
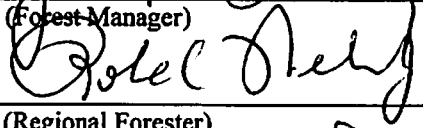
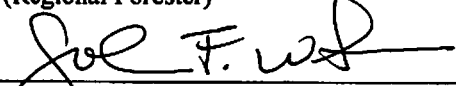
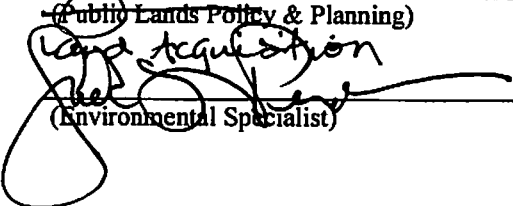


# POTOMAC / GARRETT STATE FOREST

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2010

Prepared:	 _____ (Forest Manager)	10/4/09 _____ Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Regional Forester)	11-9-09 _____ Date
Reviewed:	 _____ (Public Lands Policy & Planning)	<del>12/1</del> 1/8/2010 _____ Date
Approved:	 _____ (Environmental Specialist)	1-12-2010 _____ Date

## *Contents*

<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
		<b>3 &amp; 4</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Recreation Proposals</b>	
	5	Comp. 20 - Lostland Run Campsite and Trail Relocation Proposal
	6	Comp. 20 - Lostland Run Campsite and Trail Relocation Map
<b>III.</b>	<b>Critical Habitat Management</b>	
	8 & 9	Comp. 38A – Wilderness Ranch Critical Habitat Protection and Access Proposal
	10	Comp. 38A – Wilderness Ranch Critical Habitat Protection and Access Map
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Watershed Protection</b>	
	11	Comps. 18-21 – Lostland Run HWA Mitigation/Red Spruce Planting Proposal
	12	Comps. 18-21 – Lostland Run HWA Mitigation/Red Spruce Planting Map
<b>V.</b>	<b>Ecosystem Restoration Projects</b>	
	13	Comps. 5&7 – Backbone Mtn. Japanese Knotweed Control Project
	14	Comps. 5&7 – Backbone Mtn. Japanese Knotweed Control Project Map
	15	Comps. 22-26 – Wallman/Laurel Run Garlic Mustard Control Project
	16	Comps. 22-26 – Wallman/Laurel Run Garlic Mustard Control Project Map
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Silvicultural Proposals</b>	
	17	Comp. 9 – Mt. Zion Road Salvage Description
	18	Comp. 9 – Mt. Zion Road Salvage Map
	19	Comp. 11 – RT 135 & CCC Camp Rd. Description
	20	Comp. 11 – RT 135 & CCC Camp Rd. Map
	22 & 23	Comp. 33 – Herrington Manor Rd. Pine Description
	24	Comp. 33 – Herrington Manor Rd. Pine Map
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Critical Maintenance</b>	
	25	Comps. 18&19 – Lostland Run Lime Doser Culvert Replacement
	26	Comps. 18&19 – Lostland Run Lime Doser Culvert Replacement Map
	28 & 29	Comps. 45&46 – Piney Mtn. Grading & Erosion Control Project (NRT App.)
	30	Comps. 45&46 – Piney Mtn. Grading & Erosion Control Map
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Other Project and Activities</b>	
	31 & 32	Other Work Projects

## **Introduction**

The Potomac-Garrett State Forests, situated in southwestern Garrett County in Western Maryland, have the distinction of being the birthplace of forestry conservation in Maryland. The generous donation of 1,917 acres by the Garrett Brothers in 1906 not only serves as the foundation of the Garrett State Forest, but is the root of both Maryland's present Public Lands system and Forest Service. Mountain forests, streams and valleys make up the nearly 19,000 acres of this State Forest. The forest cover is predominantly a second growth mixed hardwood forest dominated by mixed oaks, sugar and red maples, black cherry, basswood, ash and birch. The geography of this area provides for a wide range of growing conditions from the harsh, wind and ice swept ridge tops of Backbone Mountain to the deep rich slopes above the North Branch of the Potomac River. Much of the state forestland contains excellent quality hardwoods.

In addition to the routine operations of the State Forest, the FY-2010 Annual Work Plan for Potomac-Garrett State Forest details 11 management projects:

Two recreation area improvements; one involving campsite and trail relocation in the Lost Land Run Area, the other involving public safety and access into the new acquisition at Wilderness Ranch;

One critical habitat protection project at the Wilderness Ranch property;

One watershed protection project mitigating impacts of a harmful forest pest;

Two invasive, exotic plant control projects one of which had been reviewed in prior a work plan but postponed due conflicting maintenance contracts, the other an ongoing project;

Three silvicultural projects addressing the salvage harvest and regeneration of insect and diseased timber stands. (These harvests will be brought forward into the FY-09 work plans in order to maximize regeneration potential and reduce losses in merchantability of this dead and dying timber.)

Two critical maintenance / public access projects involving road and trail maintenance, one which is affecting water quality at the lime doser station on Lost Land Run, the other includes a grant application for financial assistance for repairs to ORV Trails.

Forest harvest operations are undertaken to utilize mature and dead/dying/diseased trees, to thin out overstocked stands, to improve and diversify wildlife habitat, to effectively correct public safety concerns and issues, to reduce the forests vulnerability to insect attack or wildlife hazard, to facilitate certain approved research needs, to improve certain aesthetic aspects of an area, and to improve the proportions of age class and species diversity within stands and management blocks. This forest has been intensively managed for over 100 years, utilizing both even and uneven-aged techniques via selective removals and regeneration harvests. Early records indicate that as cut over land was acquired, foresters 'culled' the forest, removing the poorly formed and damaged timber left behind in the wake of the cut and run practices employed by early timber speculators. By removing these undesirable trees, newly forming seedlings were released from competition and were thus cultured into the future growing stock of trees that we enjoy today. The benefits of this work have been significant; including improved wildlife habitat diversity, improved forest health and more abundant mast production, improved utilization of

gypsy moth damaged trees, reduced forest fire hazard, and the considerable financial contribution of management to the state and local economies as well as to those employed in the forest products industry. The work plan calls for the harvest of approximately 170,000 bd.ft. of hardwood sawtimber; and 80,000 bd.Ft. of Pine sawtimber, an additional 250,000 bd. ft. of hardwood sawtimber will be harvested while carrying out management proposals as approved in prior years Annual Work Plans but having been deferred for various reasons. The timber harvests will generate approximately \$100 -125,000 in revenue.

These cultural operations and management projects are selected to provide significant contributions to sustainability of the forest resources found with the PGSF and the ecosystems associated with it.

**COMPARTMENT 20 –  
(Lostland Run Campsite and Trail Relocation)**

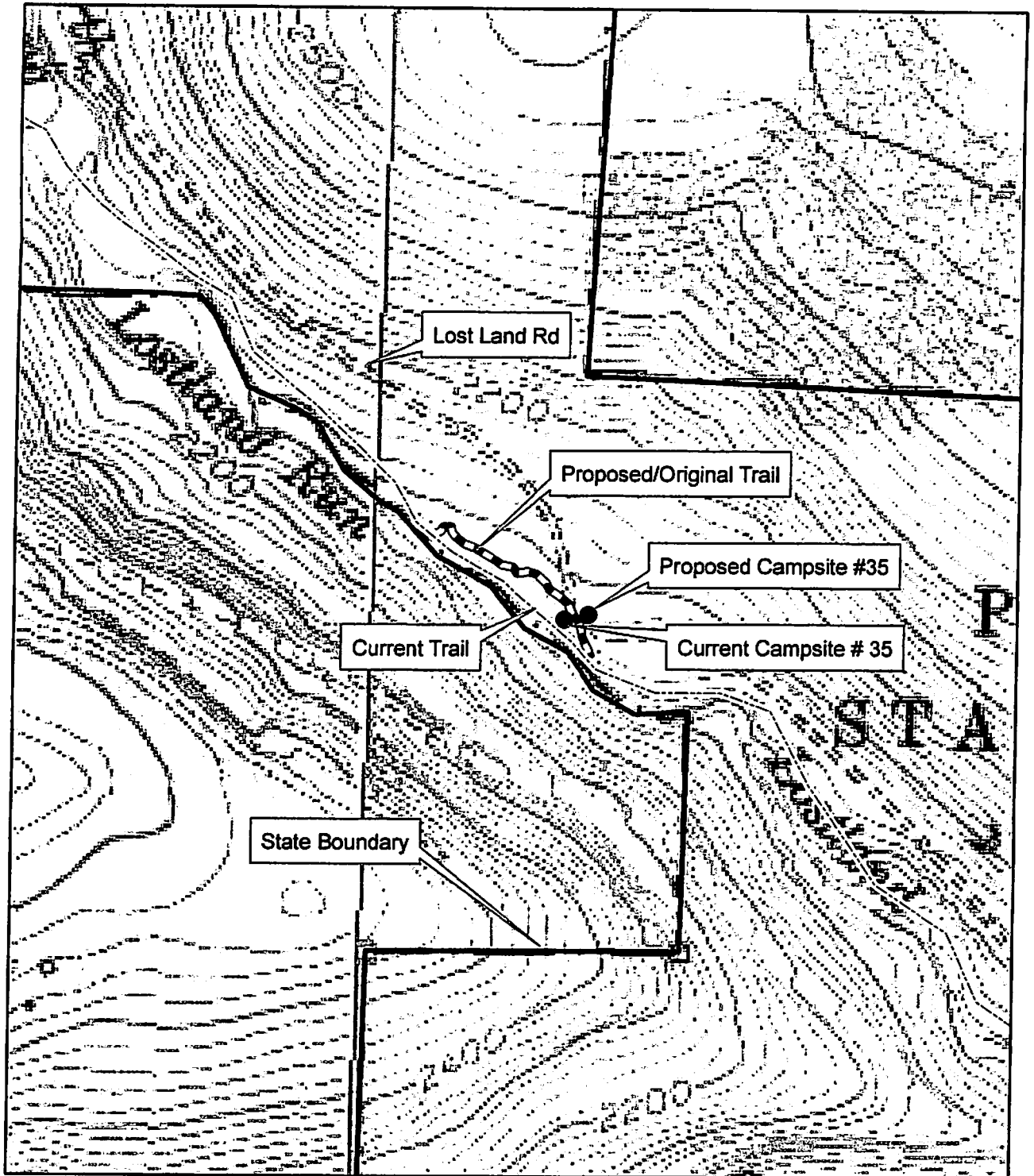
**FY-10**

**Description:**

The Lostland Run area of the Potomac State Forest contains one of five state forest camping areas. This camping area offers primitive camping opportunities in 8 sites, including one 3-sided log trail shelter site, a reservable group site, and recently installed sanitary comfort station. This area is particularly attractive to campers as it offers fishing opportunities in both the Potomac River and the Lostland Run. In addition to the fishing access, the popular Lostland Run Hiking trail can be accessed from many of the camp sites.

As the Lostland Run Hiking Trail follows the dynamic and ever changing stream valley, this trail has had numerous short route changes throughout the years as forest management staff have worked around numerous natural landslides and channel changes over the years. Presently, the 220-yard section of trail bed, just down stream of campsite # 35, is eroded and is being undercut by the stream, creating a public safety hazard. In order to correct this problem, a short re-route is in order. The proposed re-route will utilize the original CCC era trail location that brings the footpath out of the creek channel and up to the road side, running through what is now campsite # 35. Then traveling with the road for 10 yards and turning back off the road to pick up the trail. To accomplish this, campsite #35 will be relocated immediately across the road.

