


GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2016

Prepared:



(Forest Manager)

6/5/15
Date

Reviewed:



(Regional Manager)

6/16/15
Date

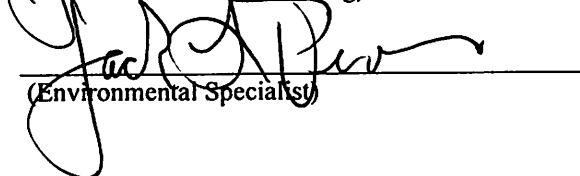
Reviewed:



(Land Acquisition & Planning)

6/25/15
Date

Approved:



(Environmental Specialist)

6.25.15
Date

MD DNR FOREST SERVICE

STATE FORESTS

ANNUAL WORK PLAN CHECK LIST

Submittal of Annual Work Plans

1. The Department will prepare an Annual Work Plan for each State Forest or other Department property planning timber sales, for the coming fiscal year. Each Annual Work Plan will include a list of projects for that fiscal year.

2. Annual Work Plan Sections
 - (a) Work Plan Summary
 - (b) Maintenance Projects
 - (c) Recreation Projects
 - (d) Special Projects
 - (e) Watershed Improvement Projects
 - (f) Restoration Projects
 - (g) Monitoring Projects
 - (h) Ecosystem Restoration Projects
 - (i) Interdisciplinary Team Comments
 - (j) Advisory Committee Comments
 - (k) Public Comments
 - (l) Silvicultural Projects
 - (1) Area description, including:
 - (i) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated natural disturbance regimes
 - (ii) Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities),
 - (iii) Other habitats and species of management concerns
 - (iv) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions,
 - (v) Soil resources; and
 - (vi) Historic conditions related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.
 - (2) Estimate of acres to be harvested,
 - (3) Estimate of board foot volume,
 - (4) Regeneration plan,
 - (5) Silvicultural description, and
 - (6) Map highlighting the work area.
 - (m) Silvicultural Activity Summary (last ten years)

Note: Sustainable Forestry Initiative Performance Measure 1.1. - Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.

Indicator 1.1.2 - Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.

Forest Overview

Green Ridge State Forest is located in eastern Allegany County. It is the only State Forest located in the Ridge and Valley province. Green Ridge receives the least amount of rainfall in Maryland, averaging 36 inches annually. Consisting of 47,560 acres, Green Ridge is the largest contiguous block of forestland in Maryland within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It accounts for about 30% of the State Forest System and approximately 12% of all DNR land in Maryland.

The general geographic boundaries of Green Ridge are Town Creek to the west and Sideling Hill Creek to the east. The northern boundary extends to the Mason-Dixon Line. The southern boundary parallels the Potomac River.

Elevations range from 500 feet above sea level on the Potomac River to 2,000 feet on Town Hill.

Three Major highways traverse the forest in an east to west direction: Route 144, Maryland Route 51, and Interstate 68.

In the early 1800's, Richard Caton and William Carroll in partnership owned much of the land that is Green Ridge State Forest today. Richard Caton was the son-in-law to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. William Carroll was the grandson of Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, a framer of the United States Constitution. The land was originally patented from vacant lands during the 1820-1840 period for inclusion into various timber and mining interests, primarily the Town Hill Mining, Manufacturing, and Timber Company. This business venture was financed by the estate of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The crumbling stone structure known as the Carroll Chimney, part of the steam-powered sawmill built in 1836, is the only known surviving structure of that period.

In the 1880-1912 era, most of the remaining virgin forest was cut and a period of neglect resulted in numerous wildfires. During the early 1900's, the Mertens family of Cumberland attempted to convert the forest into apple orchards and promoted it as "The Largest Apple Orchard in the Universe."

The orchard was subdivided into 10-acre parcels and sold to individuals as investment properties. Five acres of each property parcel was cleared, burned, and planted into apple trees. The remaining five acres had the best trees cut and the poorer trees were left standing. The orchard company went into bankruptcy in 1918. The interests of the corporation were acquired by the State Department of Forestry in 1931.

The first forest management activities at Green Ridge were performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's. Their main focus was fire control. Other work consisted of building roads, trails, recreation enhancements, and the management of existing forest for its future timber and wildlife potential.

During World War II, the CCC camp at Fifteen Mile Creek housed German prisoners of war who were required to cut pulpwood in the forest. As the forest grew it became popular with outdoor enthusiasts, especially hunters. It also contributed more and more to the local wood products industry.

Today, Green Ridge is a diverse forest consisting primarily of a 110 year old even-aged mixed oak forest, mixed with a wide variety of age classes resulting from various silviculture activities beginning in the late 1960's.

The oak consists of a variety of species, including black oak, white oak, red oak, scarlet oak, and chestnut oak. Five native pines grow at Green Ridge: white pine, Virginia pine, pitch pine, tablemountain pine, and shortleaf pine. Flowering dogwood, redbud, and serviceberry are common understory trees.

Upland animals found in abundant numbers on the forest are white-tailed deer, fox and gray squirrel, raccoons, red fox, and cottontail rabbits. Other animals include muskrat, beaver, mink, chipmunks, mice, flying squirrels, weasels, skunks, opossums, bobcat, and black bear.

Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and woodcock are popular game birds on Green Ridge. Other birds include the pileated woodpecker, red-tailed hawk, and the barred owl. A wide variety of neotropical migrants and songbirds also occur on the forest.

Wildflowers such as mayapple, coltsfoot, spring beauty, trillium, bloodroot, and spiderwort flourish at Green Ridge.

Green Ridge State Forest

Fiscal Year 2016

AWP Summary

This work plan includes silviculture proposals for a total of 277 managed acres within the 24,414 acre general management zone in which area based sustainable forest management is practiced. Of these managed acres, harvests are proposed. There will be some variation between managed acres and actual harvest acres to provide for various buffers and/or retention areas. Under area based management, the annual target is 200-300 managed acres.

The silviculture proposals within this plan include 183 acres of variable retention harvests for an estimated 575mbf of hardwood.

In addition to the above silviculture projects, other maintenance, recreation, ecosystem restoration, watershed improvement, monitoring, and special projects are included in this plan. Specific projects are described within the following pages.

Maintenance Projects

General Maintenance will continue such as maintaining 100 primitive campsites, hazardous tree removal, pole gate installations as needed, mowing and maintenance of handicap access hunting areas, and general maintenance of headquarters complex, shooting range, and outbuildings.

1. Upgrade all designated primitive campsites to include posting of state forest camping regulations.
2. Recover 3 miles of boundary & re-blaze 20 miles of existing state forest boundary.
3. Continue to maintain 100 primitive camp sites.
4. Continue to maintain public shooting range.
5. Continue to maintain viewsheds on 5 overlooks.
6. Continue to maintain 4 handicap hunter access roads.

Recreation Projects

- 1. Maintain approximately 60 miles of trails including 50 miles of hiking trails and 12 miles of mountain bike trail.**
- 2. Continue to enhance upland game hunting opportunities by enhancing early successional wildlife habitat at Kirk Orchard, Bull Ring Ranch, Anthony's Ridge, and Kasecamp Bottomlands.**
- 3. Provide 2-4 guided interpretive tours on the forest to share management principles and practices with the public.**

Project Title:

Green Ridge Trail Maintenance

Trail Uses

Check all that apply

Diverse Motorized Recreational Non-motorized Recreational Transportation Trail

Project Types

Check only one category

Maintenance and restoration Development and rehabilitation of facilities
 Purchase and lease of equipment Construction Acquisition of easements
 Assessment Interpretive/educational programs

Project Cost:

\$30,000	\$6000.00	\$36,000
RTP Funding Request	Matching Funds	Total Project Cost

Project Sponsor (Applicant)

Please provide contact information for Project Sponsor Entity and Project Manager.

Project Sponsor Entity	MD Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service
Project Manager	Mark Beals
Title	Forest Manager
Organization	DNR-Forest Service
Address 1	28700 Headquarters Drive NE, Flintstone, MD 21530
Address 2	
Telephone	301-478-3124
Cell Phone	
Fax	301-478-2564
E-mail	mbeals@dnr.state.md.us

All questions related to application content, contact tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us

1. Project Location

Green Ridge State Forest, Allegany Co. MD

Describe the limits of the project, including City and County; include a detailed location map

2. Project Abstract *Complete the following sentences...then add additional information*

This project will.....

Support contractual staff for maintenance and operation of the 60+ miles of Recreational Trails at Green Ridge State Forest. The Green Ridge trail system is designated for multiple recreational activities, including hiking, mountain biking, and hunting access. Green Ridge is the most heavily visited recreational destination of the western Maryland State Forests for people from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area with approximately 100,000 visitors annually. Many of these outdoor enthusiasts visit Green Ridge to enjoy its hiking trails, mountain bike trails, motorized forest roads, and overlooks. All sites are accessible and impacted by motorized vehicles and people. This project benefits the recreational trail user by keeping the existing public recreation resources on the forest functional, safe, sustainable, clean and beautiful.

Benefits the trail user by.....

