

SAVAGE RIVER STATE FOREST

ANNUAL WORK PLAN



FISCAL YEAR 2014

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Reviewed:	<u>Robert Drebot</u> (Regional Manager)	<u>4-25-13</u> Date
Reviewed:	<u>[Signature]</u> (Land Acquisition & Planning)	<u>5/6/13</u> Date
Approved:	<u>[Signature]</u> (Environmental Specialist)	<u>4.25.13</u> Date

Savage River State Forest Annual Work-plan for FY 2014

A. Forest Overview

Savage River State Forest is approximately 54,594 acres in size and is situated in the northeastern quadrant of Garrett County in Western Maryland. It is a second growth mixed hardwood forest dominated by oak species, sugar and red maple, black cherry, hickory and ash. Owing to high rainfall and certain topographic features, Savage River State Forest contains many excellent quality growing sites stocked with superior quality trees. The forest contains approximately 4000 acres of conifer plantations, established in the 1940's following state acquisition. Red pine is the dominant tree species within these plantations but other conifers include white pine, Norway spruce, larch, and Scotch pine. These plantations were established as nurse crops to rehabilitate abandoned and depleted farm fields, with the long-term goal of conversion back to native hardwoods as appropriate.

Savage River State Forest has been intensively managed for over 60 years. Forest harvest and grooming operations are undertaken to thin overstocked stands, to effectively deal with public safety concerns, to harvest mature or diseased/dying trees, to improve habitat for certain wildlife species, to assist and provide for certain research needs, to address aesthetic concerns, and to increase the proportion of age/height diversity of forested stands.

B. Annual Work Plan Summary

The FY-2014 Annual Work Plan for Savage River State Forest was formulated during 2012. It contains projects to be undertaken in the areas of Silviculture, Maintenance, Special Projects, and Recreation.

Savage River will harvest approximately 1.02 million board feet of sawtimber through implementation of the FY-14 Annual Work Plan. The plan involves ten proposed silvicultural projects within the forest. The three regeneration harvest areas range 10 to 23 acres. Of the seven thinning operations one is a conifer thinning and the remainder are hardwood thinnings.

Silvicultural treatment	Acres	Sawtimber Volume (Bd. Ft.)	Pulpwood Volume (cords)
Pre-commercial Thinning	37		
Commercial Thinning	212	371,604	2,654
Regeneration	53	544,926	872
Spruce Thinning	46	103,300	493

Most of the maintenance projects are of a routine nature. Again most of recreation work is of a routine nature; however we will have a new recreation plan for the

forest to implement which includes starting the Fairview wildlife management area.. A special effort that began in FY 11 and will be ongoing for the next 3 years is stand level data collection as part of our certification and management efforts. Further we will be monitoring all of our silvicultural activities five and 10 years post treatment.

C. Maintenance Projects

Routine maintenance projects include: Building repair and maintenance, mowing at the campus, snow removal, repair and replacement of fire rings and tables at the camp sites, brush hogging trails, and repair of road surfaces.

There are 70 plus primitive camp sites that we maintain. Maintenance and upkeep is on-going with major camp site maintenance focused at the end of the winter, prior to major holidays (such as Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day) and at the end of the camping season.

There are about 101 miles of trail and hardened road surface on the forest and we are maintaining 1/3 of these each year. This maintenance includes brush hogging and repair of road surfaces. We are also using herbicide in areas where it is too steep or narrow to brush hog. In FY 2014 we anticipate beginning a major effort at restoration and improvement of our trails and road system. We expect to have 37 miles of trails/roads upgraded to our sustainable standards.

There is a public shooting range on the forest that we keep open year round. Maintenance is on-going which includes replacing backboards and general clean-up on a weekly basis. Major efforts are done prior to the holiday seasons and prior to the beginning of the various hunting seasons.

Eighty miles of boundary will be repainted and 5 miles of "lost" boundary will be recovered.

D. Recreation Projects

We will begin implementing the expanded recreation plan that was created in FY 2013.