# Compartment 20 Lostland Trail/Campsite Relocation



Scale: 1" = 660'



(BLANK)

## COMPARTMENT 38A

**Wilderness Ranch –Critical habitat protection and access.**

**FY-10**

### **Background:**

In 2006, the State Forest acquired the 800 acre Wilderness Ranch property. This large, forested tract became a vital purchase to add to the public land system of Maryland. This acquisition made a very significant contribution to land conservation in the State, and the region.

To the east, the Wilderness Ranch land borders Garrett State Forest. The northwest portion borders The Nature Conservancy's property of Cranesville Swamp. In fact, a portion of the Wilderness Ranch property falls within both the primary and secondary conservation boundary of the nationally significant Cranesville Swamp. Cranesville Swamp is a Nature Conservancy "portfolio site" within the Central Appalachian Eco-region. This simply means it is one of the most important sites for biodiversity conservation in this entire eco-region, which stretches from central Pennsylvania to southeast West Virginia and southwest Virginia. This landscape setting makes the Wilderness Ranch property an important 'piece to the puzzle' for biodiversity conservation in the region.

There are numerous springs, seeps and small bogs on this property. Several of these feed into Bull Glade Run, which flows through Garrett State Forest. Because of the geology, these springs are naturally acidic. Even though this natural acidity makes them vulnerable to the deleterious effects of acid rain, the springs (and Bull Glade Run itself) are very pristine looking. The water is very clear, and other than acid rain deposition, are free from pollution. Because of this situation, Bull Glade Run, and the major springs that feed it, support an excellent population of the southern water shrew, *Sorex palustris punctulatus*. This unique little mammal is very rare in the region and is listed as a State Endangered Species in Maryland. Purchase of the Wilderness Ranch property by the State was very significant to the conservation of this rare species because the headwaters of the stream system in which it lives would be protected.

There are numerous rock outcrops on the Wilderness Ranch property. Some of these are large and cliff-like. Others are forested 'boulder fields'. Both situations offer habitat for numerous species of wildlife. While the Natural Heritage Program has not conducted formal inventories on the Wilderness Ranch property, potential habitat for the following species that are tracked by our program exists there. These include: Wehrle's salamander (*Plethodon wehrlei*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), blackburnian warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), southern rock vole (*Microtus chrotorrhinus carolinensis*), Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*), long-tailed shrew (*Sorex dispar*), smoky shrew (*Sorex fumeus*), and mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*).

Timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) have been documented on the property. In a scenario other than the State buying this property, this species would either be wiped out here, or cause many conflicts.



Animals that require large expanses of land to carry out their life history, or to avoid conflicts with people, will benefit from the State purchasing this property. Along with the timber rattlesnake, these include the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), the bobcat, and the fisher (*Martes pennanti*). All of these species live on the Wilderness Ranch property.

In addition to the noted significant biological and wildlife values of the tract, the property is nearly entirely forested. Most of the mixed oak timber is pole timber sized, as the tract was extensively logged some 30 years ago. Site indexes range from 40 -75 for red oaks, with some very fertile growing sites along the lower elevations and along the drainages. Future timber growing potential of the property is very good, these productive forest lands will eventually support harvest activity that will further sustain a wide range of resource management activities on the property.

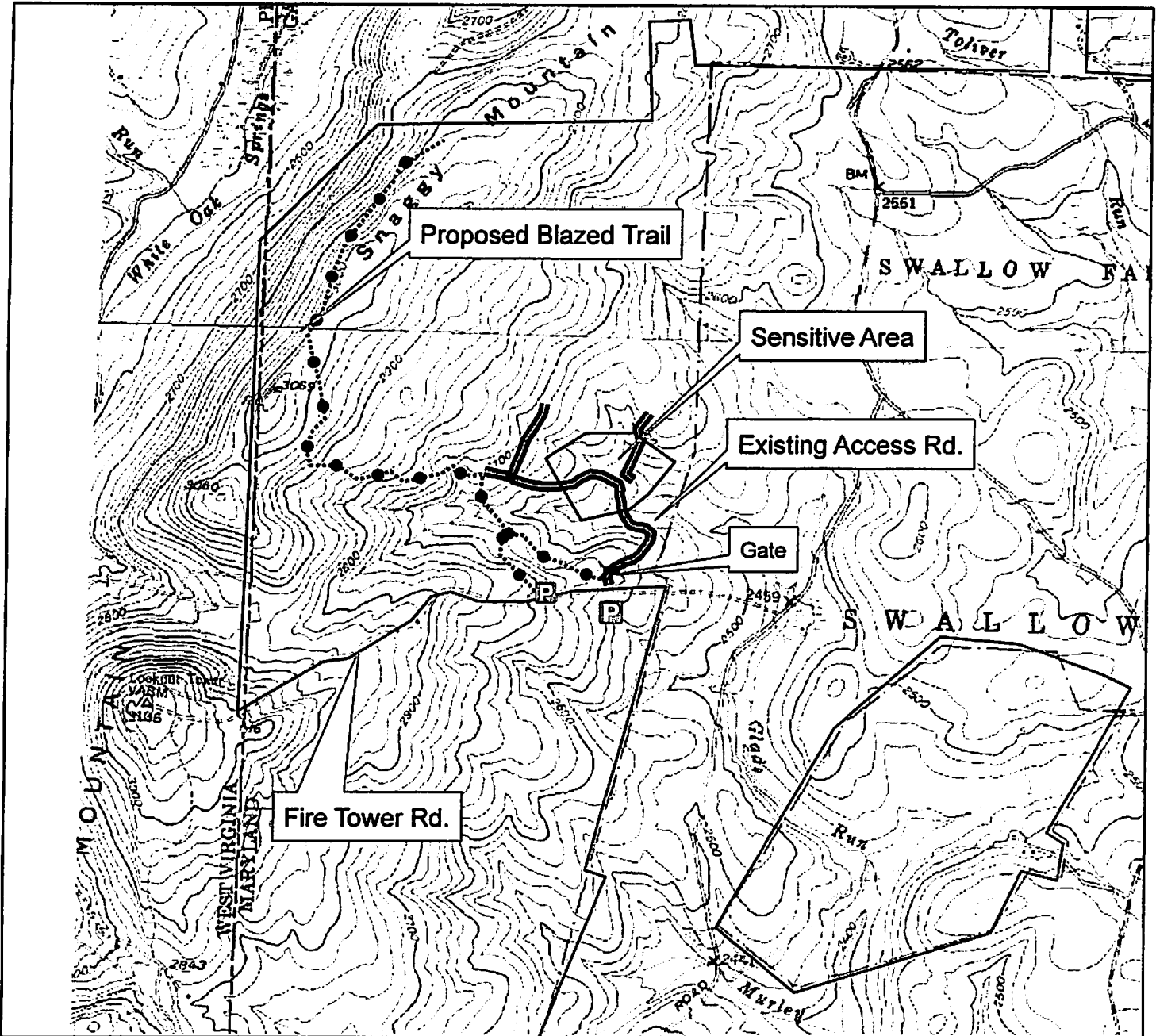
As time permits, resource inventory work is being conducted on the property in order that appropriate management planning can take place to assure this tract is incorporated into the long range, sustainable forest resource management plans for the forest.

#### **Proposed Management activity:**

Presently the boundaries have been located and marked as state forest lands. The tract offers walk in use, and is open to backcountry hiking, hunting, etc. As the area is likely to see a flush of interest as the visiting public can identify this 'new' tract as state lands, it has become apparent that certain protection measures should be in place to safeguard a couple of vulnerable, and very critical habitat areas. Sensitive habitat areas have been identified near a couple of existing woods roads and trails that are likely channels for the visiting public to use to enter the property. In order to assure these sensitive habitat areas are not disturbed during critical periods, these roads and trails will be brushed closed, and alternative routes will be enhanced to make them more attractive to visitors wishing to use this property. In order to accommodate and disperse visitors walking into the area, the existing parking lot will be improved to better accommodate vehicles; a second small parking area will be developed along the Fire Tower Road approx. 300 yards west of the main gate and initial parking area.

As the area has a rather recent logging history, the tract is virtual maze of old skid trails and haul roads just waiting for hikers and hunters to explore. This web of trails can be very confusing for any but the most experienced outdoorsmen or women. In order to provide some measure of safety in navigating this large tract, and to facilitate expected lost person searches, State Forest Staff will blaze connecting trails from the 2 parking lots, into the interior of the tract where the trails will connect with a well defined woods road that will be blazed as it runs to the far northwestern corner of the property. This blazed trail will serve as a sort of anchor line that meandering hunters and hikers can use to orient themselves too as they roam across the tract. As part of the on going resource assessment on the property, state forest staff will explore and map alternative trail options for later consideration, with a goal of having any such viable trails identified to be added to the Garrett State Forest Trail map when it comes up for reprint in approx. 2014.

# Compartment 38A Wilderness Ranch - Critical habitat protection and access FY-10



Scale: 1" = 660'



**COMPARTMENTS 18, 19, 20 21  
(Lostland Run HWA Mitigation / Red Spruce Planting) FY-10**

**Description/Background:**

In 2004, the significant forest pest, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), was discovered in the Lostland Run drainage. This Asian, exotic, insect pest is a killer of Hemlock trees. It has been in the US since 1924. With no natural enemies in this country, it has left a trail of dead hemlock forests in its wake. MD Dept. of Agriculture and State Forest staffs have been monitoring the infestation in Lostland since its discovery. The population has remained at a low level; winter temperature extremes here in Garrett Co. appear to be keeping the population in check. Presently there are no readily available biological or chemical controls suitable for stand level control of this pest, though on going research is showing positive results with a number of biological controls including predatory insects.

Historically, stands infested with HWA have been relatively short lived, resulting in complete stand conversions often in the course of one decade. As hemlock stands on the state forest are generally associated with riparian forested stream buffers, the loss of these stands may have significant negative impacts to the water resources.