This project requires no additional planning or design. All environmentally sensitive area are identified and accounted for? This project includes maintenance of the Maryland section of the Great Eastern Trail. The project helps sustain the Green Ridge Trail System, A National Trail. This project enhances tourism/economic development opportunities, within Allegany County This project is located adjacent to the National Road scenic Byway and the C&D Canal National Historic Park. It is also located within the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area.

Concisely describe all the major elements of your proposed project. Points that should be covered include:

- *How much planning and design has been completed for the Project?*
- *Is the Project within proximity to any environmentally sensitive area?*
- *Is the project a missing link or potentially part of the State Transportation Trail network (go to <http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Planning/Trails/trails.html> for more information)?*
- *Does the project provide access to a regional land or water trail system?*
- *Does the project help sustain a trail system?*
- *Does the project enhance tourism/economic development opportunities, particularly for towns?*
- *Is the Project along a byway, within a heritage area, adjacent to a Chesapeake Gateway, or associated with any other tourism related area or activity?*

3. **Project Summary-**The project will include continuous maintenance of approximately 60 miles of the Green Ridge trail system to include trail clearing, surface reinforcement, blazing & signage, and interpretive wayside exhibits. Hiking Trails, Campsites, Mountain Bike Trails, and Overlooks are accessed and enjoyed by motorists. Green Ridge has received a national award from the Coalition for Recreational Trails. The National Park Service has designated Green Ridge Hiking Trails as a National Recreation Trail. Furthermore, Green Ridge is now the location for the Maryland section of the new Great Eastern Trail, which is expected to rival the popularity of the Appalachian Trail. The project will enhance natural heritage and ecotourism opportunities within the economically depressed Appalachia Maryland Region. The project area is considered a gateway to the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) which is a fifteen county area including Allegany County in Maryland. Additionally, the project area is adjacent to the National Road designated byway and the C&O Canal National Park.

Task No. & Name	Task Description
1- Trail Recon	Recon all trails to remove fallen trees and debris that fell over winter and identify trail sections in need of reinforcement.
2- Blazing	Repaint trail blazes on sections that paint is becoming weak.
3- Trail Restoration	Repair trail surface in sections identified in need of repair and water diversions.
4- Signs & Waysides	Maintain and update trail signs, bulletin boards, and interpretive infrastructure as needed.

List by TASK and completely describe all the major elements of your proposed project in a concise manner. Although the program does not cover the cost of planning, design, engineering and permitting, please include these items in your summary if not completed.

4. **Project Property Owner**

This project will be completed on state land managed by the MD Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service.

The Project shall be constructed on property owned by and/or on permanent easements held by the Project Sponsor. If a non-profit is partnering with a park manager, please include an email or letter by park manager explaining that there is or will be an agreement.

5. **Project length**

Maintenance activities on Hiking Trail (52+miles); Mountain Bike Trail (12 miles), and six remote scenic overlooks accessed by motorized trails (unimproved roads). This project will last for 12 months and coincide with state fiscal year.

Please include linear feet of trail, width of trail, whether new or reconstructed and proposed surface material of trail.

6. **Prior Projects**

Green Ridge has been awarded National Recreational Trail Grants to maintain the resources described in this proposal for at least the past ten years. The level of maintenance of these recreation resources would not be sustainable without the grant. Recent seasonal trail labor grants that have been approved and completed include: RT RT09-23, RT10-25, RT11-23 and RT12-22. RT13-34 is the seasonal labor awarded to Green Ridge for State FY14, and will be completed by July 1, 2014. In addition RT14 labor grant will maintain this program through June 2015.

Describe the status of any previously funded National Recreational Trail funded projects.

- *Include the year that it was funded or RT#.*
- *If there are delays with prior projects, please explain why.*
- *Describe any relationship between this project and previously funded National Recreational Trail Program projects.*
- *Describe how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work or comprehensive plans that may have been developed.*

7. Project Work Plan

Task No. & Name	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
NEPA Approval	Nov 2014	7 months	Kenneth Jolly	Environmental review and approval
PCA Codes Assigned	May 2015	1 month	Shenika Allen	Administrative codes for tracking Grant expenditures
Hire contractual staff	July 2015	1 month	Mark Beals	Complete seasonal hiring process
Purchase materials	July 2015	2 months	Mark Beals	Purchase materials needed for trail maintenance
Implement Trail work	July 2015	12 months	Mark Beals	Work is continuous throughout contract
Grant close out	June 2016	1 month	Mark Beals Shenika Allen	Close out documentation completed and submitted to HQ

This table is provided as a guide to developing a realistic project schedule for implementing the TASKS described in item 1. Project Summary. Although the program does not cover the cost of planning, design, engineering and permitting, please include these items in your schedule if not completed.

8. Project Budget

Task No. & Name	Requested Funds 80%	Sponsor Match 20%	Total Task Cost 100%
Seasonal Labor-Contractual Trail Maintenance 1.5 positions @ \$15.00/hour	\$26,000	\$5,200	\$31,200
Materials & Supplies (tree marking paint, pressure treated lumber, specialized hand tools, etc.)	\$4,000	\$800	\$4,800
Total Cost	\$30,000	\$6,000	\$36,000

Funds requested for projects cannot exceed \$40,000 for trail construction and \$30,000 for non-construction. (For the FY14 solicitation, we will consider lifting the \$40K cap for construction projects that score exceedingly high with our criteria)

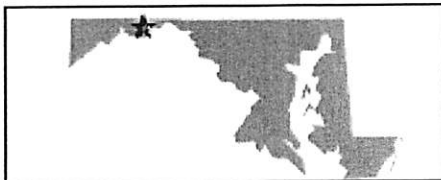
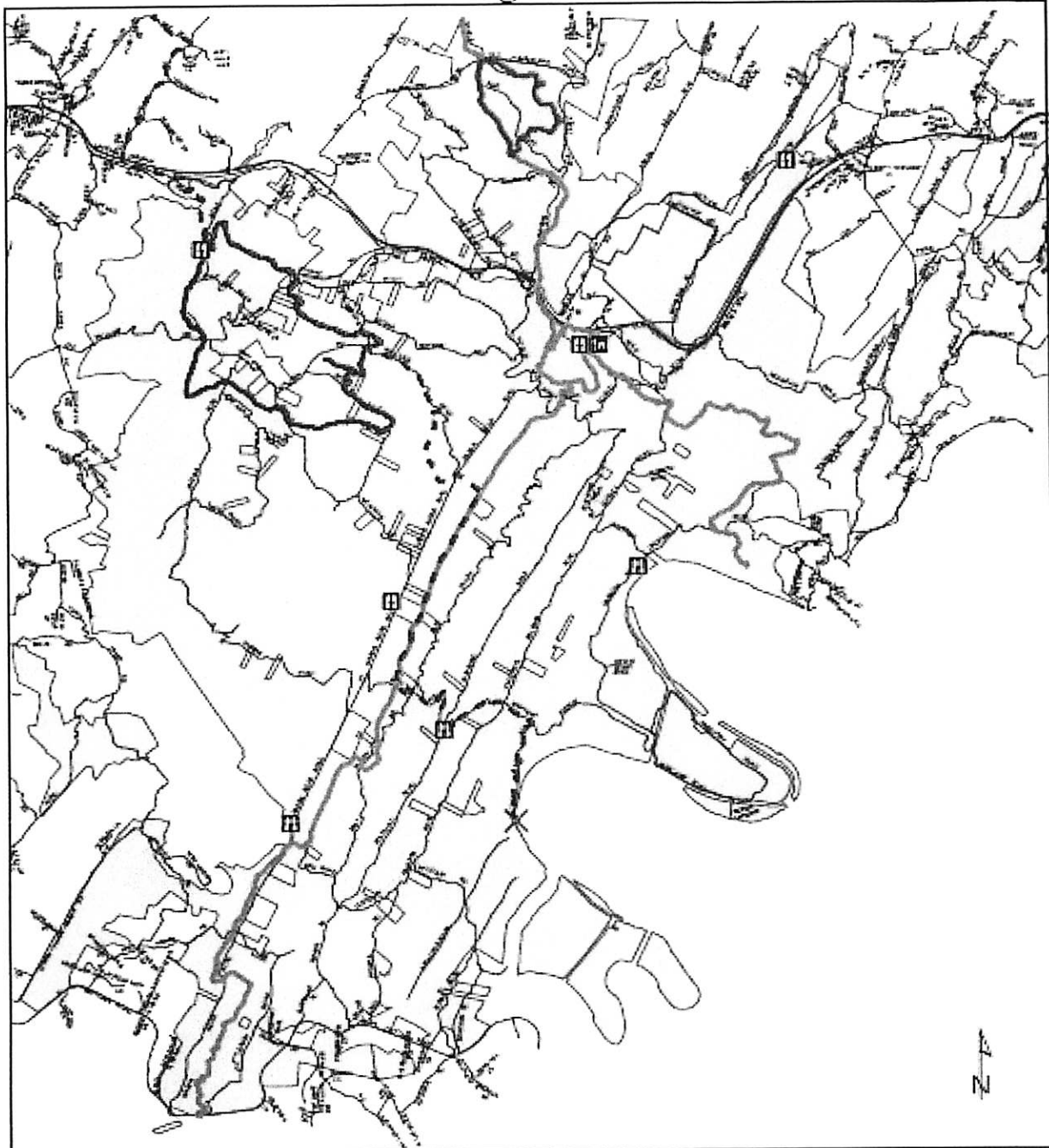
9. Matching Funds (20%)