The portion of the Continental Divide Loop bike trail that goes through the forest will likely be finished in FY 2013, but if not it will be finished in FY 2014. Another portion of this effort is part of our restoration/ improvement effort mentioned in the maintenance project section.

The Wildlife and Heritage Service will be working on 2 acres of herbaceous openings, maintaining 25 bluebird boxes, and pruning some 75 fruit trees. They will also be controlling woody vegetation by mowing and prescribed burning on 40 acres of wildlife openings. The Margroff wildlife habitat unit will have another a soft edge created along one of the gas well areas. The Margroff wildlife habitat unit operating plan

will be completed during this fiscal year. The Fairview wildlife habitat unit plan is complete and included in the Special Projects section.

A new ORV trail is currently in the review process, if approved, it will be installed in fiscal year 14. The use of this new trail along with East Shale Road ORV trail will be regulated with the Compass system, a web-based permitting system. Both trails will be designed to be sustainable and, as part of that, their use will be limited to ensure the stability of the surface and surrounding natural resources. They will also be closed to ORV use to accommodate the hunting public who has used these trails previously

E. Special Projects

There are two special projects for this fiscal year. The first is stream bank stabilization along Big Run Road, and the second is the Fairview wildlife habitat unit operating plan.

Big Run is cutting into the bank and threatening Big Run Road in three places. We are working with Watershed Services, Freshwater Fisheries, Wildlife and Heritage Service and a private engineering firm to design and implement appropriate measures to reduce the erosion of the bank without causing problems down stream.

The Fairview Wildlife Habitat Unit operating plan is described below with particular sections identified with management recommendations and a map covering the area is also included.

The Fairview Wildlife Habitat Unit is an irregular shaped tract of approximately 1016 acres of Savage River State Forest. This area is bisected by Fairview Road and reaches from the Poplar Lick drainage in the North to the powerline right of way in the Bear Pen Wildlands in the South. The area is a mosaic of conifer plantations, hardwood stands in various stages of succession, as well as fields and power line rights of way. There are numerous stands that have been managed for timber production by thinning, salvage harvest and regeneration harvest, as well as a portion of unmanaged Wildland in the South. The area includes one of the largest areas of open field habitat found on Savage River State Forest. This coupled with the extensive timber management and good public access, makes this a desirable location to focus on providing early succession habitat. This plan will provide an outline for maintaining the early succession habitat for the future.

Bear Pen Wildland

The northern portion of the Bear Pen Wildland is within this unit. This area, by legislation, is unavailable for active management. Therefore, this area will be allowed to mature and provide an un-manipulated habitat. We would expect the stand to mature and become an older growth forest habitat with mature trees and small light gaps where larger trees die or fall. This area was impacted by gypsy moth in the 2007-2009 years and has

some extensive mortality which will encourage early succession habitat in part of the area. The only habitat manipulation in this area is to potentially attempt exotic species control. There is extensive Japanese spirea throughout the drainage. Further study and consultation needs to be completed to decide if control is possible and warranted.

Field Habitat

A recent acquisition provided an area of open field habitat. This area was previously farmed and in agricultural hay production for decades. This area is comprised of approximately 25 acres of early succession habitat that is primarily in herbaceous cover. There is an additional 10 acres that are permanent herbaceous openings within the powerline rights of way in the unit. Portions of the fields are beginning to show succession changes with black locust and shrubs beginning to pioneer. There are also several areas that are abundant with black berry and other briars. These areas will be maintained for cover and to provide corridors and hedge rows within the fields. There are some honeysuckle and autumn olive bushes present which may be removed and controlled as possible.

The primary goal for this area is to maintain the open field habitat with lots of briar patches for cover for small mammals and birds. The area will be maintained in this mosaic of cover by varied mowing schedules, with portions of the fields being mowed more often and others only sporadically every few years as needed to prevent woody encroachment.