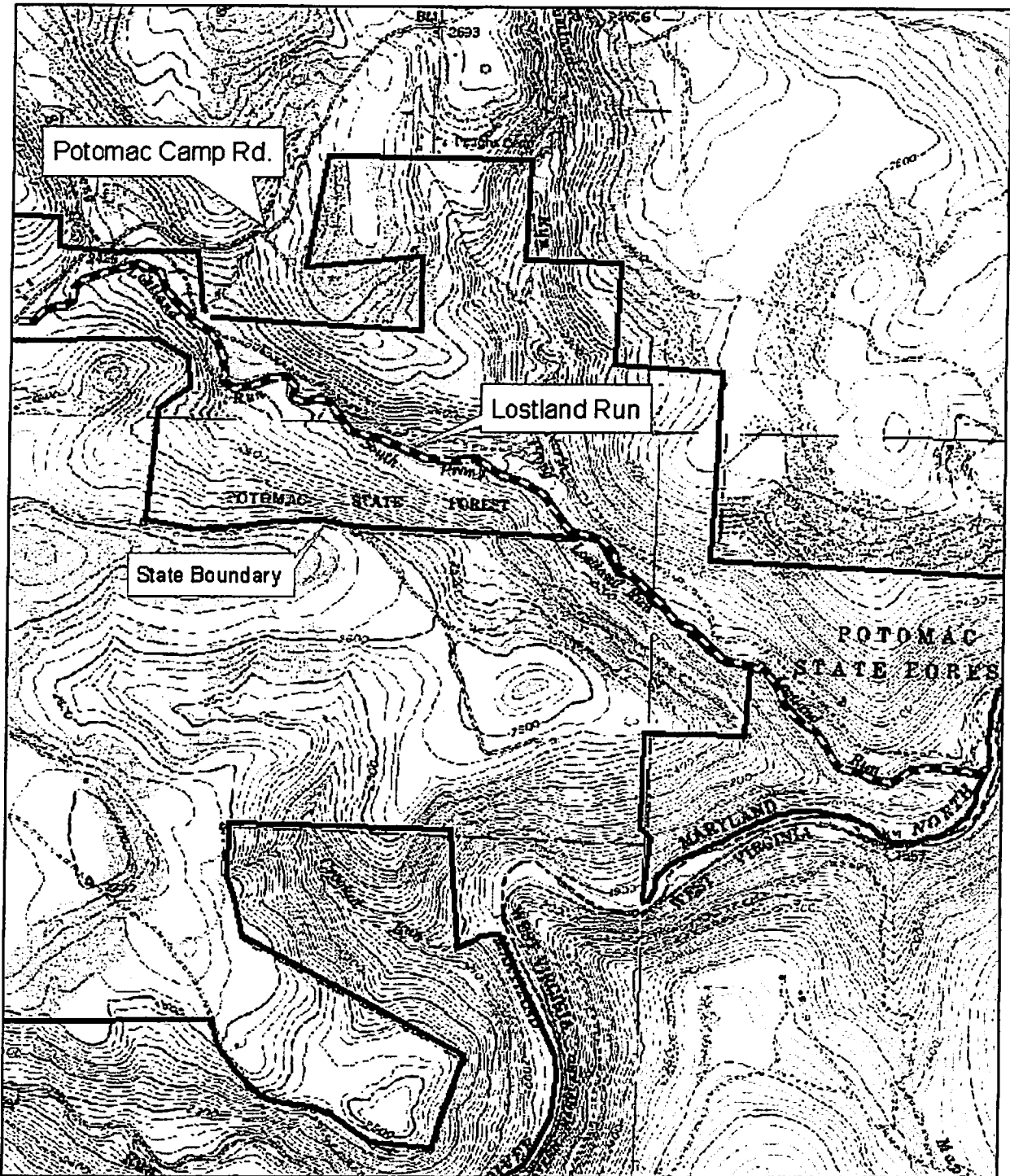
While the Lostland HWA population seems to be minor and somewhat stable, in order to provide further protection against the shocking loss of the hemlock trees, the state forest staff has initiated a project to mitigate the likely loss of the hemlock cover. In an attempt to establish a native conifer that will provide benefits similar to those offered by the hemlocks, test plots of Red Spruce seedling were planted beneath the hemlock canopy in both the spring of 2007 and 2008.

Planting sites have been monitored, and planting methods have been modified to insure the best possible survival in this difficult planting site. The test plantings indicate that under planting red Spruce may offer a successful means of off setting the negative impacts associated with the likely loss of the hemlock stands along this important brook trout stream.

**Proposed management:**

The plan for this site is to continue under planting Red Spruce seedlings beneath the hemlocks in the 100 ft. riparian zone along Lostland Run. The goal is to establish an equivalent area of spruce cover on the stream bank. If research and development in forest pest management does not provide the key to successful HWA eradication and hemlock protection in the next 10 years, the establishment of a healthy under story of Red Spruce will buffer the stream against the shock and likely inevitable loss of hemlock cover, further safeguarding the water quality of this mountain stream.

# Compartments 18,19,20,21 Lostland Run HWA Mitigation/ Red Spruce Underplanting



Compartments....18,19,20,21  
Quad.....Deer Park/Gorman

— 100' Buffer red spruce planted under existing hemlock

Scale: 1" = 24000"



## **Invasive Exotic Plant Control**

Across the state, a biological invasion of non-native plants is spreading into our fields, forests, wetlands and waterways. Various referred to as exotic, nonnative, alien, or non-indigenous, invasive plants impact native plant and animal communities by displacing native vegetation and disrupting habitats as they become established and spread over time. Early detection and appropriate control of the spread of problematic species is important for the conservation of our native flora and fauna. Control efforts often require considerable resources (labor, time and money). As in many cases the introduction of these widespread and invasive plants cannot be prevented, it is important to evaluate and plan control efforts in order that such efforts contribute meaningfully to the success of forest conservation plans.

Populations of two invasive exotic plant species have been identified as being in need of control on PGSF, they are: Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). The following efforts are being taken to limit the impacts of these invasive species.

### **COMPARTMENTS 5&7**

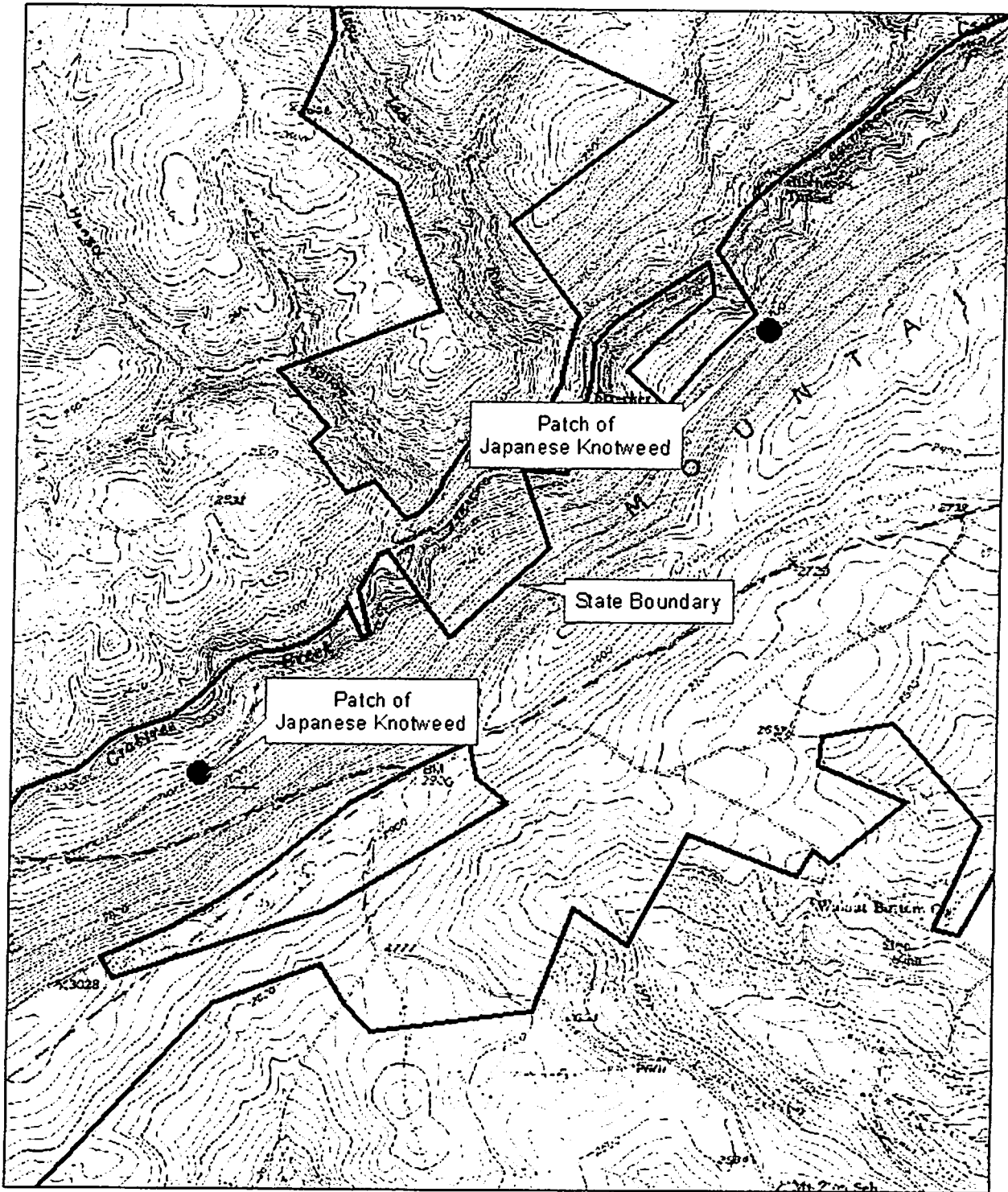
#### **(Japanese Knotweed Control Project – Backbone Mt.)**

##### **Ongoing Project:**

Within the Potomac State Forest, Japanese knotweed is well established along the base of Backbone Mountain following the railroad bed at the base of the mountain. It has overtaken much of the lower reaches of Crabtree Creek which runs along the railroad grade. However, within the state forest, its spread has been generally limited to the base of Backbone Mountain; the area associated with the railroad and Crabtree Creek. In recent years, two 'patches' have been found on the upper slopes of Backbone Mt. The first is located on the roadside edge of a section of the state forest access road that serves as the Backbone Mt. ORV trail. This road defines the upper boundary of the Crabtree Slopes Special Management Zone. The second, and smaller, population is located along a gated forest access on the east side of Swanton Hill Road. State forest staff has been working to restrict the spread of these populations by mowing the roadsides prior to seed development. In 2004, as an educational program for the Maryland Conservation Corp., an effort was made to eliminate the plant colony by strictly mechanical means including mowing and later grubbing out the plants roots and rhizomes. This effort was not successful. Mechanical controls alone cannot eliminate this aggressive plant invader.

In 2005 and 2006, in a cooperative effort between MD DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service, MDA Plant Protection and Weed Management Program, and Potomac Garrett State Forest staff, took an integrated pest management approach toward the control of these knotweed populations. Carefully timed mechanical and chemical treatments were applied to the plant colonies. The areas were mowed just prior to seed development, and later, following resprouting but just before the start of fall dormancy, the plants were sprayed with an appropriate herbicide (*glyphosate*). In 2008 only a few individual plants were present, and they are being treated with the same mechanical and herbicide treatments. These areas will be monitored annually and follow-up treatments will be applied as necessary to prevent reestablishment of these colonies

# Backbone Mtn. Japanese Knotweed Control Project FY-10



Scale 1 : 24000



## COMPARTMENTS 22-26

### (Garlic Mustard Control Project - Wallman / Laurel Run)

#### Background:

Garlic Mustard is one of the most prevalent invasive plants found in Maryland. It can be found throughout the Potomac-Garrett State Forest, where it frequently occurs in moist, shaded soil of river floodplains, forests, road sides, edges of woods and trail edges and forest openings. Disturbed areas are most susceptible to rapid invasion and quick establishment of dominance. Though invasive under a wide range of light and soil conditions, garlic mustard is associated with calcareous soils and does not tolerate high acidity.

Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities in much of the eastern and midwestern United States. Many native wildflowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime occur in the same habitat as garlic mustard. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard out competes native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife species that depend on these early plants for their foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds and roots, are deprived of these essential food sources when garlic mustard replaces them. Humans are also deprived of the vibrant display of beautiful spring wildflowers.

Garlic mustard also poses a threat to one of our rare native insects, the West Virginia white butterfly (*Pieris virginiensis*). Several species of spring wildflowers known as "toothworts" (*Dentaria*), also in the mustard family, are the primary food source for the caterpillar stage of this butterfly. Invasions of garlic mustard are causing local extirpations of the toothworts, and chemicals in garlic mustard appear to be toxic to the eggs of the butterfly, as evidenced by their failure to hatch when laid on garlic mustard plants.