Task	Source	Type (Cash or In-kind)	Description Including Hours and Rate	Amount
MD Forest Service Staff Labor	GRSF	In-kind	Project	\$6,000

	operational budget		implementation/s taff labor – 400 hours @ \$15/hour	
Total				\$6,000

10. **Location Map**

Green Ridge State Forest



1:100,000

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Outdoor Club Rd Project | Mtn. Bike Trail | GRSF Headquarters |
| Great Eastern Trail | Hiking Trails | Overlook |
| 4-Mile Loop | Roads | GRSF Boundary |

11. **Submission-**It is preferred that applications be submitted electronically to tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us by 2 p.m. on July 1st, 2014. Because our email server rejects most attachments larger than 6 MB, please use an FTP site or file sharing service to transmit the application and any large attachments. Confirmation will be sent when the application is received. Please contact us at the email above with any questions about submissions or to discuss potential projects. In early August, the Recreational Trail Advisory Committee will meet to review projects. Applicants will be notified concerning awards during the Fall of 2014.

Options for Submission include:

Internet/E-mail (preferred)

- Complete the form on your computer and save the file on your computer.
- Email the file as an attachment to: Terry Maxwell, tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us
- Use an FTP site or file sharing service to transmit the application and any large attachments.

U.S. Mail

- Mail printed form to:

Terry Maxwell
Maryland Scenic Byways / Recreational Trails Program
State Highway Administration
707 N Calvert Street, Mailstop C-303
Baltimore, MD 21202

SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. Forest Regeneration Inventory:

A Critical part of achieving long term sustainable forestry monitoring and measuring the outcomes or responses to the management. Since the Stand delineation and inventory project will be complete by FY2016, these technician resources will be available to focus on inventory of the regeneration and response to management. This work will include collecting regeneration inventory data under the Silvah protocol and all stands will be sampled 3-5 years post regeneration harvest.

B. Continue to Network with Partners:

GRSF is committed to being a “teaching forest” and strives to reconnect people to the land through providing forest management tours for the general public, hosting training sessions and forest resource-based events, service learning projects, and serving as natural laboratory for schools and universities.

1. Maintain working relationship with Garrett College – Forestry classes use forest as training laboratory and implement practices directed by Forest Manager.
2. Maintain working relationship with Allegany College of Maryland-Forestry Program will use GRSF for forestry lab and site for their Summer Harvesting Course. GRSF will provide a site where timber can be extracted as part of harvesting course in return for in-kind services.
3. Continue participation with Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) Forest Manager serves as Executive Board member.
4. Continue partnership with the Ridge and Valley Stream Keepers (RVSK). GRSF provides meeting room and shares information in return RVSK monitor water quality in the streams within GRSF.
5. Continue partnership with Wildlife Institute to work on Appalachian Mountain Woodcock Initiative to enhance American Woodcock habitat on the forest.
6. Continue to support and collaborate with Volunteer Team Incorporated to facilitate the spirit of service on the forest and reconnect people to the land.
7. Continue to participate in I&E Programs including Arbor Day, Project Learning Tree, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Natural Resources Careers Camp, etc..

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Double Pine Rd

Managed Area: 81 Acres

Harvest Area: 44 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 113 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

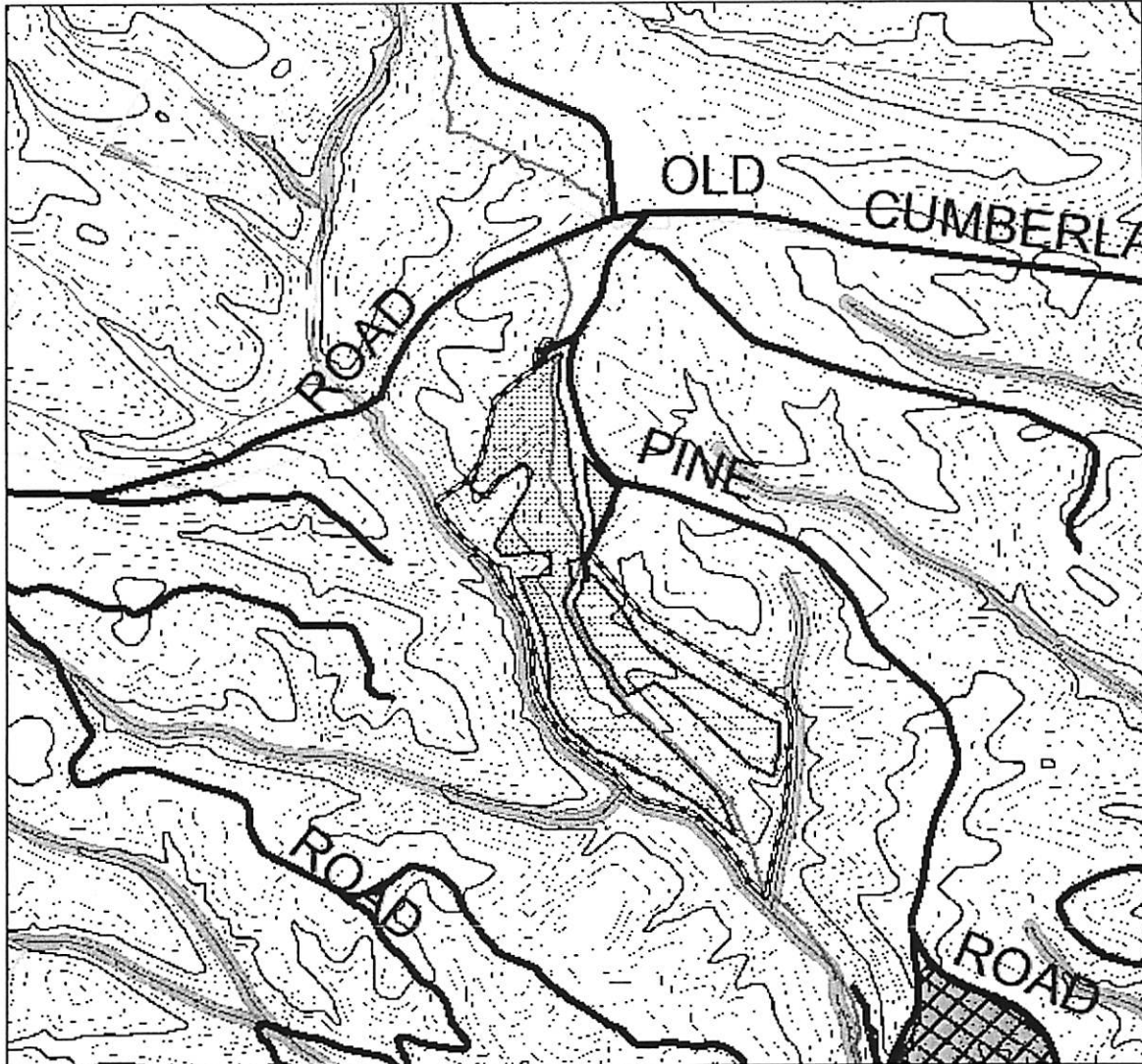
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 113 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchard in years prior to 113 years ago. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2016 Proposed Harvest Double Pine Rd



Compartment - 2B
 Managed Area - 81 Acres
 Harvest Area - 44 Acres
 Age - 113
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 260
 AGS - 62 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 96%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Weikert
 Site Index - 47
 Composition - WO-46%
 CO-14%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary
- Hiking Trail

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: East Valley Rd

Managed Area: 49 Acres

Harvest Area: 38 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 125 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

