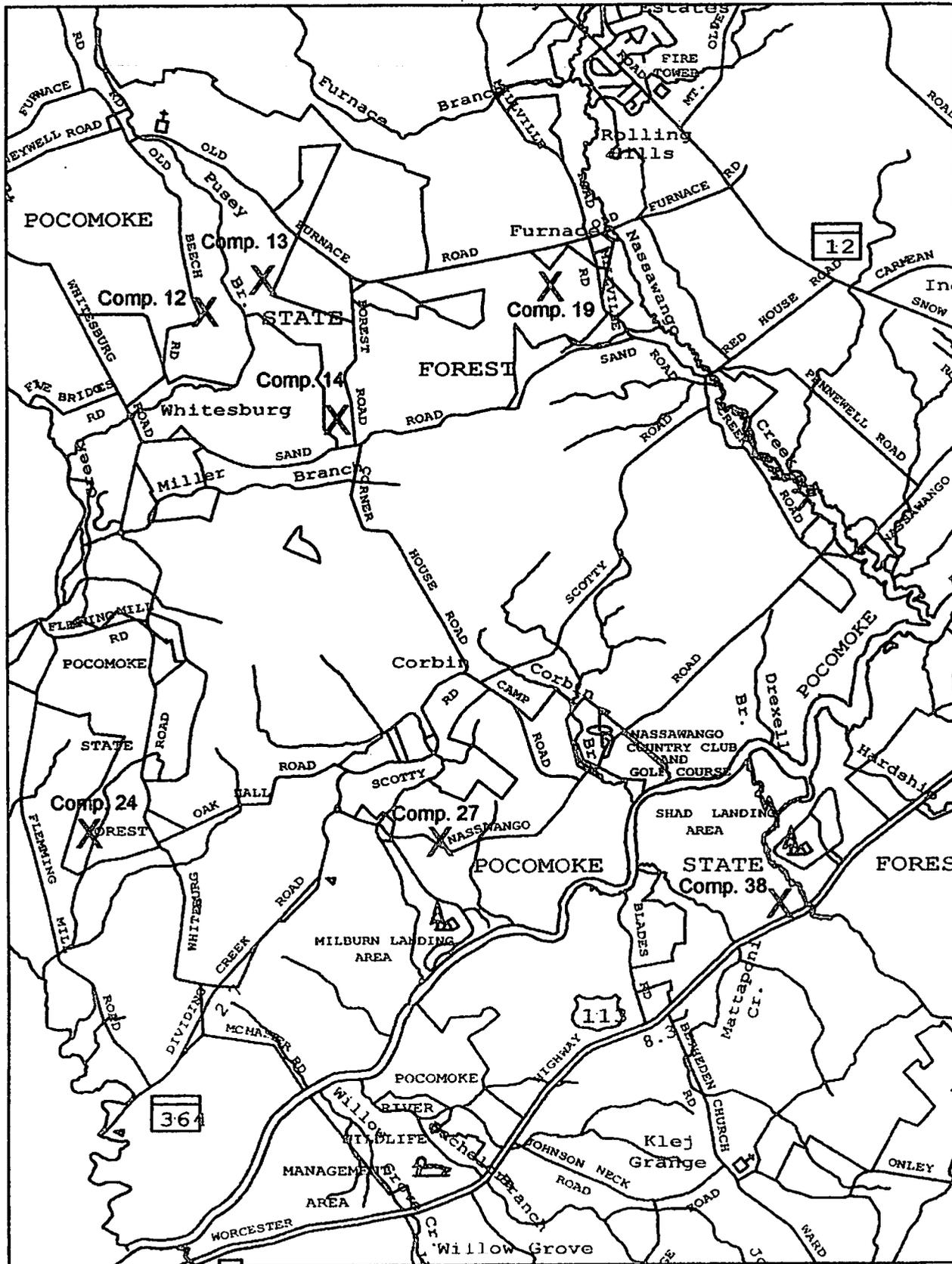
From: Coakley, Brett
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 2:38 PM
To: Bennett, Sam; Perdue, Jack; Powers, Kip
Cc: Schaefer, Richard
Subject: AWP

I visited the proposed cut off Corkers Creek and 113. I have no objections, since the buffers should provide adequate protection for the creek from excess sedimentation. Corkers Creek and many other tributaries to the Pocomoke are important spawning areas for largemouth bass and other important fish species.

All other proposed cuts should have no implications on fisheries resources or water quality.