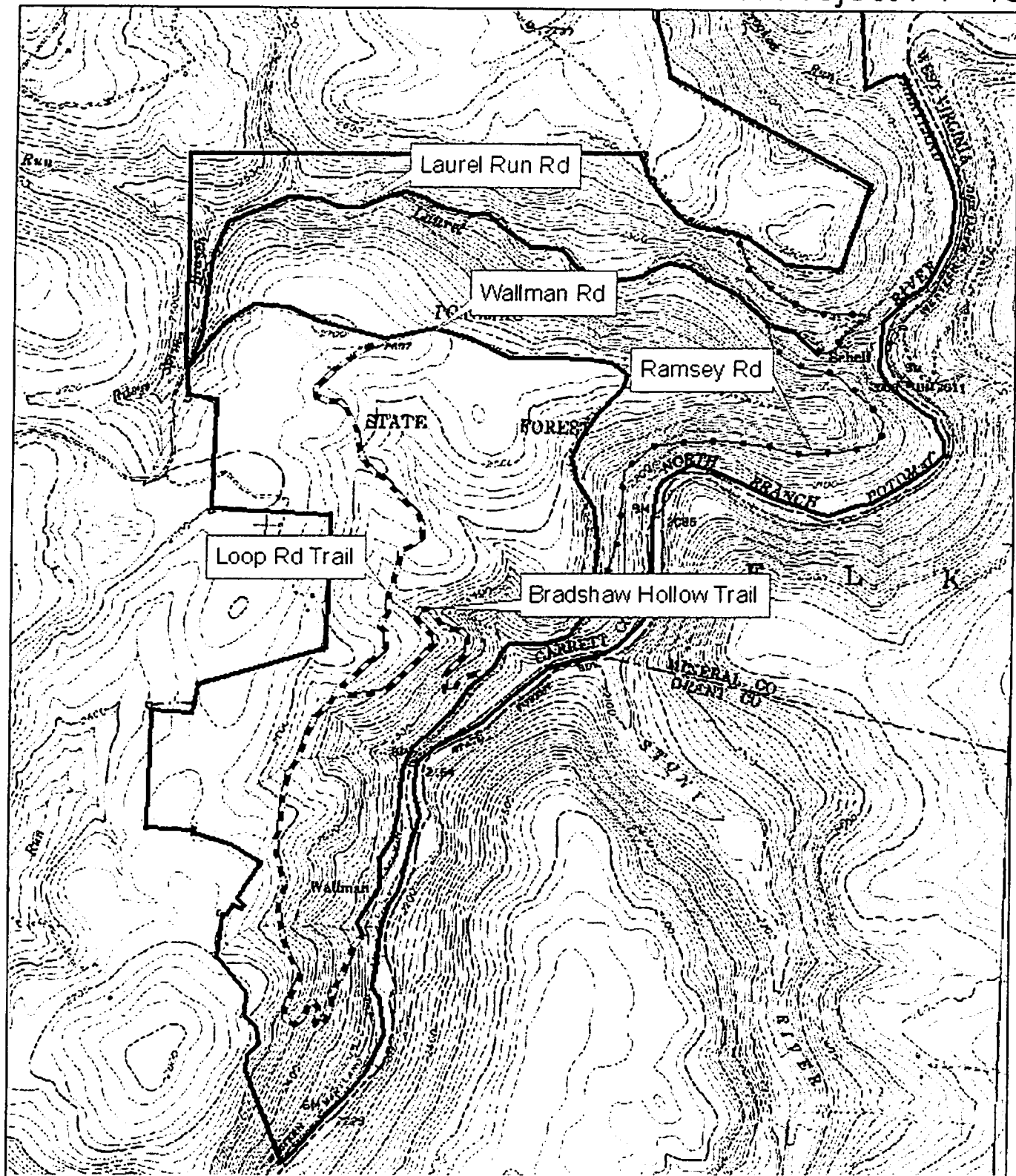
On an even larger scale, recent research indicates that garlic mustard may be allelopathic to important beneficial mycorrhizalfungi, and therefore may retard forest tree regeneration.

#### Proposed Action

As with most invasive plants, complete elimination is often neither practical nor possible, especially at a forest wide level. However, a management goal of protecting specific, ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) is often feasible using accepted control measures. A number of ESAs have been identified within the Wallman / Laurel Run Area of the Potomac State Forest as being jeopardized by adjacent Garlic Mustard populations. These ESAs contain at least 9 known Maryland rare, threatened or endangered species that could be negatively impacted if garlic mustard overtakes these ESAs. Critical garlic mustard colonies have been mapped, and evaluated for control priority. Total acreage infested is approx. 1 acre, with this acre comprised of numerous small patches spread out along nearly 5 miles of road edge, and several pockets of infestation under closed canopy away from the roads.

Proposed treatment will involve an initial two year planned spray program in which glyphosate herbicide will be applied in 3 applications. The first application is planned for October of 2008, followed by an early spring 2009 application to catch any survivors of the Oct. 08 treatment and early spring germinants. A return visit will be required the following spring (2010) to treat any survivors or first-year plants newly recruited from the soil seedbank. Following treatment the area will be monitored for at least 3 more years to ensure exhaustion of the residual seed bank in the soil. Herbicide application will be done using a combination of backpack sprayers and a utility vehicle mounted spray rig, allowing target specific application.

# Wallman/Laurel Run Garlic Mustard Control Project FY -10



COMPARTMENTS 22-26

Scale: 1: 24000





## COMPARTMENT 9 – (Mt. Zion Road Salvage)

FY-10

### Description:

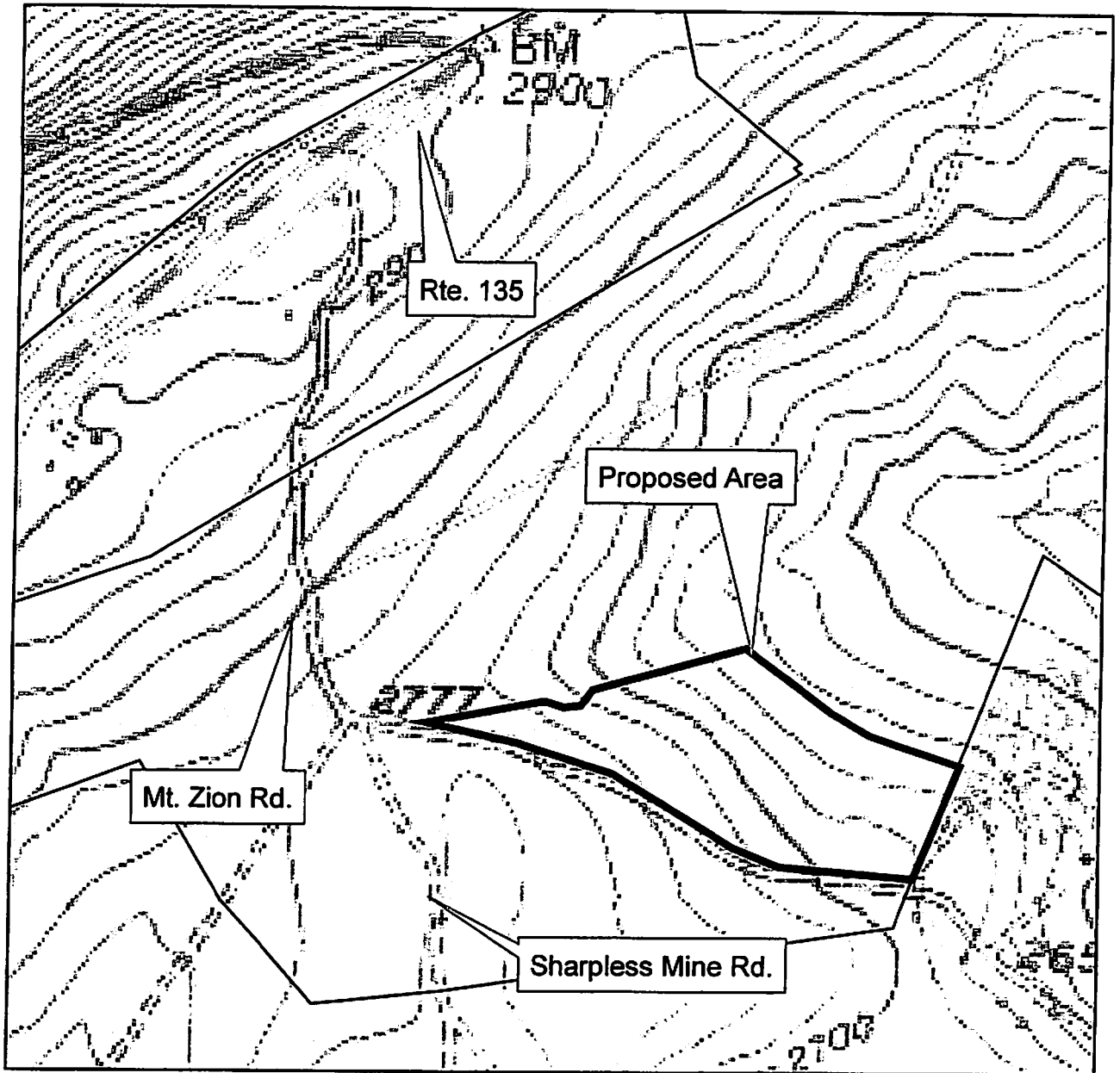
This stand is located on the north side of Mt. Zion Road within Compartment #9 of the Potomac State Forest. This stand had been thinned in 1992, and is presently fully stocked at 72% stocking. The site contains 22-acre immature, mixed oak stand made up primarily of Red Oak (44%) and Red Maple (31%). This stand has been subjected to a number of significant stress factors in recent years including: ice damage in 2002, and Gypsy Moth defoliations in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The roadside buffer was salvage harvested in 2005 in an effort to reduce the roadside/ public safety hazard due to the considerable mortality resulting from the 02 ice storm. The stand was sprayed for Gypsy Moth control in 2007. The 07 spraying was unsuccessful due to the unusually warm spring weather that had caterpillars hatching out before canopy leaf emergence. As there was not sufficient leaf surface for the pesticide to adhere to, the caterpillars were not able to ingest a lethal dose of the control agent resulting in considerable damage to the stand. While considered fully stocked, and containing approx. 86 sq.ft. BA/acre of live timber, 60 % of the trees are dying or already dead. As such, trees of acceptable quality for future growing stock are inadequate to provide a fully stocked stand in themselves. The overall condition of the stand is poor, and accelerated mortality is underway. The understory is moderately well developed with approx. 800 stems per acre, however the majority of the understory stems are non-commercial tree and shrub species including Witch Hazel (350 stems/ac.) and Birch ( 100 stems/ac.). There are approx.350 stems/ac. of desirable Red Maple, Cucumber Magnolia, Red and White Oaks in the understory.

The site has a northeastern aspect and falls within the Elk Lick Run watershed, part of the Potomac River drainage system. Underlying soils include: Cookport and Ernest very stony silt loams, as well as Dekalb and Gilpin very stony loams. These soils are moderately deep and well drained and some poorly drained soils, with moderate equipment limits because watertable is close to the soil surface in winter and early in spring. Degree of slope ranges from 0-25% throughout the site. The productivity on the site is good, with a site index of 70+.

### Management and Silvicultural Recommendations:

The proposed silvicultural treatment for this stand is to regenerate the stand while salvaging the merchantable timber. Regeneration will be accomplished through the clear-cut method. In this case, the present main stand shall be harvested. Where possible, 8-12 healthy, dominant or co-dominant trees shall be retained on each 2 acres of this harvested area. Particular emphasis shall be placed on retaining live den trees, as well as both hard and soft mast producers. All other trees greater than 2 inches DBH shall be harvested. Regeneration is accounted for in the form of existing seedling stock, and will be further supplemented through vegetative reproduction from stump sprouts most notably from the 58 sq.ft. BA/ ac <18" dia. This practice will provide for the salvage-harvest of the dying and dead trees damaged by the recent storms and insect infestations and will provide for the subsequent regeneration of this stand of poor conditioned timber. *I propose this harvest be moved forward to the FY-09 AWP to allow for immediate harvest. As significant mortality is expected, immediate harvest is recommended to avoid further loss of both timber values and important live stump sprout / regeneration potential*

# Compartment 9 Mt. Zion Rd. Salvage FY-10



Approx. Acres...	22
Age.....	95
Forest Type.....	Mixed Oak
Trees/Ac.....	120
Basal Area.....	86
AGS.....	34
Stocking.....	72%
Growth Rate...	2.1%
Site Index.....	75 for NRO
Composition.....	Red Oak 44%
	Red Maple 31%



**NORTH**

## **COMPARTMENT 11 – (Rt. 135 & CCC Camp Rd.)**

### **Description:**

This area is located on the south side of MD Route 135 at the intersection of Rt. 135 and CCC Camp Roads. The site includes the road frontage along both Rt. 135 and the CCC Camp Rd. and backs to the Backbone Mt. Boys Camp.