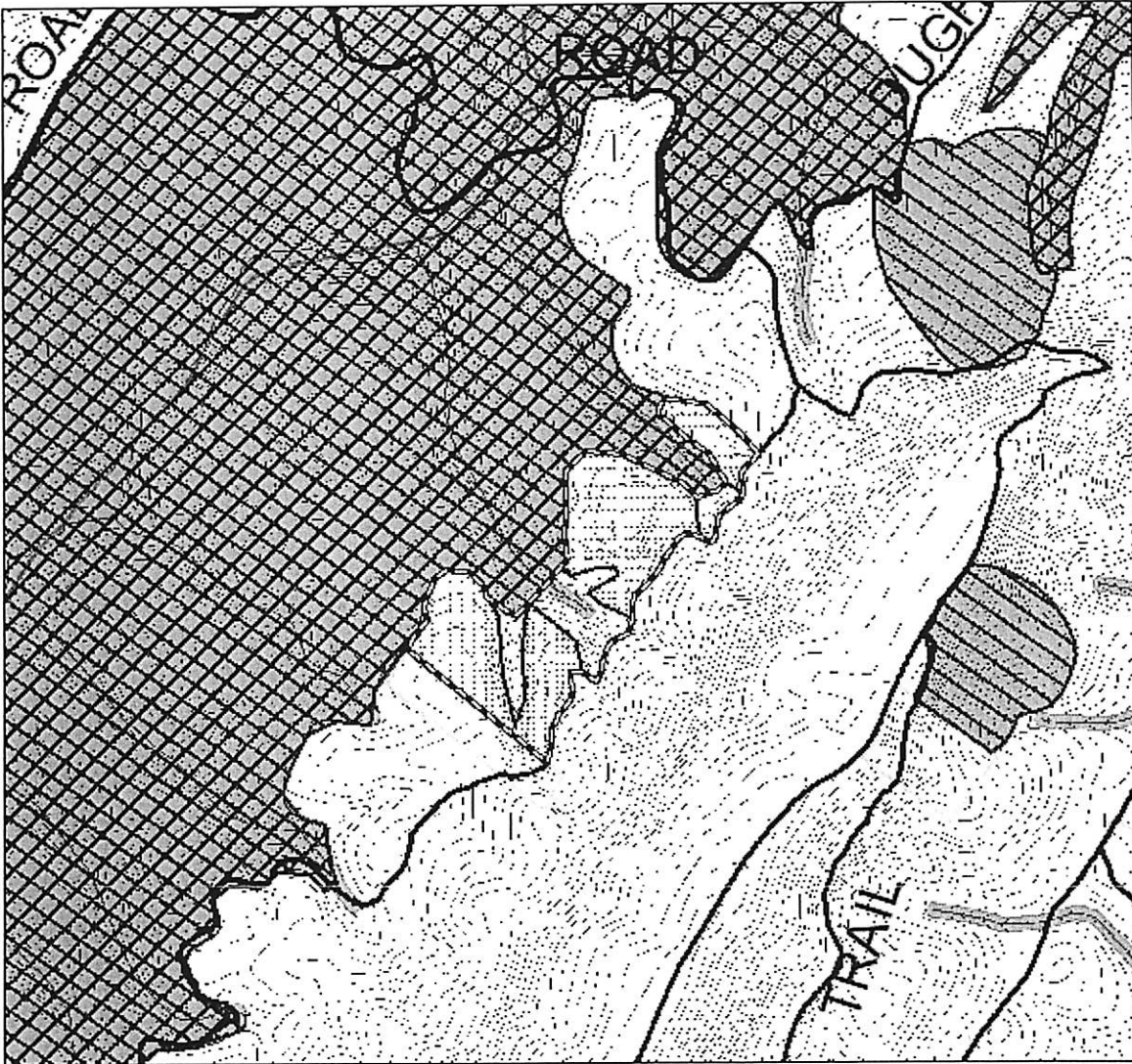
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

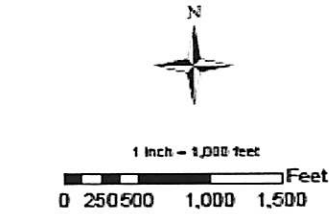
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 125 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchard in years prior. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.






FY-2016 Proposed Harvest East Valley Rd



Compartment - 54
 Managed Area - 49 Acres
 Harvest Area - 38 Acres
 Age - 125
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 236
 AGS - 124 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 126%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Dekalb/Klinesville
 Site Index - 55
 Composition - SO- 58%
 WO- 47%



Legend

-  Managed Area
-  Harvest Area
-  Widlands
-  OGEMA
-  ESA
-  HCVF
-  GRFSF Boundary

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Mertens Avenue

Managed Area: 73 Acres

Harvest Area: 46 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 122 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

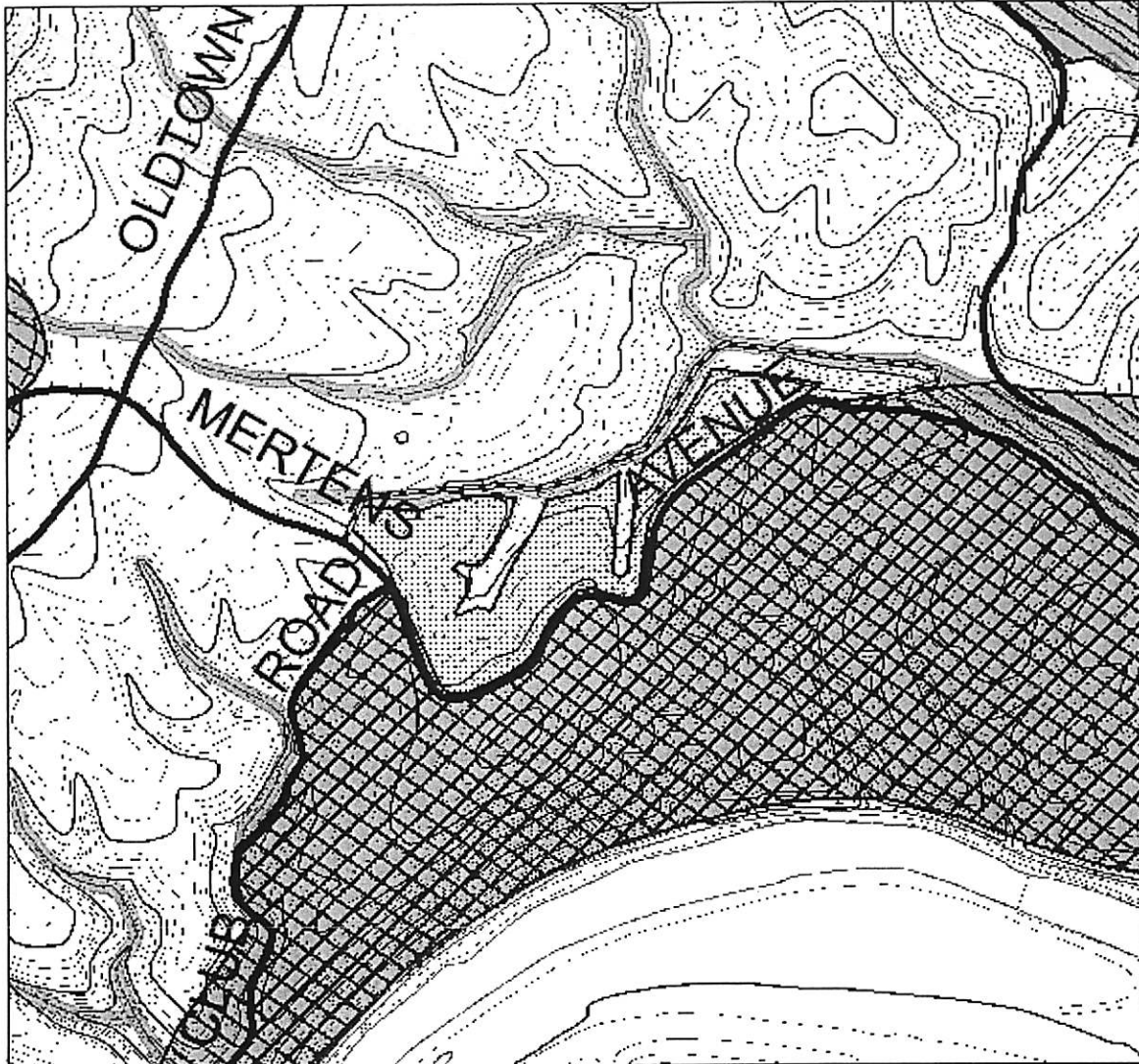
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

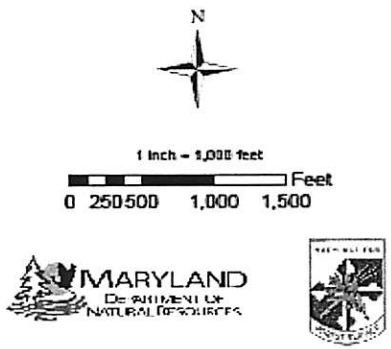
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 122 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchard in years prior to 122 years ago. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2016 Proposed Harvest Mertens Ave



Compartment - 58
 Managed Area - 73 Acres
 Harvest Area - 46 Acres
 Age - 122
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 255
 AGS - 80 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 103%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Klinsville/Weikert
 Site Index - 58
 Composition - CO- 38%
 WO- 15%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Old Williams Rd

Managed Area: 37 Acres

Harvest Area: 26 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 107 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