Brett Coakley
Fisheries Biologist
MDDNR Eastern Region
410-928-3643 ext. 104

Pocomoke State Forest Timber Sale Areas Fiscal Year 2010



Pocomoke State Forest
Dividing Creek Tract
Compartment # 24
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



Area - 10.0 Acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Regeneratin Harvest
Age - 73
Site Index - 95
Growth Rate - 0.8" last 10 years
Pine Basal Area - 90
Hardwood Basal Area - 20
Soil Type - Hambrook and Woodstown

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 2010 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Milburn Landing Tract
Compartment # 27
Snow Hill Quadrangle

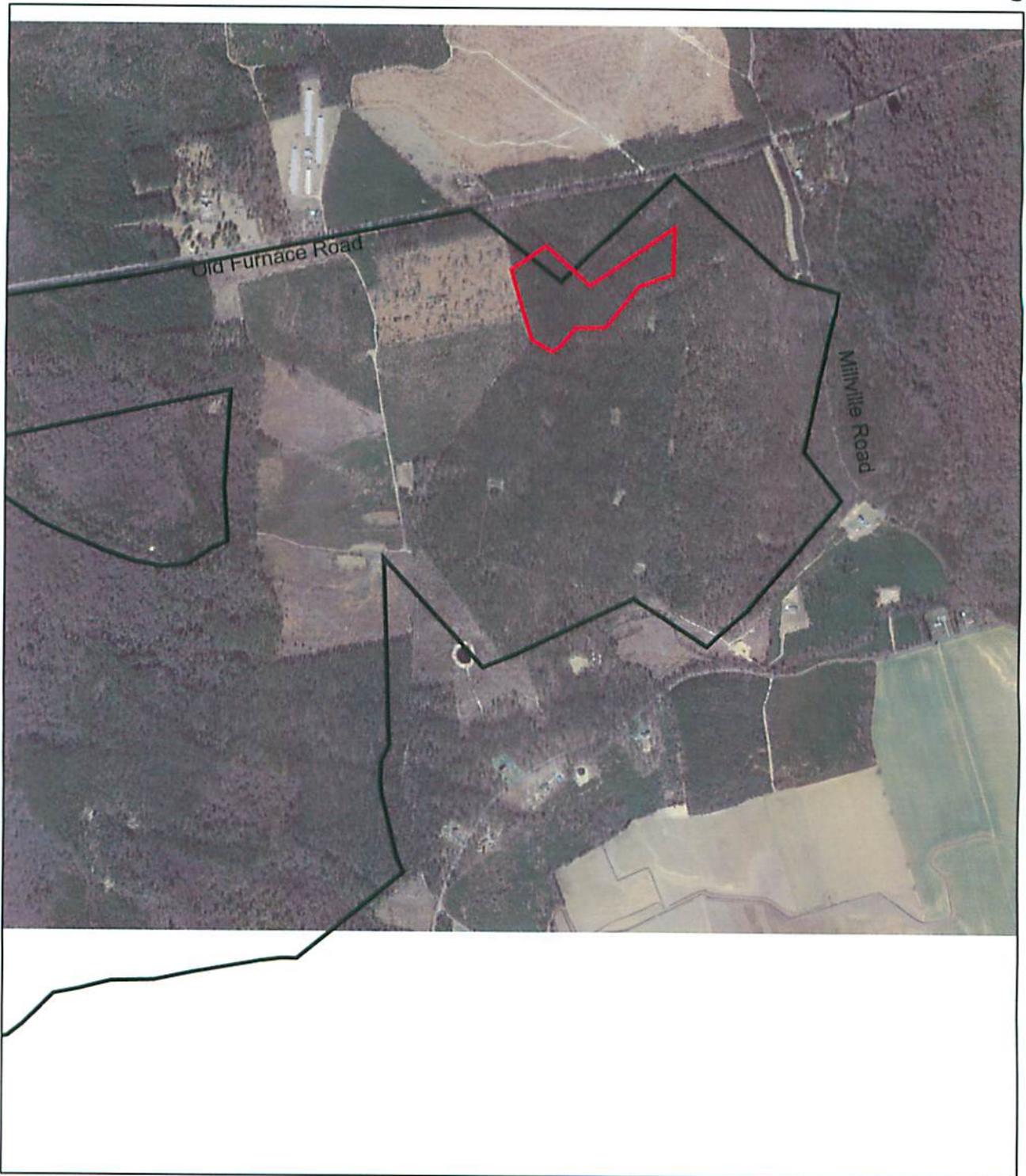


Area - 21.0 Acres
Forest Type - Pine/Hardwood
Harvest Method - Regeneration Harvest
Age - 72
Site Index - 84
Growth Rate - 0.6" last 10 years
Pine Basal Area - 80
Hardwood Basal Area - 40
Soil Type - Matapeake and Mattapex