In 2002, this stand contained an immature hardwood stand comprised primarily of mixed oaks: Red Oak (49%), Chestnut Oak (11%), White oak (10%) and Scarlet Oak (8%). The stand suffered extensive damage during the October 2002 ice storm, which prompted a salvage thinning completed in 2006. The resultant recovering stand contained 65 sq.ft. BA/acre of very stressed, yet live trees. Following this initial salvage thinning, this 13-acre immature, hardwood stand is now made up primarily of Red maple (45%), Red Oak (17%), and Chestnut Oak (7%). Two years of successive and severe Gypsy Moth defoliation is killing this stand. Of the 65 sq.ft. BA/ac. 60% is dead or dying. The stand is under stocked and is not fully utilizing the growing space available. The under story is dominated by non-commercial species including Sassafras and Witch Hazel which comprise 75% of the 1,275 stems/acre of advanced regeneration. The remaining 332 stems/ac. are dominated by red maple, black cherry, and cucumber magnolia, on what should be a mixed oak forest.

The site has a southern aspect, and it falls within the Potomac River drainage system. Underlying soils include 'DeKalb and Gilpin very stony loams'. These soils are moderately deep and moderately well drained; equipment limits and erosion potential are slight. The productivity on the site is good, with a site index of 60 for Red Oak.

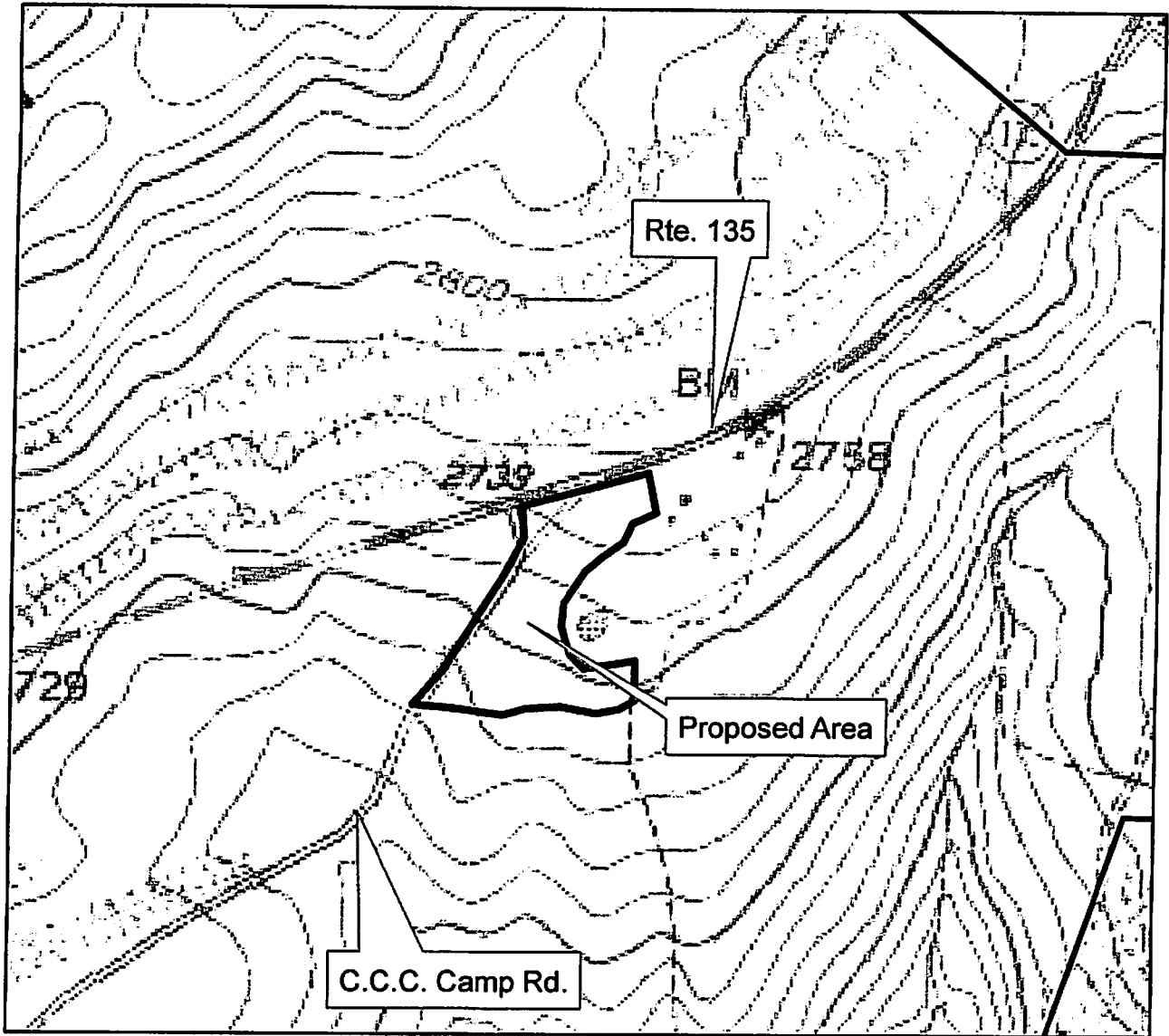
### **Management and Silvicultural Recommendations:**

The proposed silvicultural treatment for this stand is to salvage the merchantable timber and regenerate the site by the clear-cut method. In this case, the present main stand shall be harvested. Where possible, 4-6 healthy, dominant or co-dominant trees shall be retained on each acre of this harvested area. Particular emphasis shall be placed on retaining live den trees, (if found a safe distance from the road) as well as both hard and soft mast producers. All other trees greater than 2 inches DBH shall be harvested. Regeneration is primarily accounted for in the form of existing seedling stock, and vegetative reproduction from stump sprouts.

This practice will provide for the regeneration and salvage harvest of this stand of poor conditioned timber. The harvest will eliminate a large number of potentially hazardous roadside trees as many of these dead and dying trees will eventually fall in and across the CCC Camp Road and Rt. 135. In turn, this harvest will release the limited, existing seedling regeneration while providing conditions suitable for the development of additional advanced hardwood regeneration. Most importantly, this harvest will stimulate the remaining dying oak trees to produce stump sprouts, that will provide some established oak regeneration in this former mixed oak stand.

*I propose this harvest be moved forward to the FY-09 AWP to allow for immediate harvest. As significant mortality is expected, immediate harvest is recommended to avoid further loss of both timber values and important live stump sprout / regeneration potential*

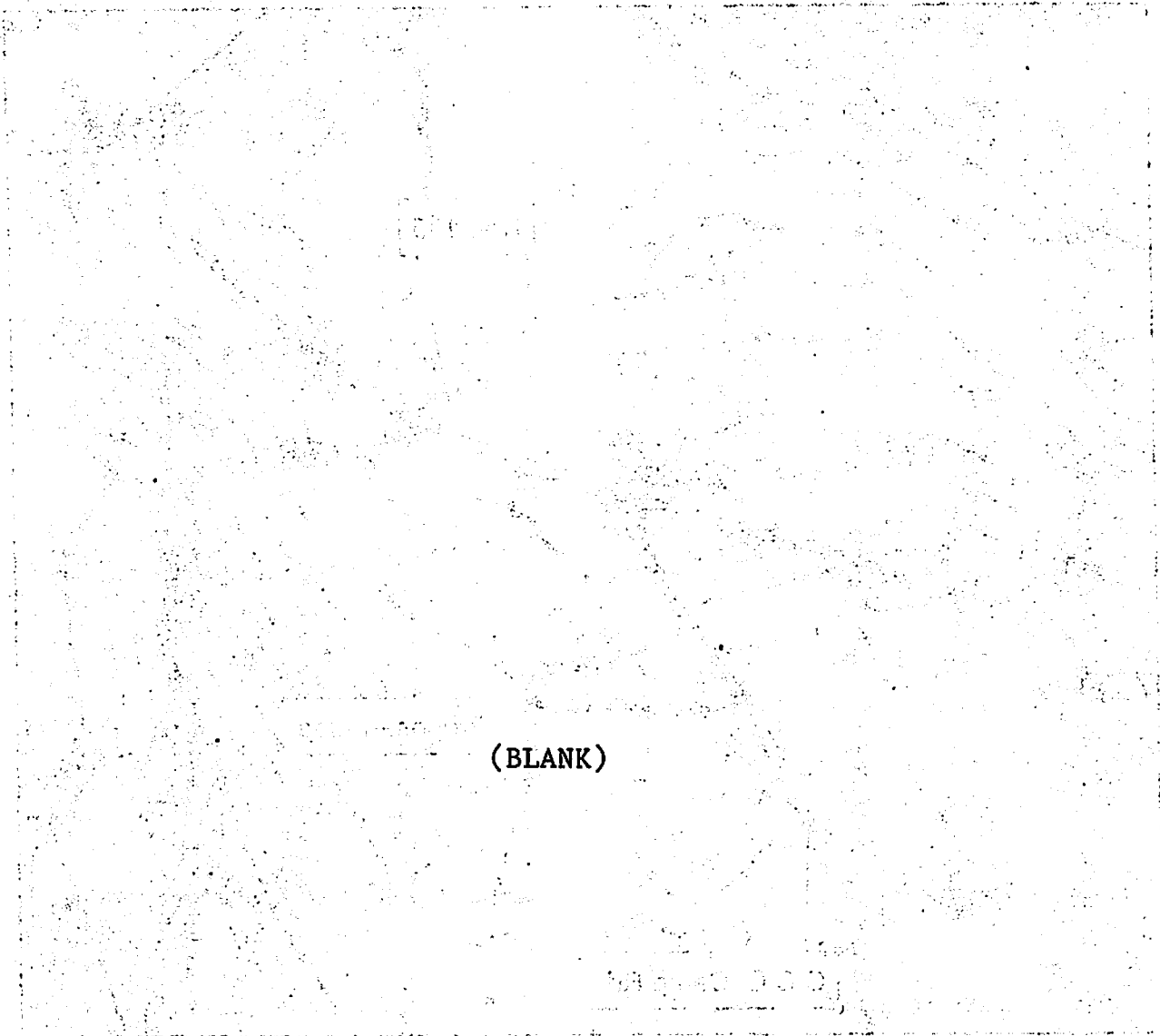
# Compartment 11 Rte 135 & CCC Camp Rd Salvage FY-10



Approx. Acres.....	13
Age.....	80
Forest Type.....	Mixed Oak
Trees/Ac.....	122
Basal Area.....	64
AGS.....	26
Stocking.....	58%
Growth Rate.....	1.7%
Site Index.....	60 for NRO
Composition.....	Red Maple 45%
·	Dead Trees 30%
·	Red Oak 17%
·	Chestnut Oak 8%



SECRET



(BLANK)

SECRET

1. This document is classified SECRET.

2. It contains information that is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, because its disclosure would be injurious to the national defense.

3. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

4. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

5. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

6. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

7. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

8. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

9. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

10. This document is controlled under the provisions of Executive Order 11652, which requires that all information of this type be kept secret.