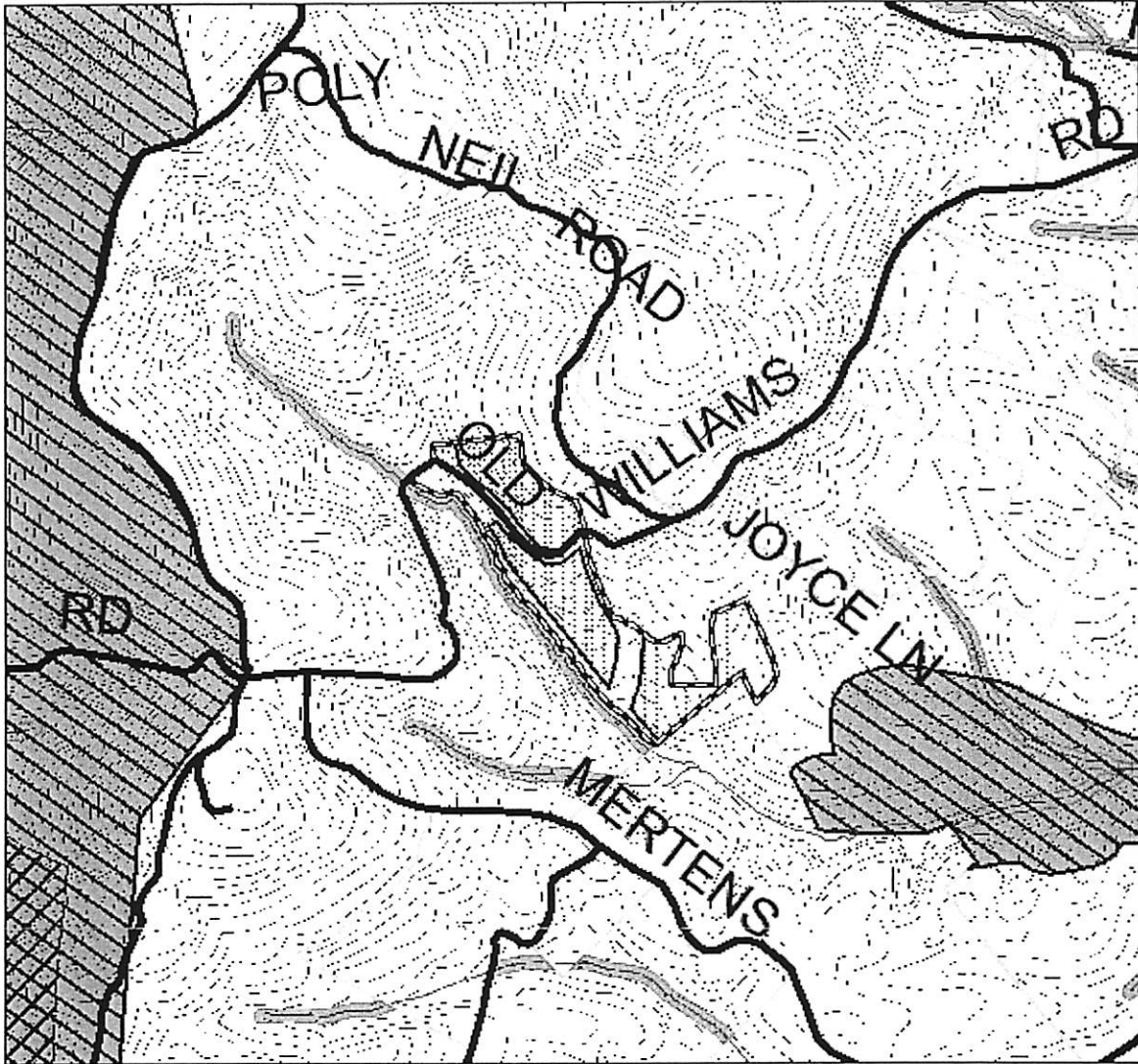
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

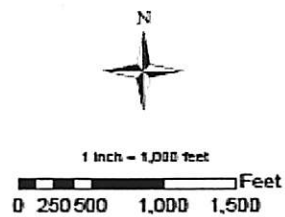
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 107 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchard in years prior to 107 years ago. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2016 Proposed Harvest Old Williams Rd



Compartment - 8A & 12
 Managed Area - 37 Acres
 Harvest Area - 26 Acres
 Age - 109
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 163
 AGS - 98 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 104%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Weikert
 Site Index - 54
 Composition - SO- 46%
 WO- 19%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

Silviculture Proposal Narrative

Proposal Name: Stone Mountain Rd

Managed Area: 37 Acres

Harvest Area: 29 Acres

Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Types and Development: This is a mixed oak stand within the general forest area. According to the GRSF specified 100 year rotation, this stand is over-mature at 122 years. Furthermore it is an overstocked stand. These facts constitute the selection of this stand for regeneration silviculture treatment.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species: There are no known RTE species currently on or impacted by this site.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There are no known habitats or species of management concern on this site.

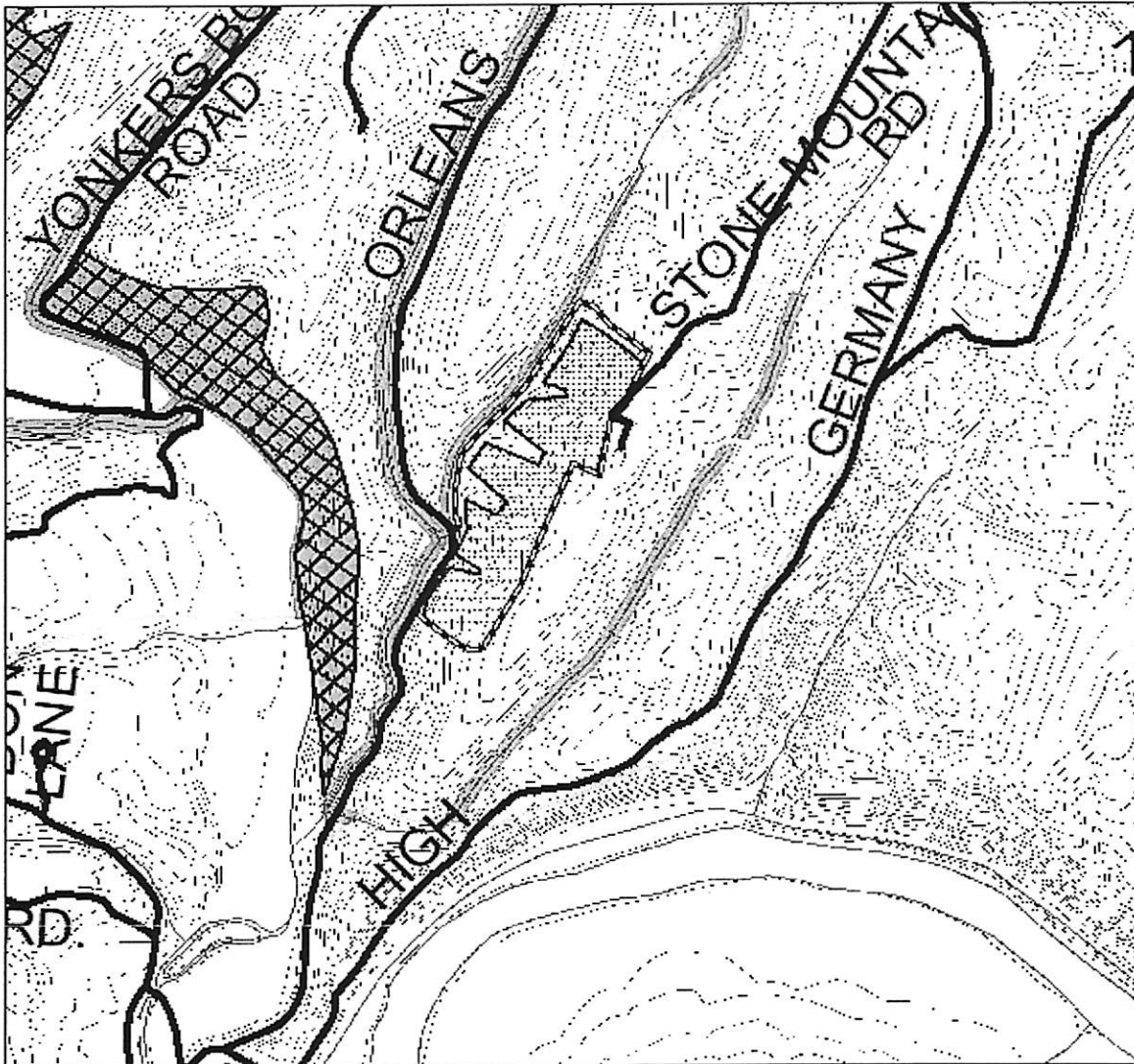
Water Resources: Water resources will be protected on this site. Access to the site is an existing road. All streams are already identified as HCVF and will be protected by a 50-foot wide no-cut forest buffer.

Soil Resources: Soil resources on this site will be protected under the *Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Rutting Guidelines for Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests*.

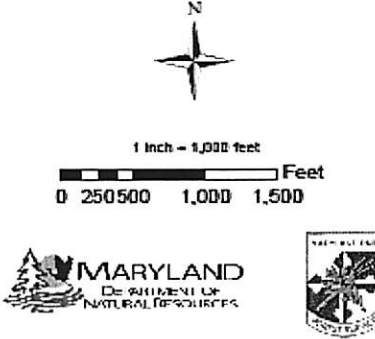
Historic Conditions: This stand like most of GRSF likely developed on its own over the past 122 years into what it is today despite the fact that it was commercially clearcut, and likely the ground was converted to fruit orchard in years prior. Historically this site was likely dominated by American chestnut. However, chestnut blight has eliminated American chestnut from having a dominant position in the landscape.