Orchard Habitat

Two areas within the unit totaling approximately 5.5 acres are old orchards that were perhaps maintained around old home sites. These areas still have numerous producing fruit trees and will be maintained as orchards and managed to provide continued fruit production for wildlife food. Apple and other fruit trees will be maintained by annual monitoring and release and pruning on a regular basis. Additional trees may be planted in these areas as necessary to maintain the fruit production and orchard conditions.

Red Spruce Sites

There are 3-4 locations with more steeply sloping terrain at the edges of the open field area that are planned to be planted with red spruce. The sites total approximately 4 acres. These sites are currently in primarily herbaceous cover with a few pioneer hardwoods encroaching. It is proposed to reforest these sites with red spruce to provide good cover and edge habitat that will be beneficial for various birds and small mammals. This will be a good compliment to the overall early succession habitat to be maintained throughout the management unit.

Aspen Management

There are three stands comprising approximately 6.6 acres that currently have been identified as predominantly aspen. Given that aspen is a species that can be regenerated easily to provide optimal breeding and diurnal feeding cover for species such as ruffed grouse and woodcock, these stands will be regenerated to encourage expansion of the aspen habitat and provide optimum cover for these species and others that would benefit from the younger thicker forest cover. Aspen tends to sprout from the roots and provides a dense stand of very vertical stems that are preferred by grouse and woodcock. This will in turn provide a more abundant food source for predatory birds and mammals.