## **Compartment 33 - (Herrington Manor Rd. Pine)**

### **Description**

This area is located along the east side of the Herrington Manor Road, just north of the State Forest parking lot / trail head at Herrington Creek, within Compartment #33 of the Garrett State Forest. This site consists of 8 acres of 60 year old conifer plantations. Including 1 acre of Norway Spruce and 7 acres of Red Pine / hardwood mix. The parking lot to the south serves as trail head parking for both the Garrett State Forest snowmobile trail, and the "5-1/2 mile Hiking Trail", which both run along the inside edges of this conifer plantations.

The Red Pine plantation is the primary focus of this proposal. The stand is dominated by Red Pine sawtimber with an avg. diameter of 14-16 inches; which comprise nearly 90% of the growing stock, the remaining 10% consists of Black Cherry poles and an occasional Red Maple. The stand is growing approximately 95 trees per acre, at 90 sq.ft. BA/acre. The overall condition of this stand is poor. Approximately 30% of the pine trees are dead. Over three-fourths of the basal area is attributed to trees exhibiting signs of stress and decline. This decline is due to a number of factors including: insect and disease ( bark beetles, annosus root rot, and armellare mellea root rot); overcrowding and a resultant decline in live crown ratio and density; as well as the simple fact that Red Pine is not native to this area and is suffering the climatic effects of growing south of its natural range. While the stand is presently considered fully stocked, trees of acceptable quality for future growing stock are inadequate to provide a fully stocked stand in themselves.

Although this stand is in a serious state of decline, it has served its purpose well. Red Pine plantations have been planted throughout Garrett County in order to rapidly reforest marginally productive or highly erodable cropland. In doing so, these pine stands provide various forest benefits, including wildlife habitat, watershed protection, forest products, and maybe most importantly, they serve as a "nurse crop", allowing for the development of an organic litter layer from which native hardwood seedling eventually develop. This pine stand has a moderately developed understory containing approximately 850 hardwood saplings that have developed beneath the failing pine canopy. The species mix includes: Red Maple (350 stems/acre), Red Oak (150), Cucumber Magnolia (150), Black Cherry (100), White Oak (50) and Black Birch (50).

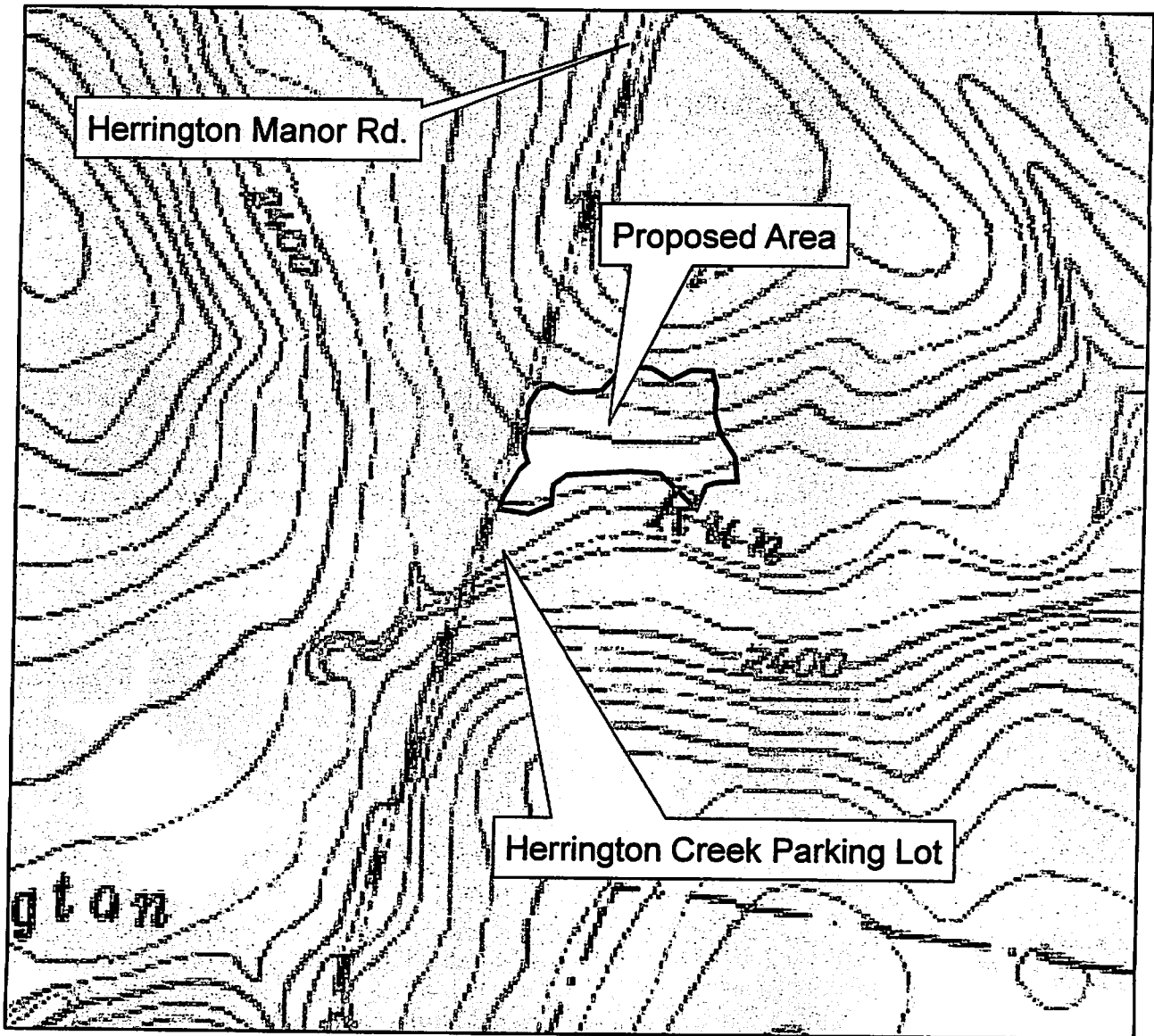
This site has a northern aspect and drains into the headwaters of the South Prong of Lostland Run, within the Potomac River Watershed. Underlying soils are "DeKalb channery loams" with 0-20% slope. These soils are moderately deep and well drained, and often are moderately eroded. Equipment limits are slight due to modest slopes. Erosion potential is slight, increasing to moderate on the steeper slopes. Productivity of this site is good with a site index for Red Oak between 65-75.

The narrow, Norway spruce plantation serves as a hydrologic buffer to Herrington Creek, and as a visual buffer between the Red Pine stand and the hiking trail. This stand has not been thinned previously, and is now well overstocked with trees containing minimal crowns with the exception of the trees growing immediately along either side of the trail. The spruce stand will be left to grow as is.

### **Management and Silvicultural Recommendations**

Due to the poor conditions of the pine overstory and the presence of the well-developed hardwood understory, this stand should be regenerated by means of a "liberation /clear cut". This practice will allow for the harvest and salvage of the declining pine stand, while releasing or liberating the overtopped hardwood saplings from competition for sunlight, reducing stress on these very young trees and allowing a new and vigorous, even-aged stand of native mixed hardwoods to develop. As windthrow is a concern, the pine will be cut all the way to the Herrington Manor Road, as well as the snowmobile and hiking trails. In order to lessen the visual impact of the harvest, healthy and well developed hardwood understory trees and poletimber will not be cut within 100 feet of the road and trails; all other trees will be cut down to 2 inches DBH, with the exception of any den or cavity trees. All harvesting shall be conducted under the processes and guidelines set forth in the Potomac-Garrett State Forest 10-Year Resource Management Plan. *I propose this harvest be moved forward to the FY-09 AWP to allow for immediate harvest. As significant mortality is expected, immediate harvest is recommended to avoid further loss of both timber values and important live stump sprout / regeneration potential*

# Compartment 33 H.M. Road Pine FY-10



Approx. Acres....	7
Age.....	65
Forest Type.....	Plantation
Trees/Ac.....	95
Basal Area.....	90
AGS.....	58
Stocking.....	72%
Growth Rate....	1.5%
Site Index.....	75 for R.P.
Composition.....	Red Pine 89%
	Black Cherry 10%





**COMPARTMENT 18 &19  
(Lostland Run, Lime Doser Culvert Replacement)      FY-10**

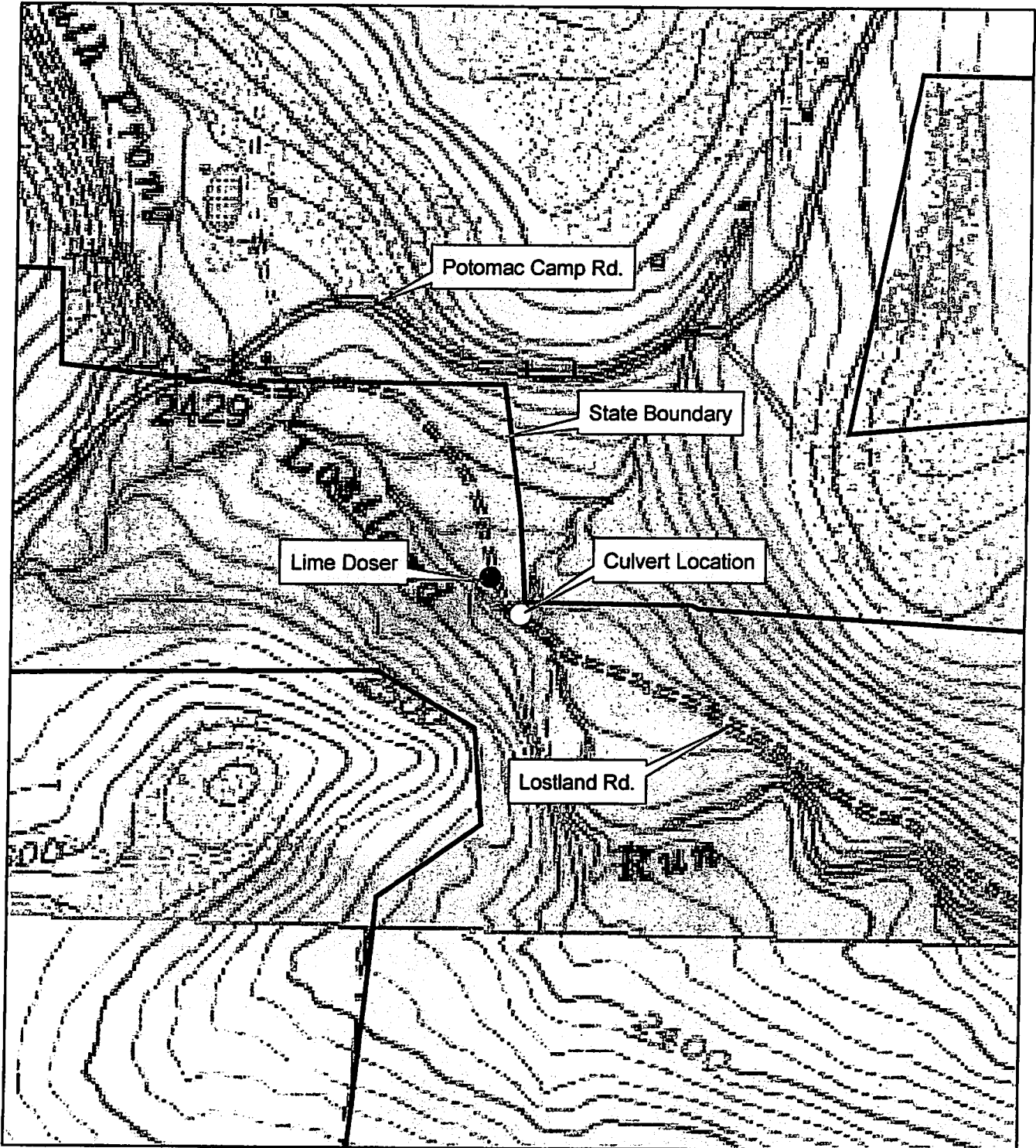
**Description / Background:**

The PGSF contains 37miles of ‘improved/maintained’ access roads. These roads are the year round, gravel roads that provide public access throughout the forest. This road network includes approx. 240 culverts, 5 bridges and the necessary ditches and water diversions required to keep the roads in sound, stable, driving condition. Most of these roads were built by the CCC during the late 1930s –early 1940s. As most of the culverts on the state forest are approx. 70 years old, they have all begun to fail over the last decade, forcing large scale replacement efforts with little additional available funding. Estimates for rehabilitating the primitive and failing road and trail system on PGSF are approx. \$25,000 per mile. PGSF has aggressively sought and received National Recreation Trail Grant funds targeted to improve trail access, especially for those trails offering motorized recreation opportunities. Funding has been secured to both obtain necessary equipment to carryout such maintenance repairs, and to provide supplies, materials and labor to complete the projects. Based on grant availability, a 5 year maintenance plan has been put into place attempting to break up this large project into manageable terms. Emphasis has been placed on correcting sediment and erosion issues and culvert replacement, on those ‘improved/maintained’ roads and trails that serve both as ORV trails as well as overall state forest access.