Silvicultural Prescription: The recommendation for this stand is to regenerate the stand under the principles of variable retention. The objective is to achieve regeneration of a mixed oak stand while maintaining some attributes of the original stand for wildlife habitat, natural heritage, and aesthetics values.

FY-2016 Proposed Harvest Stone Mountain Rd



Compartment - 46B
 Managed Area - 37 Acres
 Harvest Area - 29 Acres
 Age - 122
 Type - Mixed Oak
 TPA - 315
 AGS - 114 sq. ft.
 Stocking - 126%+
 Growth Rate - <2%
 Soil Type - Weikert
 Site Index - 60
 Composition - SO-37%
 WP-28%



Legend

- Managed Area
- Harvest Area
- Wildlands
- OGEMA
- ESA
- HCVF
- GRSF Boundary

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Continue to establish and enhance riparian buffers along Town Creek with volunteer tree planting projects. Non invasive tree and shrub species will be planted to establish forest buffers and enhance wildlife habitat. The F.J. Bruisers Off-Road Club has participated in such planting projects the previous two springs and plan to continue to contribute this coming year by doing additional planting and buffer maintenance in the Bull Ring area.

SPECIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS

1. Continue Implementation of the Kirk Orchard, Anthony's Ridge, and Kasecamp Bottoms Special Wildlife Habitat Plans.
2. Continue Rotational mowing and brush management in approved grasslands and other wildlife openings.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS

- 1. Work will continue to suppress ailanthus populations on the forest. Focus will be put on roadside populations and individuals found within harvest proposal areas. Research has shown that suppression of ailanthus is most successful when using basal bark or cut surface treatments prior to harvest.**
- 2. Partner with DNR Heritage Division to implement ecosystem restoration practices for shale barrens on GRSF.**

MONITORING PROJECTS

1. MD DNR Fisheries will continue to monitor aquatic populations in Town Creek and the Potomac River. The Ridge and Valley Stream Keepers will also continue to monitor water quality in the streams within the region.
2. GRSF staff will monitor regeneration of stands by completing post harvest regeneration inventories on all final rotation harvests during 5th growing season.
3. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Division will continue to monitor 2 GRSF resident black bear sows and cubs that are collared and gps equipped.
4. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to research and monitor T&E species on the forest including wood turtle, timber rattlesnake, and several lepidoptra species.
5. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to monitor big game harvest on the State Forest via required hunter harvest check in system.
6. Wildlife Institute will monitor American Woodcock population in Kirk Orchard area with annual spring singing ground surveys.
7. GRSF staff will continue to monitor and document all timber operations within the forest on a weekly basis.
8. Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will continue to monitor gypsy moth, hemlock wooly adelgid, and other insect pest populations on the forest.
9. MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service will continue to monitor whip-poor-will populations with annual spring nightjar survey.

Operational Management

1. Introduction

This section of the plan is designed to cover the annual cost and revenues associated with the operational management of Green Ridge State Forest. It is the Department's intent that most of the revenues generated from the GRSF will be used to pay for the management and operation of the Forest. As stated in Chapter 1 of this plan, "*The primary goal of the Green Ridge State Forest Sustainable Management Plan is to demonstrate that an environmentally sound, sustainably managed forest can contribute to local and regional economies while at the same time protecting significant or unique natural communities and elements of biological diversity.*"

The numbers expressed in this section are only estimates and averages of annual expenses and revenues. These numbers will fluctuate each year based on management prescriptions, economic conditions and public use of the forest.

The following information is a breakdown on Revenues and Operational costs associated with the Green Ridge State Forest. These figures are only estimates that are based on projected revenues and operational expenses. Yearly changes in the timber markets and weather conditions can severely affect revenues. Also weather can greatly affect recreation revenue. Operational expenses will vary from year to year mainly based on costs associated with proposed projects. For many special projects other sources of revenues such as matching grants will be sought to help offset the cost to the Department.

2. Green Ridge State Forest Revenue

Estimated: \$225,000 to \$300,000

Revenues that are generated from the Green Ridge State Forest are deposited into the Department's Forest Reserve Fund. In order to cover expenses out of this Fund, a Green Ridge Forest Budget must be developed a year in advance as part of the larger DNR budget. It then goes through the legislative approval/review process along with all other state operating budgets. Once adopted, the budget goes into effect the first day of the fiscal year (July 1st).

Forest Product Sale Revenue: Estimated: \$150,000 to \$175,000

This revenue is generated from the sale of forest products, which are identified in the Annual Work Plan. Traditional forest products include pulpwood and sawtimber from intermediate and regeneration harvests. This revenue is tied to forest harvest activities identified in the annual work plan and will vary each year. With the current age class distribution of the forest most revenue will be from regeneration final harvest operations.

Recreation Revenue: Estimated: \$75,000 to 125,000

This revenue is generated from the sale of camping permits, fuel wood permits, and shooting range permits.

Other Revenue/Funding Sources

Annual Amounts vary, Estimated: \$NA

Other budgetary funding that is utilized on an annual basis in the management of Green Ridge State Forest comes from a variety of sources including the Forest or Park Reserve Fund, General Funds and/or the Off-road Vehicle Fund.

Grants

Annual Amounts vary, Estimated for FY-2016: \$30,000

Other funding comes in the form of grants through state and federal sources and are primarily utilized in recreation, habitat and watershed restoration projects. These funds are project specific.

Some funding will be obtained through partnerships and grants, such as National Recreation Trail Grants funds. Expenses include the installation recreation improvements, removing invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities and habitat. This year GRSF has applied for \$30,000 through the National Recreation Trail Grant program to fund labor for maintaining the Green Ridge Trail system.

3. OPERATIONAL COST:

Estimated total Annual Expenses: \$550,000

Operational expenses are those costs paid directly out of the GRSF operational budget by the State Forest Manager and vary based on approval of operational budgets. The Forest Manager prepares a proposed operational budget for the forest based on instructions provided approximately one year in advance of the fiscal year. The FY-2016 budget proposal was prepared in August of 2014.

Staffing Cost

Classified Salaries, Wages and Benefits, Estimated: \$261,810

This cost is associated with Departmental State Personnel classified salaries. This staff is responsible for developing and implementing annual work plans, managing the daily activities on the forest, including resource management, recreation program management, maintenance, and administration.

Contractual Staffing, Estimated: \$130,000

This cost is associated with contractual staffing associated with operations of the state forest. Contractual personnel are responsible for assisting classified personnel in conducting work outlined in the annual work plan, managing the daily activities on the forest, including boundary line work, maintenance of trails, forest roads, maintaining primitive campsites, a public shooting range, overlooks, wildlife habitat areas, and assist with implementing all maintenance, recreational, silviculture, and ecosystem restoration projects.

Land Operation Cost

Estimated: \$100,000

This includes expenses for office and field equipment, vehicles, gates, gravel, signs, boundary paint, roadwork contracts and construction, trash removal from illegal dumping, boundary line work & surveying, tree planting, site preparation, control of invasive species, pre-commercial thinning and other forest management practices. Some of these costs will vary greatly from year to year based on the activities identified in the Annual Work Plan.

Forest Certification, Inventory & Monitoring Program

Estimated: \$10,000

This estimate reflects the annual cost of various on-going inventory and research projects on the forest. Expenses are directly tied to Forest Certification. The purpose of forest monitoring is to accurately evaluate forest health and the effects of specific management activities. Resource managers will use the information to make informed future management decisions (i.e. adaptive management). Cost would cover both forest resource and sensitive habitat inventories and monitoring the effects of various restoration projects.

Expenses for forest certification will vary from year to year and will be at their highest at the initial certification and then every five years when the re-certification is done. Routine audits are used to verify compliance with the various certification programs. The goal is to certify Green Ridge State Forest under both the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (SFC). Each certifying agency takes a slightly different look at what is needed for sustainable forest management. Expenses will include fees for audits and annual monitoring programs for compliance with the certification requirements.

Future plans include hiring additional staffing to cover wildlife management activities, restoration projects, recreation management, monitoring, and additional forestry related activities outlined in this Sustainable Resource Management Plan for Green Ridge State Forest.

County Payments

Estimated: \$60,000

These are revenue payments to local county governments which will vary every year. Payments are made on an annual basis to Allegany County based on 25% of the gross revenue generated from GRSF. These payments come out of revenue generated from timber sales and recreation. These payments are used to help the counties offset the loss in property tax revenues which are not paid on state owned lands.

4. Summary

This is the general breakdown on Revenues and Operational Cost associated with the Green Ridge State Forest for FY-2016. As described, these figures will vary from year to year. This generalization of the operating budget suggests the importance of maintaining income levels in order to achieve the goals set forth in the other portions of this plan (i.e. sustainability).

Annual Work Plan Review
Summary of Review Comments
Green Ridge State Forest

The following is a summary of the comments and actions taken in response to the three-part review process of the Green Ridge State Forest FY-16 Annual Work Plan. Comments were received through DNR ID Team review, Citizens Advisory Committee review, and the public review of the internet posted AWP.