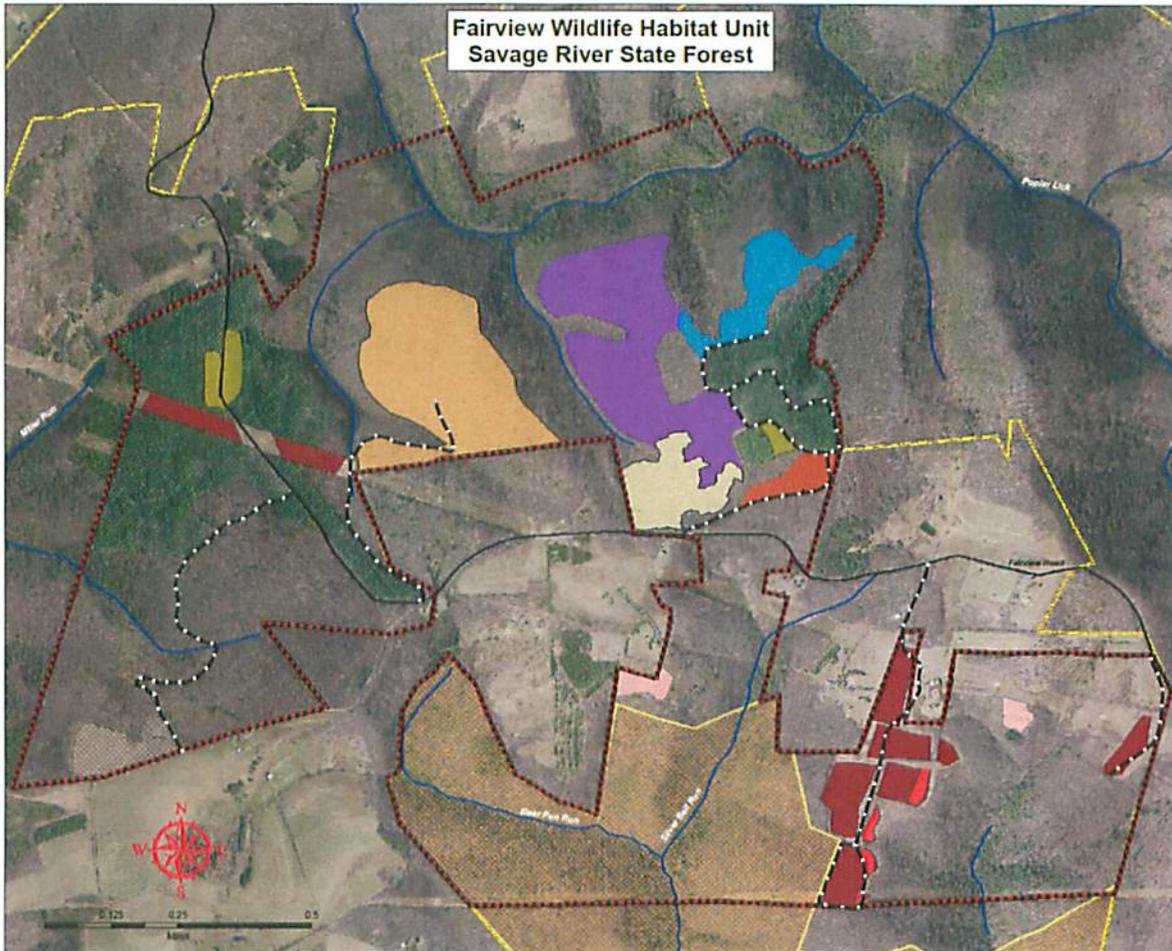
Conifer Plantations

There are approximately 90 acres of conifer plantations that occur within the unit. These plantations occur in two separate areas on either side of the management unit, and are primarily comprised of red pine with some white pine interspersed. One plantation on the east side of the unit is a mosaic that includes red pine, white pine, pitch pine, short-leaf pine and white spruce.

These conifer stands are valuable as habitat for a number of species. These stands are currently in need of thinning for encouraging their growth and habitat values. As these conifers mature and begin to regenerate, it is important to provide for continued conifer cover in this area. The native hemlocks have an uncertain future and though they currently occur throughout the drainages of the management unit, it is important to plan to keep conifers within the unit into the future. It is a concern that hardwood regeneration tends to occur and replace conifer stands. It is recommended that silvicultural methods and planting be used to continue to provide conifer cover with this unit.