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 2010 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 19
Snow Hill Quadrangle

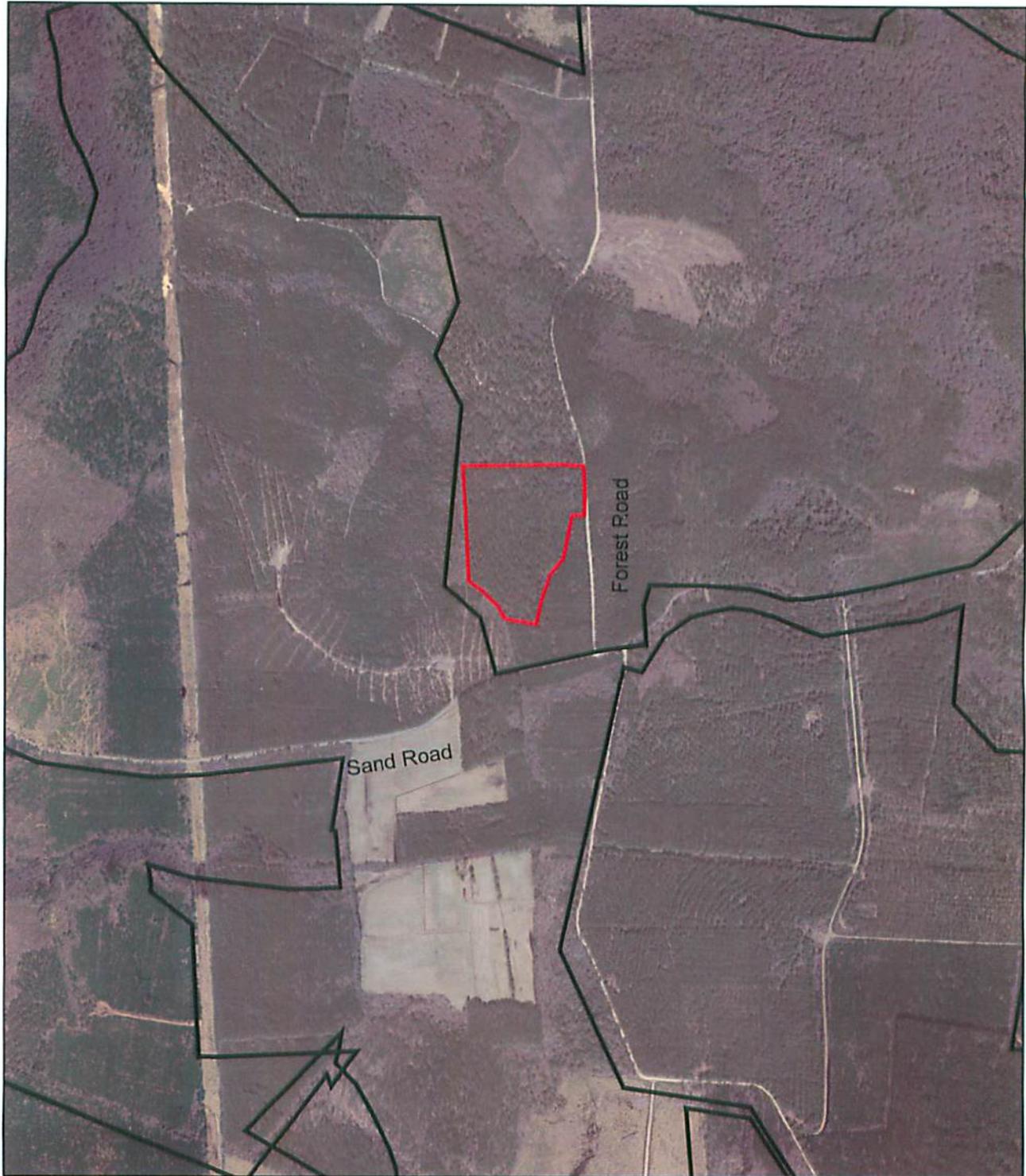


Area - 15.3 Acres
Forest Type - Pine
Harvest Method - Seed Tree
Age - 79
Site Index - 60
Growth Rate - 0.5" last 10 years
Pine Basal Area - 80
Hardwood Basal Area - 20
Soil Type - Runclint, Evesboro & Galestown

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 2010 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 14
Dividing Creek Quadrangle