Comments regarding specific proposals as listed in table of contents.

Sections A - E

ID TEAM: No specific comments

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific comments.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific comments.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposals as planned.

Section F Silvicultural Projects

COMPARTMENT #2B – Double Pine Road.

A 81 acre stand to regenerate approximately 44 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: No major concerns

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

COMPARTMENT #54– East Valley Road

A 49 acre stand to regenerate approximately 38 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: Concern about proximity to wildland.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned but leave retention (feather edge) along the boundary with Wildland.

COMPARTMENT #58 – Mertens Avenue

A 73 acre stand to regenerate approximately 46 acres via variable retention..

ID TEAM: No specific concerns.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

COMPARTMENT #8A&12 – Old Williams Road

A 37 acre stand to regenerate approximately 26 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: No specific concerns.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.
FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

COMPARTMENT #46B – Stone Mountain Road

A 37 acre stand to regenerate approximately 29 acres via variable retention.

ID TEAM: No specific concerns.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific concerns.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific concerns.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposal as planned.

Sections G - J

ID TEAM: No specific comments

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No specific comments.

PUBLIC MEETING: No specific comments.

FINAL PROPOSAL: Proceed with proposals as planned.



Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service

Green Ridge State Forest FY16 AWP ID Team Notes

Date: 2014-09-15

Attendance: Alan Klotz, Eric Null, Steve Carr (DNR-LAP), George Eberling, Jesse Morgan, Mark Beals, Jeff Sweitzer (DNR-NRP), Lyle Almond (guest UMD-Coop Extension), Jack Perdue

Agenda

September 15, 2014

09:00: Coffee & GRSF Update.

09:30: Review FY-2015 Annual Work Plan

10:00: Visit timber harvest proposal on Stone Mtn Rd

10:50: Visit timber harvest proposal on Mertens Ave

11:45: Lunch (Bring bag lunch)

12:45: Visit timber harvest proposal on East Valley Rd

13:15 Visit timber harvest proposal on Old Williams Rd

14:00 Visit timber harvest proposal on Double Pine Rd

14:30 Wrap up review.

15:00 Adjourn

Stone Mountain Road

- White pine on southern end of tract should be maintained but protocol is that Green Ridge State Forest does that anyway.
- Scrub oak was found on the southern end as well and could use some thinning.

- The old landing has a lot of native species stabilizing the site. The native species for landing stabilization are preferred by Heritage Service.

Mertens Avenue

- The stand age is estimated to be 122 years.
- There was some discussion whether this stand was classified as Near-Old-Growth.
- There was no discussion as to modify the silvicultural proposal.

East Valley Road

- Variable retention harvest is being proposed here.
- The question was raised regarding where the lines of the new Wildland are in relation to this harvest proposal. The harvest lay-out should be aware of the Wildland boundary. It was the opinion of some on the ID Team that the Wildland boundary should have followed along the road.
- The decision of the ID Team was to feather the edge of harvest adjacent to the Wildland or leave buffer as retention.

Other sites were not visited.

No further comments were received regarding the annual work plan proposals.

GREEN RIDGE

Inventoried Trail Counters were given to the Forest Manager with instructions regarding installation. Questions should be directed to the vendor. The forest is entirely responsible for this new equipment. Trail data will be shared with the DNR Land Trails planner at the end of each season (January).

The new mountain bike trail is the most heavily used trail on the forest.

Green Ridge has installed trail registers that include sign-in sheets at all of their designated trails. We need to explore ways that the sign-in sheets can be used to better monitor trail use.

There were questions raised by Wildlife & Heritage regarding the WILDLANDS adjacent to the Green Ridge near Big Run and another at Hoop Pole.

Wilderness boundaries are not marked. Should they be?

All of the trails in the forest trail guide are the officially maintained trails, and they were GPS'd under a grant in 2010. There are other trails on the forest, but they are not official and they are not maintained.

The Forest GPS equipment is a bit outdated and probably should be upgraded through a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

The RTP grants are getting very competitive and future RTP grants from the forest should continue to focus on actual trail work, rather than purchasing equipment, unless the equipment clearly benefits trails.

The forest wants to produce more trail guides. This needs to be coordinated between Rodney Vese and Jessie Morgan.

Jessie needs to send Rodney Vese all of the trail data they have, including trailheads, camp sites, shelters, bathrooms, and other recreational infrastructure for inclusion in the Recreational Trail Atlas. Rodney can help forest staff figure out how to print color copies for all three forests.
rodney.vesejr@maryland.gov

The RTP grant is used each year for a seasonal crew of locals who do not have IMBA training. They get chainsaw safety training. Each year they walk all of the trails, conducting a total inventory. This year they did it twice. They clear and weed-wack the trails; blaze the trails; and do minor drainage fixes. They set the trails up on a seasonal rotation and do about a third of the trails each year. So everything gets done every three years.

Forestry is going to hire Natalia Buta, at Frostburg University, to conduct a recreational economic impact study for all three of the western forests.



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary

**Green Ridge State Forest
Citizens Advisory Committee
FY-2016 Annual Work Plan Review
Agenda**

October 14, 2014

- 09:00: Coffee & GRSF Update.
- 09:30: Review FY-2014 Annual Work Plan accomplishments
- 10:00: Review FY-2016 Annual Work Plan
- 11:45: Lunch (Provided)
- 12:45: Field visits as desired.



GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
28700 Headquarters Drive, NE; Flintstone, MD 21530
301-478-3124 • www.dnr.maryland.gov • TTY users call via Maryland Relay

11/25/14

Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) comments on Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Work Plans

Green Ridge State Forest

The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) has supported projects on Green Ridge State Forest in the past for the creation of young regenerating forest habitat for grouse, woodcock and other wildlife species. These habitats afford wildlife viewing opportunities and access for users engaging multiple facets of recreational activities.

The proposed acreage for variable retention management constitutes less than 1% of the general management zone. In reviewing the Silvicultural Activity Summary for GRSF the acreage completed from 2006-2012 trends to under 60% of the proposed acres. Thus it can be anticipated for approximately 110 acres of GRSF to receive the proposed silviculture treatment. RGS would strongly encourage furthering this percentage to increase the diversity and age class structure of the forested area for the benefit of those species demonstrating regional declines in populations requiring young forest habitat.

It is stated that continued habitat enhancement will be conducted in current upland management areas of Kirk Orchard, Kasecamp Bottomlands, Bull Ring Ranch, and Anthonys Ridge. There is no description of what these management enhancements would be in the upcoming Plan of Work. Including the proposed actions within these areas would provide the public and potential partners with a better overview for both comment and involvement.

Savage River State Forest

Conifer plantations within the landscape provide a unique habitat component for some obligate species of primarily songbirds. From a historic perspective these stands should be managed to remain as legacy stands within SRSF.

RGS would suggest the creation or maintenance of cutback borders around the herbaceous and wildlife openings for increased benefit to wildlife as potential escape cover where appropriate. We would also request the opportunity to comment or assist in the development of the Margroff wildlife habitat unit operating plan scheduled for completion during the upcoming FY.

Following the completion of surveys of the Rounds and Owings Property and a determination of management direction is reached, RGS would be very interested in providing assistance in developing the management plan and subsequent implementation for quality ESH creation on these two properties. Engaging potential stakeholders in the initial stages may prove beneficial long-term.

RUFFED GROUSE  SOCIETY

Healthy Forests - Abundant Wildlife - Sporting Traditions

451 McCORMICK ROAD • CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108-9377
(412) 262-4044 FAX (412) 262-9207 (888) 564-6747 TOLL FREE
Email: rgs@ruffedgrousesociety.org www.ruffedgrousesociety.org

Under the proposed Silviculture treatments / prescriptions it becomes very apparent there is a uniform lack of advanced desirable regeneration on most of these stands. The regeneration present is of undesirable and interfering woody / herbaceous species. The focus for the following FY and in previous plans then involves intensive stand prep for future commercial harvests. Altering the pre - or immediate post-harvest procedures could eliminate the added cost during stand development. This effect of deer legacy seems perpetual within this forest. The willingness of the staff of SRSF to focus on the development of future stand conditions is professionally appreciated.

Historically the acres completed comprise less than 50% of the acres proposed for work during any given Plan beginning in 2002 (excluding the proposed prescribed fire acreage). The RGS would again strongly support increasing the accomplished acres with regard to silviculture treatment.

The soft edge creation proposed for the gas well site to a distance of one chain states cutting and leaving all stems within this zone. If this is accomplished as stated it is difficult to conceptualize how the edge created as soft. I would suggest establishing a criteria such as all stems whose canopy will enter the well site area be removed with preference for leave trees being given to species beneficial for wildlife. This list would be developed with input from the Wildlife and Natural Heritage personnel. Other suggestive criteria could include to leave no more than 2 trees >12" DBH within 100' linear distance, and removal of stems > 3" DBH.

Potomac / Garrett State Forest

This Annual Work Plan contains a strong emphasis on trail maintenance and creation. Although 270 acres are proposed for silviculture management, some of which will create young regenerating forest habitat, past completed acres is just above 50% of those proposed for work. RGS strongly encourages the consideration of forest health, diversity and wildlife populations to be high priority in Annual Work Plans.