In the interim, as culverts fail completely, they present an immediate hazard that needs to be addressed. This is the case with a 30 inch culvert at the top of the Lostland Run Road. The culvert failed in spring of 2008 causing the road to collapse. This culvert carries a tributary to the south prong of Lostland Run which supports brook trout. The pipe has an elaborate mortared stone headwall with side wing wall that catches and diverts the stream flow into the pipe and under the road. This pipe needs immediate attention, as it is critical to the successful operation of the mechanical “lime doser” along the Lostland Run Road. The doser buffers the acidic Lostland Run with limestone fines, and is vital to the maintenance of the thriving brook trout and aquatic life in this stream. The failed culvert has been temporarily bridged using a portable bridge offered on loan by the Maryland Bureau of Mines to facilitate truck access to the lime doser.

Work plans calling for immediate action to repair this culvert include meeting with DNR Engineering and Construction and Water Resources Administrations to evaluate options for replacing this critical stream crossing device in the timeliest fashion. Design considerations will allow for the upstream passage of fish and other aquatic life found in the stream.

# Compartment 18,19 Lostland Run Emergency Culvert Replacement FY-10



Compartment....18, 19  
Quad.....Deer Park

Scale 1"= 660"



## 2010 NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDING APPLICATION

# \_\_\_\_\_  
(DOT/SHA USE ONLY)

**Project Sponsor (Applicant):** Potomac- Garrett State Forest

**Name of designated representative:** John Denning – Forest Manager

**Address:** 1431 Potomac Camp Rd, Oakland MD 21550

**Phone:** 301- 334-4157

**Fax:** 301-334-3922

**E-mail:** jdenning@dnr.state.md.us

**Project name:** Grading and Erosion Control on Piney Mountain. Multi.- use trail, ORV section.

**Project location** (describe the limits of the project, including City and County; may include location map): Piney Mt. Trail system, within the Garrett State Forest. This grant will provide improvements to the 1.7 mile section of trail open to ORVs running between the Sang Run Road and the Piney Mt. Handicapped Hunter Access Rd. (see attached map)

**Project description:** Maintenance and restoration of existing multi-use trail network. This request is being made to fund materials and supplies necessary for State Forest staff to restore proper drainage, correct sediment and erosion problems, restore/replace existing failing culverts and stone headwalls, and to harden the traveled surface of the severely eroded 1.7 mile section of the Piney Mountain multi-use trail that extends from the Sang Run Road to the Piney Mt. Handicapped Hunter Access Rd. Federal funds will be utilized to acquire supplies and materials, while the work will be carried out using the States available heavy equipment and skilled operators.

**Project property ownership** (project must be constructed on property owned by and/or on permanent easements held by the Project Sponsor): Potomac – Garrett State Forest, lands regulated and maintained by Maryland DNR, Forest Service Personnel.

**Project length** (linear feet of new trail, linear feet of existing/reconstructed trail; proposed surface material of trail): 8,076 linear feet of existing/reconstructed trail with a surface of stone.

**Project total cost:** \$39,200

**Federal funds requested and specific use:** \$30,000

Seed, mulch, lime, fertilizer etc.	\$ 1,000
Misc. supplies and materials	\$ 900
Replacement of 12 culverts (materials and installation)	\$ 6,000
Stone for stabilization and resurfacing:	<u>\$22,100</u>
<b>Total Federal Funds requested:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

**Matching funds to be provided by Sponsor** (Please include information regarding how you will be documenting the value of your match, i.e. property appraisal, documentation of cash contributions, in-kind services, bond sale donations, other state grants, capital budget contributions, etc.):

In-Kind services to include:

Labor:	\$ 800
Heavy equipment and skilled operators for this work:	
Side arm mower and operator	\$ 500
skid steer and operator	\$ 1,500
dozer and operator	\$ 1,000
roller/compactor and operator	\$ 2,000
grader and operator	\$ 3,400
 Total funding provided by Sponsor:	 \$ 9,200

\*\*\*\*\*  
**AGENCY USE ONLY**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Category: \_\_\_\_\_ (Education, Diversified, Motorized or Non-Motorized)

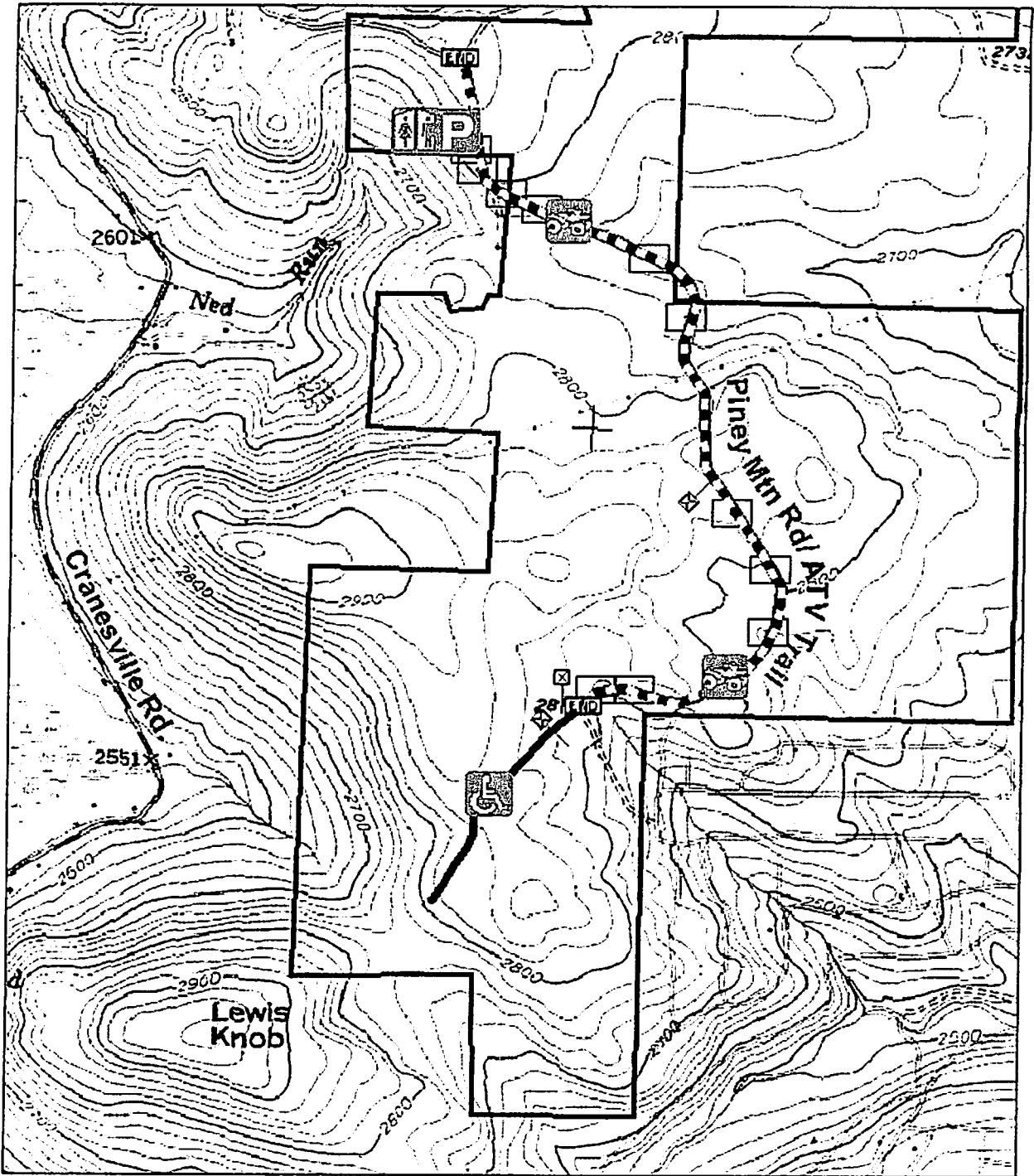
Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Date Applicant Notified of Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Environmental Review**

	Y or N	Date Initiated	Date Completed
State Agency/Clearinghouse Review	_____	_____	_____
MDOT Federal	_____	_____	_____
Programmatic categorical exclusion	_____	_____	_____

# NRT Proposal - Piney Mtn. Grading, Erosion Control, and Culvert Replacemant



Compartment... 45, 46  
Quad..... Sang Run

☐ = Culvert Location



Scale = 1: 17,430

## **Other work projects and activities:**

Aside from the detailed cultural work planned for the state forests, the following is a partial list of projects that are often on-going from year to year and are an integral part of state forest operations.

### **\*Interpretation and education.**

PGSF staff have regularly provided interpretive programs to school groups, scout groups, and visitors to the state forests and parks. Most recently, interpretive efforts have been focused on developing interpretive materials for the "Kindness Demonstration Area". Grant monies had been secured through the Appalachian Forest Heritage Program for the production of the interpretive signage and accompanying brochures, that are to be installed. Interpretive efforts will focus on the use and promotion of this educational area.

### **\*General maintenance of roads and trails throughout the state forests.**

PGSF staff maintains 37mi. of improved road, 21 miles of unimproved road and 22 mi. of multi use trails. This work is ever ongoing. A lack of sufficient road maintenance equipment makes the upkeep of this road and trail system a considerable challenge. In order to attempt to meet this challenge, alternative funding sources are continuously sought to provide the necessary equipment and materials required for such maintenance and improvements. In 2009-2010, a National Recreational Trail Grant will allow for road and trail improvements to the Laurel Run multi-use trail system. This work will include grading, erosion control, ditch work and replacement of approx. several failing culverts thereby improving public access throughout the Potomac State Forest.

### **\*Boundary line maintenance.**

PGSF has 130 miles of boundary line, including interior lines, exterior lines, and road frontage. Boundary maintenance is critical to the management of all public lands. In order to keep up with this effort, PGSF maintains approximately 30 miles of line each year. In addition to routine marking/painting, considerable effort is spent on researching relocating or establishing missing and/or new line, as well as addressing boundary conflicts. As conflicts arise, every effort is made to resolve the issue in a timely and professional manner. Often, this work leads to the need for a licensed surveyor and legal recourse in order to resolve the issue.