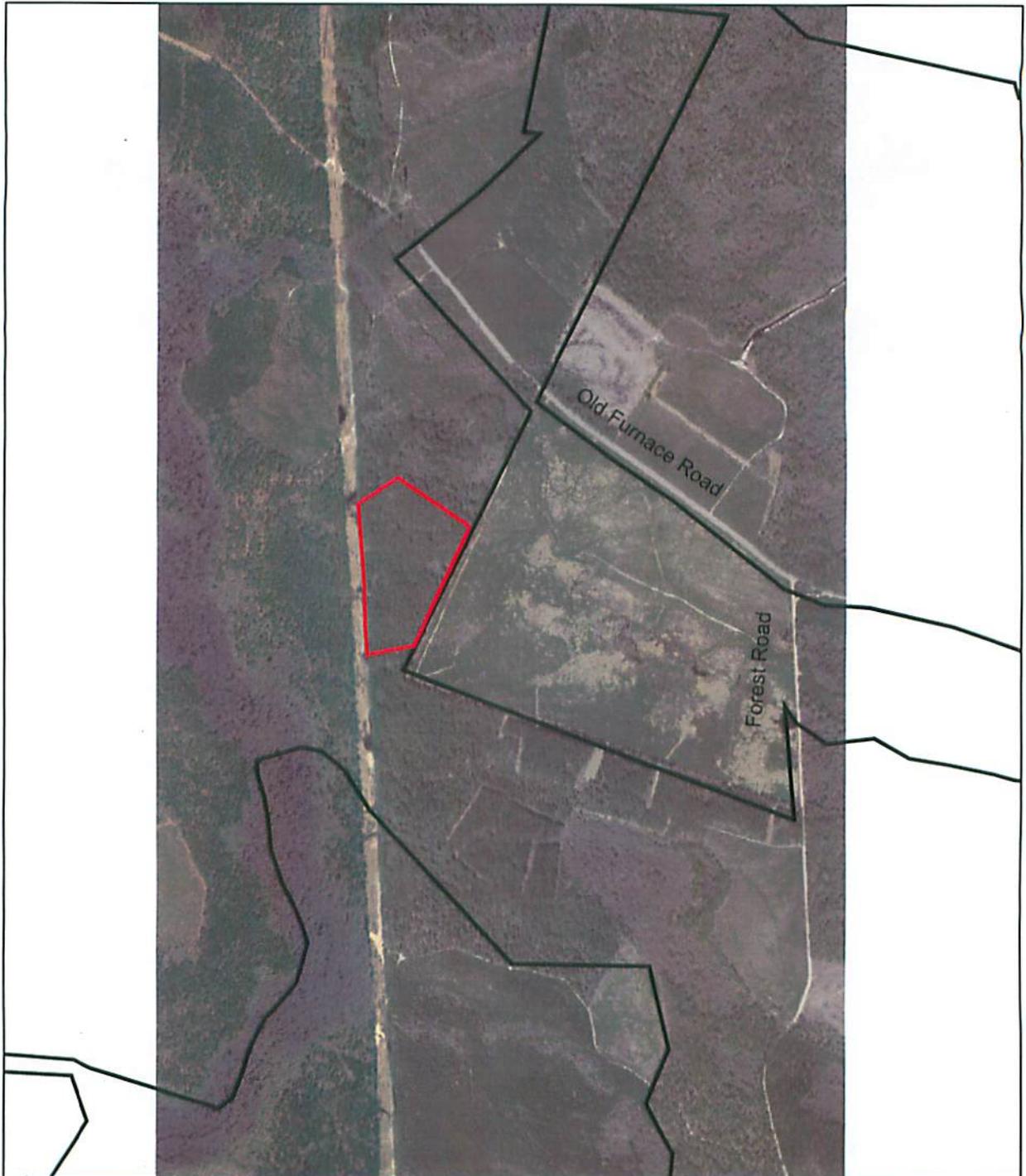


Area - 25.0 Acres
Forest Type - Pine/Hardwood
Harvest Method - Regeneration Harvest
Age - 81
Growth Rate - 0.4" last ten years
Pine Basal Area - 75
Hardwood Basal Area - 40
Soil Type - Klej, Askecksy &
Mellica-Berryland

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 2010 Annual Work Plan

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 13
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



Area - 21.4 Acres
Forest Type - Pine/Hardwood
Harvest Method - Regeneration
Age - 70
Site Index - 75
Growth Rate - 0.6 inches last ten years
Pine Basal Area - 80
Hardwood Basal Area - 40
Soil Type - Askecksey and
Mullica-Berryland Complex