Much of the proposed silviculture work focuses on stand health and diversity for future development. If permitted to be managed through long-term planning the resulting stands will exhibit the varying age and structure necessary for a sustainable forest system. Routinely being deficient (to the degree shown) in completing the planned work jeopardizes the ability to ensure quality forest management, thus healthy forests and wildlife populations in perpetuity.

The Ruffed Grouse Society would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2016 Annual Work Plan for Maryland State Forests. It is our hopes that the emphasis on management activities continues to revolve around ecological issues affecting wildlife populations at a regional scale. Wildlife knows no jurisdictional boundaries and we as conservationists cannot depend on private lands to provide the quality habitat required by resident and migrating species. We commend the MD DNR Forest Service on their past management practices and request that future management continues to include

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the interests of all forest users at equal levels. We look forward to continuing our cooperative affiliation where appropriate.

Feel free to contact me for any necessary clarification or further discussion regarding these submitted comments.

Professionally



Linda D. Ordiway PhD
Ruffed Grouse Society
Mid-Atlantic Southern Appalachian Regional Biologist
412-720-6034
LindaO@ruffedgrousesociety.org

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Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 2865
Wheaton, MD. 20715
www.mac-tu.org

Chapters: Maryland, National Capital, Nemasolin, Patapsco Valley, Potomac-Patuxent, Seneca Valley, Youghiogheny

December 4, 2014

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Forestry Division
Annapolis, MD
Sent via email: jack.perdue@maryland.gov

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on the proposed 2016 fiscal year work plan for Potomac Garrett, Green Ridge, Savage River, Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests. The State Forest annual work plans identify the work that is to be accomplished on the forest in the next fiscal year within the scope of the forest's long-range management plan. The plans will address establishment, growth, composition, health and quality forest management operations, along with maintenance and construction projects, and other required work. Comments will be received through December 5, 2014.

The Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited represents over 2500 members in Maryland and the immediate environs. We are always watchful of any activities that might have any impact on our cold water resources, particularly when our native brook trout are in the planned area of any such activities.

We have reviewed the plans for FY 2016 for the Savage River State Forest. This forest protects the only relatively secure population of wild, native brook trout in the state and the immediate area. The loss of any forest cover over any stream inhabited by trout could mean a serious thermal impact to those fish. From our review of the plans for this forest, we do not see any significant impacts to the native brook trout in the Savage River watershed.

We would appreciate being kept informed of any changes to these or any other plans for this forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Haynes".

Don Haynes, Chair
Mid-Atlantic Council Trout Unlimited

The following comments are for all 4 Maryland State Forests annual work plans for fiscal year 2016, including Green Ridge State Forest, Savage River State Forest, Potomac & Garrett State Forest and the Chesapeake & Pocomoke State Forest. They are general comments for all the forest work plans in Maryland and not specific to each work plan. I'm very experience about Green Ridge Forest, spending much time hiking and exploring the forest and hiking the Green Ridge Trail-starting in Pa. along 15 mile creek and other public lands, all the way to the C&O Canal and Potomac River. I have also commented at many public hearings at Green Ridge and other places in Maryland about Maryland forests and other public lands. I also have spent time in the Savage River Forest and it's trails and other areas. The Potomac/Garrett Forest areas I have visited but have spent less time there, as well as a few trips to the Pocomoke Forest. I oppose all of the work plans, as I do not agree on how Maryland and the DNR do there so called management plans. My first area, of comments, is all about the so called economic value and benefits to the state and it's citizens, taxpayers and to local and regional communities. The state forests are under attack by logging/timber companies, many from other states, and not from Maryland. Contracts awarded to these mostly out of state companies, does not provide much economic value to Maryland citizens and taxpayers, and local employment to Maryland workers. The finished wood products, pulpwood and saw timber goods are often made from out of state producers (mills and factories) or even sent as raw material to oversea countries. The use of public lands for forest goods directly competes with the private land owners and their ability to profit from their own private property. Another aspect is that is deters more acquisition and protection of forest lands in Maryland by private ownership, which would benefit the environment, wildlife and tax base for Maryland citizens and taxpayers. There is much more economic value, for Maryland citizens and taxpayers, coming from recreational, tourism and increase property values, that are year long lasting and not from a short term time frame natural resource extraction, such as logging that has a negative impact on the environment and wildlife. There have been many economic reports and studies to back this up, for positive policies that benefits from environmental sound practices versus negative use of public lands and forests. State timber and logging contracts (based on state forest management plans by state employees) are also approved by some of the same state employees and politicians, who may benefit, either directly or indirectly, from such actions. They have an inherit conflict of interests, of being to closed to the logging and timber industries, who are awarded contracts, with potential personal, business, financial and political ties, including going to work or as personal consultants, for these companies, later on after leaving the employment for the state of Maryland. The state of Maryland should not ever be in direct business competition with the private land and forest owners of Maryland citizens and taxpayers for economic gain, advantage and profit. Maryland and DNR- must stop using this economic bias, as a reason for timber and logging, on our public lands, as a benefit for it's citizens, taxpayers and certainly not to promote forest health. The only true winners at the money table are the timber companies, consultants and maybe some state employees or politicians for Maryland. The forests, wildlife, habitats, biodiversity and the environment, along with the citizens, taxpayers and local communities, end up as the big losers of these forest plans. While I have listed that the economics of Maryland state forest plans are a negative reason for opposition to all 4 plans, it is the least of the my concerns, on the over all, DNR and states so called management of our public forests and public lands. The following issue

Greetings Mr. Perdue:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public comment on the upcoming work plans for the Management of the State Forest. Thank you for all the present and past work that the MD DNR does and has accomplished on the State Forest.

I briefly reviewed the plans for the Savage River State Forest and Potomac-Garrett State Forest. The plans were very extensive.

I am a Member of the Ruffed Grouse Society/Backbone Mountain Chapter and a user of the State Forest to enjoy hunting with my bird dogs and enjoying the pursuit of Ruffed Grouse and the American Woodcock.

I support all efforts to create habitat for the Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock which also benefits other wild game species and songbirds.

This habitat support is for the creation of more young regenerating Forest through timber management.

There is also the importance of varying standing aged trees and structure to increase overall forest health.

This type of habitat is necessary for a variety of declining wildlife species within the region.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on your management plans.

Your consideration and hard work in managing the State Forest is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Don Wolf Jr.
Ruffed Grouse Society Member/Backbone Mountain Chapter

Dear Mr. Purdue:

I advocate the cutting of mature trees in accordance with timber management best practices. The cutting of mature trees will help regenerate young forest habitat, and promote much desired biodiversity in plant species and wildlife species within the region. A mature forest is a dying forest. A healthy forest will provide benefits for all concerned.

As a father, I want my children and their children to be able to experience the benefits of a healthy, regenerating forest system. As a bird hunter, I am a user of the forest, and want it to be able to support my activities.

I'd like to thank the MD DNR Forest Service for all of their great work in the past, and encourage their initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dan Gomez
18700 Shremor Drive
Derwood, MD. 20855
DanGomezMBA@gmail.com

Good morning Jack,

I would like to make a couple of quick comments on the upcoming FY 2016 MD State Forest Annual Work Plans for Green Ridge State Forest, Savage River State Forest, Potomac-Garrett State Forest and Chesapeake Forest/Pocomoke State Forest.

I am an upland bird and turkey hunter and a user of the Forests in Maryland and I would like to thank MD DNR Forest Service for their past work and the opportunity to provide comments on the management of your State Forests.

I support the creation of more Young Regenerating Forest Habitat through timber management and stress the importance of varying stand age and structure to increasing overall forest health. This type of habitat is necessary for a variety of declining wildlife species within the region.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chip Heaps

➤

CHIP HEAPS

**Director of Development - South-Atlantic
Delaware, DC, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia
136 Goucher Way, Churchville, MD 21028-1218
Bus. [410.399.4093](tel:410.399.4093) Mobile [410.688.0161](tel:410.688.0161)
chcaps@@ducks.org**

Silvicultural Activity Summary By Annual Work Plan

Workplan Activity	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		14 Year Total	
	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.	Plan Acres	Acres Comp.		
Final Harvests	98	98	186	186	168	168	98	98	136	136	130	130	182	182	161	161	61	61	112	112	123	123	70	70	257	181	277	-	2,059	1,706
Various Select Harvests &/or other treatments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thinning/TSI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	120	6	6	-	-	17	17	-	-	143	143
Site Preparation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Planting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	
Regeneration Release	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grass Control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mid Rotation Release	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	-	-	16	-	-	120	-	16	-	-	136	136
Fertilization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Regeneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre Commercial Thinning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prescribed Fire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	60	-	90	30
Boundary Maintenance*	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	4	-	-	20	45	20	30	20	42	20	8	20	3	20	3	20	30	20	5	20	-	180	177
Restoration Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	10	-	40	30
Watershed Imp. Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Work within HCVF areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	60	-

* miles of boundary line repainted.