**\*Campsite maintenance, cleaning, and site evaluation**

PGSF offers year round, primitive camping in 5 separate areas of the State Forest; Lost Land Run Area, Laurel Run / Wallman Areas, Snaggy Mt. Area and Piney Mt. Area. Within each area is a 'group site', a rustic trail shelter and several primitive campsites offering a picnic table, lantern post/table and fire ring. Between 2003-2009 vault toilets were installed in each of the 5 areas to improve sanitary conditions for campers and forest visitors. Campsites and trail shelters are available on a first come first serve basis; a self registration kiosk is available at the entrance to each area.

**\*Maintenance and management of 3-D archery range**

PGSF offers the only 3-D Archery Range in the States Public Lands System. The facility is located behind the State Forest Headquarters. The range offers a 30 target course, with 4 separate skill levels at each target. The facility is open April 1st - Oct. 1st, dusk to dawn. The State Forest hosts a summer fun league, an annual tournament shoot, as well as a fall 'hunters special' shoot.

# Annual Work Plan Review Summary Potomac Garrett State Forest FY10 – AWP

The following is a summary of the comments and actions taken in response to the comments received through out the three-part review of the Potomac-Garrett State Forest FY-10 Annual Work Plan. Comments were received through DNR ID Team review, State Forest Advisory Committee review, and public review of the internet posted AWP. (See copies of all written comments attached.) No public comments were received.

## Comments regarding specific proposal:

### Recreation Proposals

#### Comp. 20 - Lostland Run Campsite and Trail Relocation Proposal

##### *ID Team Comments:*

- Staff will be sure to check on stream crossing permit necessity. Proposal acceptable as written.

##### *Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

##### *Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

Final Proposal : Proposal submitted as initially written.

#### Comp. 20 & 26 Potomac River Boater Access

##### *ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

##### *Advisory Board Comments:*

- Recreation professional representative offered some valuable insights into the potential use of such an access, offering numbers of potential user days as well as insights to present use and conditions and closing in support of this proposal; proposal acceptable as written.

##### *Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

Final Proposal : Proposal submitted as initially written.



## **Critical Habitat Management**

### **Comp. 38A – Wildernes Ranch Critical Habitat Protection and Access Proposal**

#### *ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

#### *Advisory Board Comments:*

- Group supports the proposal as acceptable as written.

#### *Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

## **Watershed Protection**

### **Comps. 18-21 – Lostland Run HWA Mitigation/Red Spruce Planting Proposal**

#### *ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

#### *Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

#### *Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

## **Ecosystem Restoration Projects**

### **Comps. 5&7 – Backbone Mtn. Japanese Knotweed Control Project**

#### *ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

#### *Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

#### *Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Comps. 22-26 – Wallman/Laurel Run Garlic Mustard Control Project**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Silvicultural Proposals**

**Comp. 9 – Mt. Zion Road Salvage Description**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Comp. 11 – RT 135 & CCC Camp Rd. Description**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Comp. 33 – Herrington Manor Rd. Pine Description**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

Final Proposal : Proposal submitted as initially written.

### **Critical Maintenance**

#### **Comps. 18&19 – Lostland Run Lime Doser Culvert Replacement**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

Final Proposal : Proposal submitted as initially written.

#### **Comps. 45&46 – Piney Mtn. Grading & Erosion Control Project (NRT App.)**

*ID Team Comments:*

- Land planning rep. advises that more detail will be needed fro final grant submittal; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- Committee supports this proposal and offered comments regarding significant improvements to the access roads throughout the state forest. The importance of offering access to these public lands was emphasized, particlurly for the enjoyment of the elderly and disabled visitors that may not be able to get out into the woods, beyond their vehicles. The obvious costs of letting roads fail, and trying to play catch up later was also noted, as was the counties and states historic role in demonstrating the use and importance of the states forests for public recreational use. Proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

Final Proposal : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Other Project and Activities**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

**Operational Funds and Budget Summary**

*ID Team Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Advisory Board Comments:*

- No specific comments; proposal acceptable as written.

*Public Comments: Public Comments:*

- No comments received.

**Final Proposal** : Proposal submitted as initially written.

(End – written comments attached.)

**Potomac Garrett State Forest**  
**Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Work Plan Review**  
August 22, 2008

**In Attendance:**

John Denning, Forest Service, Potomac Garrett  
Noah Rawe, Forest Service, Potomac Garrett  
Jason Savage, Forest Service, Potomac Garrett  
Bob Webster, Forest Service, Western Region  
Kenneth Jolly, Forest Service, Annapolis  
Alan Klotz, Fisheries Service, Western Region  
Jim Mullan, Wildlife Service, Western Region  
Dan Feller, Heritage Service, Western Region  
Wade Dorsey, Forest Service, Garrett County  
Rick Latshaw, Wildlife Service, Western Region  
Jim Kahl, Department of the Environment  
Jack Perdue, Forest Service, Annapolis  
John Wilson, Land Acquisition & Planning  
Emily Wilson, DNR, Annapolis

**Notes:**

**Stop #1: Piney Mountain**

Road and access maintenance project to upgrade road and culverts. They will be submitting a Recreation Trail Grant to fund this project. Jim Kahl suggested that the MDE Sediment & Erosion Control compliance be contacted to determine if permits will be necessary for this project. The grant language will need to be more specific if to be funded. Do not direct water toward the bog. No other concerns or issues were posed for this proposal.

**Stop #2: Wilderness Ranch**

This is a new 800 acre acquisition. It contains newly proposed Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) recently submitted through the Natural Heritage Program. The current road entering the site will be closed and a new road will be developed to direct use away from the ESAs. Roads already established are confusing and rough. A trail sign will be established to assist users safely into and out of the area. There currently is not much ATV use here. This DNR property hasn't been formally indentified as a State property, yet. It use to be owned by the forest industry, and was harvest heavily about 30 years ago. It mostly is in the poletimber size class. No other concerns or issues were posed for this proposal.

**Stop #3: Harvest Site**

This harvest used a variable retention harvest scheme with several retention islands.

**Stop #4: Lost Land Run**

The ID Team stopped to look at a culvert site that had rusted through. It was originally place during the 1930s. When the culvert was originally placed, it was under-sized for its use. A temporary bridge was placed over the crossing as a safety precaution.

**Stop #5: Lost Land Run North Potomac Access**

The ID Team looked at two possible access points to the river. The proposal will allow canoe and kayak access to this portion of the river through DNR boating grant money at \$5,000 each. There were no concerns from the ID Team with this proposal.

**Stop#6 Lost Land Run Camp Site Relocation**

Potomac Garrett State Forest wants to relocate part of the Lost Land Run hiking trail due to erosion issues. Currently it is located within the flood plain and they want to move it out. The proposal was discussed, but the team did not feel it necessary to visit the site.

As part of the hiking trail relocation it would be necessary to relocate camp site #35. The new location of the hiking trail would take it through camping site #35. Just across the road from the camping site would make a good camping site location, requiring minimal disturbance. This would require crossing a small stream but was not thought to create any problems. Parking for this site could still be at the original site. It was suggested that the establishment of this site might require a stream crossing permit and that should be determined by the staff. A small foot bridge would be used to allow for foot traffic to the camp site. No other concerns or issues were posed for this proposal.

The ID Team also discussed the red spruce plantings. Recent plantings are not doing well. There has been difficulty with reaching bare mineral soil for these plantings.

Notes provided by Jack Perdue

## MEMORANDUM

To: John Denning  
Forest Manager

From: Mike Logsdon  
Representative, Recreational Professional  
Potomac-Garrett State Forest Advisory Board

Re: Comments on FY-10 Annual Work Plan

Date: October 15, 2008

Thanks John for providing a well organized Advisory Board meeting this past Tuesday. I have the following comments related to the Annual Work Plan for FY 2010.

- As a member of the Advisory Board representing recreational professionals, I could not help but to be impressed with the efforts to promote recreational use of lands within Potomac-Garrett State Forest.
  - The Snaggy Mountain ORV trail, which by happenstance is located very near my residence and which I have used as an optional route between my workplace and my residence, has shown a gradual decline in proper maintenance for the past 10 to 15 years. Since this road serves 10 or so primitive campsites, access to Maryland's Champion Red Oak (unfortunately, now a 20' trunk without its spires and crown), a wetlands/wildlife marked nature trail, and hopefully access to a much needed firearms shooting range, it makes very good sense to continue your efforts to obtain grant funding and apply necessary matching in-kind resources to see this road improved.

It was very impressive that you have been able to establish a working relationship with the private land own along that road (Mr. Kenny Johns) in order to reach an agreeable position on permission to improve the road.

In addition, the completed Snaggy Mountain Road work done to date from the Cranesville Road end, using Recreational Trail Grant monies, is fantastic.

- The acquisition of Wilderness Ranch and efforts to improve the confusing and potentially hazardous trail system by marking a two or three key "spine" trails, so that

hikers can find more easily find their way, is good foresight and will help reduce risk of lost persons and the need for Search & Rescue operations.

- The addition of boater access points in the Lostland Area would make sense if the investment of resources is reasonable. This possibility is improved with potential funding from the DNR Waterway Improvement funding mechanism. This section of the North Branch of the Potomac River (NBPR) is able to be navigated by kayak, canoe, or raft, probably, something on the order of 60 days per year.

Referred to by whitewater boaters as the "Thousand Ledges" section of the NBPR, this whitewater run is solid Class III+/IV- during reasonable flows of, say, 700 to 1200 C.F.S. The lower Class II/III section of the NBPR, below Jennings Randolph Lake, attracts paddlers during the 12 or so scheduled whitewater recreational releases in the spring. Professional outfitters from the Harpers Ferry area, as well as local outfitters will transport their clients to this section of river on a number of fair weather days.

So, a familiarity with the NBPR exists with professional outfitters. It certainly exists with private boaters. The question is always whether or not the Thousand Ledges section will have water on any given day. With internet access to river flows, for which the USGS does provide daily flow info for the Thousand Ledges section, it is totally conceivable that improved boater access will result in increased use of this resource.

- The potential for an acquisition of two parcels of land, with extensive riverfront bordering the Thousand Ledges section of the NBPR, miles of underdeveloped trails and roads mainly used for ATV recreation, and acres of hunting/camping land is of particular interest. Seeming to be one of those "once in a lifetime opportunities", it is my hope that a purchase of this land is possible.

It should be realized by going into such an acquisition with eyes wide open, that such procurement would require adequate staffing for proper management. It appears that these parcels could generate significant revenue, depending upon the direction taken for the use of the land. However, as rumor has it, there is a history of usage of the land, possibly usage that runs counter to normally accepted practices and procedures, and it would only seem reasonable to purchase it with a proper consideration of what it will take to manage the resource.

- In general, as a member of the Advisory Board, I would encourage the continual efforts to maintain and improve the road system serving the many venues contained within Potomac-Garrett State Forest. These access roads are the lifeline to public usage in many cases. Even for the causal elderly or physically impaired driver, who cannot exit his/her vehicle for a walk or hike, these access roads provide a persuasive and positive influence on their interaction with DNR State Forest and Park lands. If roads are not properly maintained, the cost for



rehabilitation grows non-linearly with time. Garrett County and its public lands were early, maybe even first, in demonstrating the use of Maryland state forests for public recreational purposes. The state would be served well to continue to showcase these facilities and make them easy to access.

- Another point to make, in general, and it came to mind when we were informed of the possibility of a purchase of two parcels of land along the NBPR. It would of great benefit to Advisory Board members to be able to consider potential acquisitions of lands, as well as other considerations, at the earliest possible stage. The sooner our Advisory Board members get a chance to think through a potential scenario, the sooner we might be able to offer constructive points. The knowledge that Advisory Board members have regarding the local geographical, economic, recreational, social, and, to some degree, political aspects surrounding issues could be valuable in weighing pros and cons of various considerations.

Thanks again John for providing an opportunity to comment. Mike.