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

FY 2010 Annual Work Plan

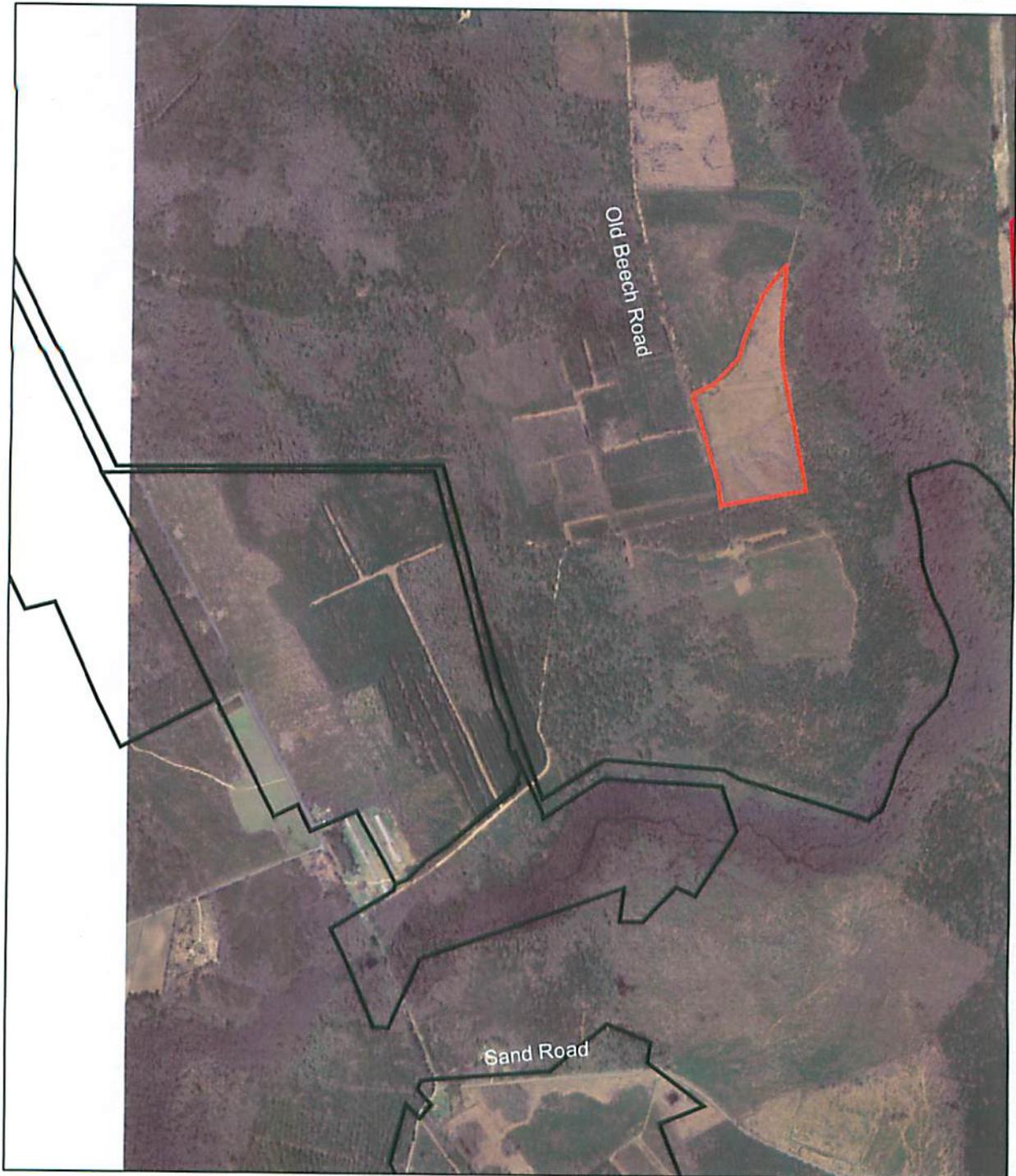
Pocomoke State Forest
Hudson Tract
Compartment # 38
Snow Hill Quadrangle



Area - 28.0 acres
Forest Type - Pine/Hardwood
Harvest Method - Regeneration
Age - 85
Site Index - 88
Pine Basal Area - 70
Hardwood Basal Area - 60
Growth Rate - 0.7" last ten years
Soil Type - Klej, Hurlock, Hamonton,
Fallsington and Zekiah

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

Pocomoke State Forest
Nazareth Church Tract
Compartment # 12
Dividing Creek Quadrangle



A pre-commercial thinning is proposed for this 21.0 acre pine stand. The stand was harvested in 2000 and regenerated naturally. Residual trees will be left on a 10x10 spacing.

1 inch equals 1,320 feet