Hardwood Stands

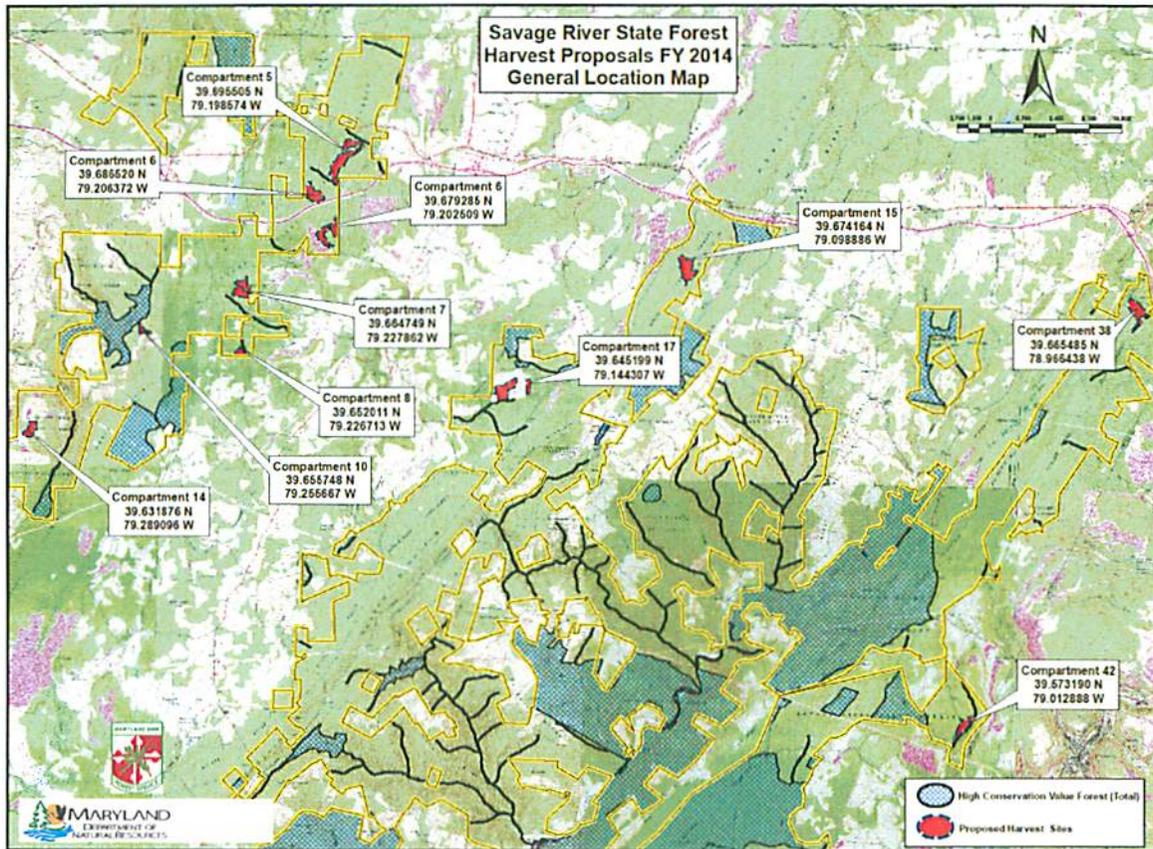
The majority of the management unit is comprised of various age classes of mixed oak hardwoods. Extensive silvicultural work has occurred in the unit over the last 20 years, and includes regeneration harvest and salvage harvests. These harvests occurred in 1991, 2003, 2009 (three as a result of gypsy moth mortality) and 2012. These harvests ranged in size from about 10 acres to over 50 acres. These harvests have provided a good mix of age classes and early succession forest structure that are the target of this management unit. It will be necessary to continue to look for opportunities to conduct silviculture and provide young forest habitats in this unit. There may be opportunities to do a few small regeneration harvests in the next 5-10 years. It may also be warranted to try to regenerate non-commercial stands in order to maintain the young forest habitat structure. It is advisable to complete smaller 5 – 10 acre regeneration harvests in a more patchy mosaic rather than larger harvests, unless salvage operations are necessary due to gypsy moth or other mortality.



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|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Fairview Wildlife Habitat Unit (1016.1 Acres) | Aspen Cuts - Proposed (6.6 Acres) | Orchard |
| Fairview Salvage 2012 (51.7 Acres) | Pine Clearcut 2003 (9.6 Acres) | Streams |
| Fairview Salvage 2009 (49.5 Acres) | Wildlands | Forest Access Roads |
| Poplar Lick Salvage 2009 (14.9 Acres) | Red Spruce Planting Site | Garrett Roads |
| Hardwood Clearcut 2009 (15.0 Acres) | Field | SRSF Boundary |
| Hardwood Clearcut 1991 (5.6 Acres) | Plantations | |



F. Silvicultural Projects



General Location Map

Compartment 5 – Commercial thinning on 62 acres

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This proposal consists of two parts. Part one is made up of stand 26 and stand 29 and part two is made up of stand 23, stand 31 and stand 33. Both parts are mixed oak stands dominated by northern red oak, red maple and chestnut oak. Both are overstocked; part one has a relative density of 115 percent and a basal area of 166.4 sq. ft., part two has a relative density of 119 percent and a basal area of 159 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 1 and appendix 2) While gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

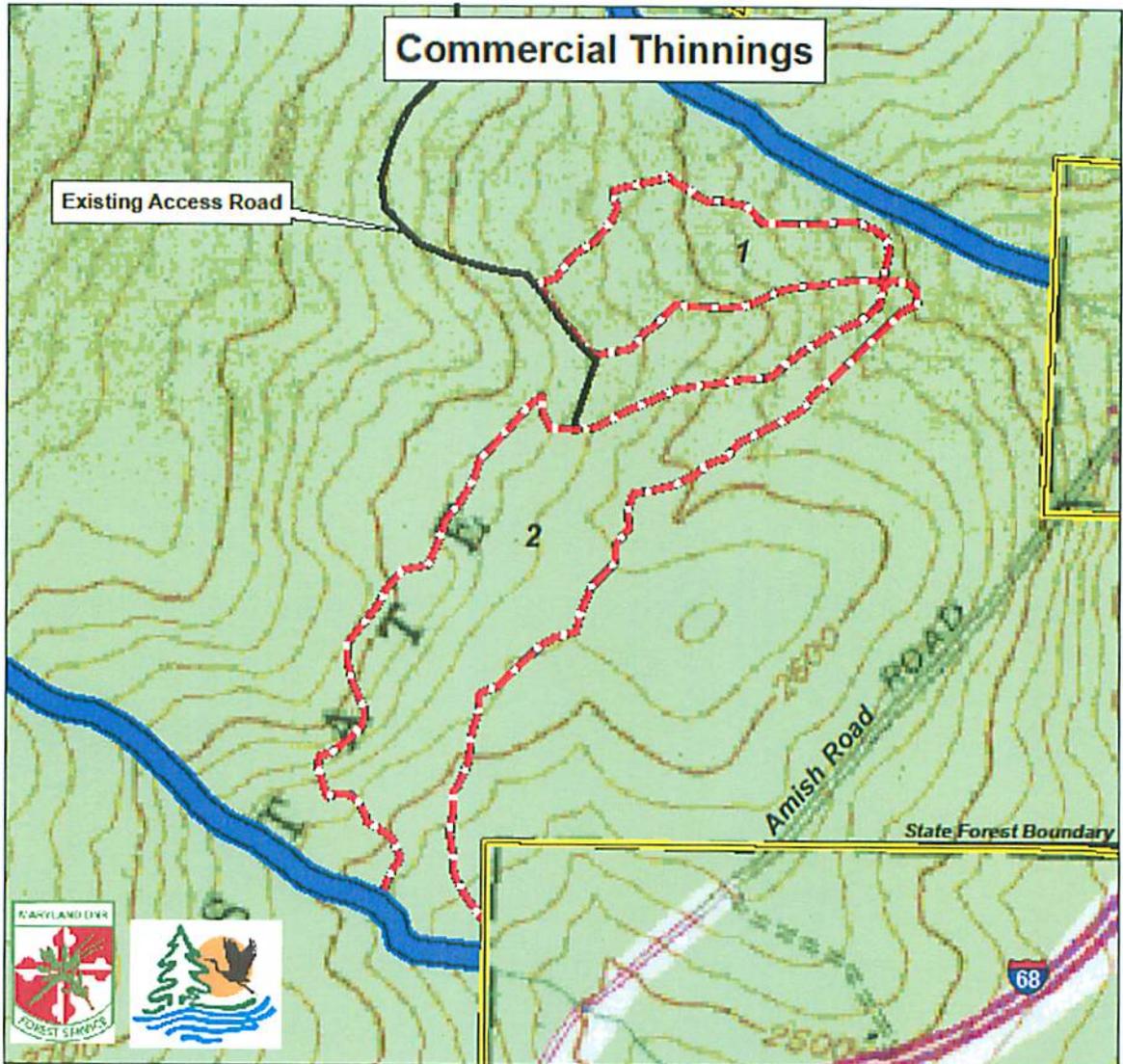
Water Resources: On the southern end of the proposed activity there is an unnamed tributary to the North Branch of the Casselman River and on the northern end is Spiker Run. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of our riparian buffer for these streams. In part one there are some wet areas which will require that the treatments be conducted either in the winter when the area is frozen or in the summer when it is dry.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Gilpin-Cookport-Dekalb association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

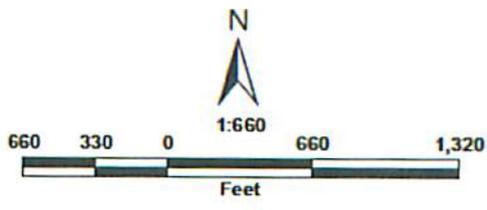
Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF, was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed during the recon. To the west of the stand there is an area that was harvested in 1991 and to the east there were cutting activities in 1975 and 1976.

Silvicultural Prescription

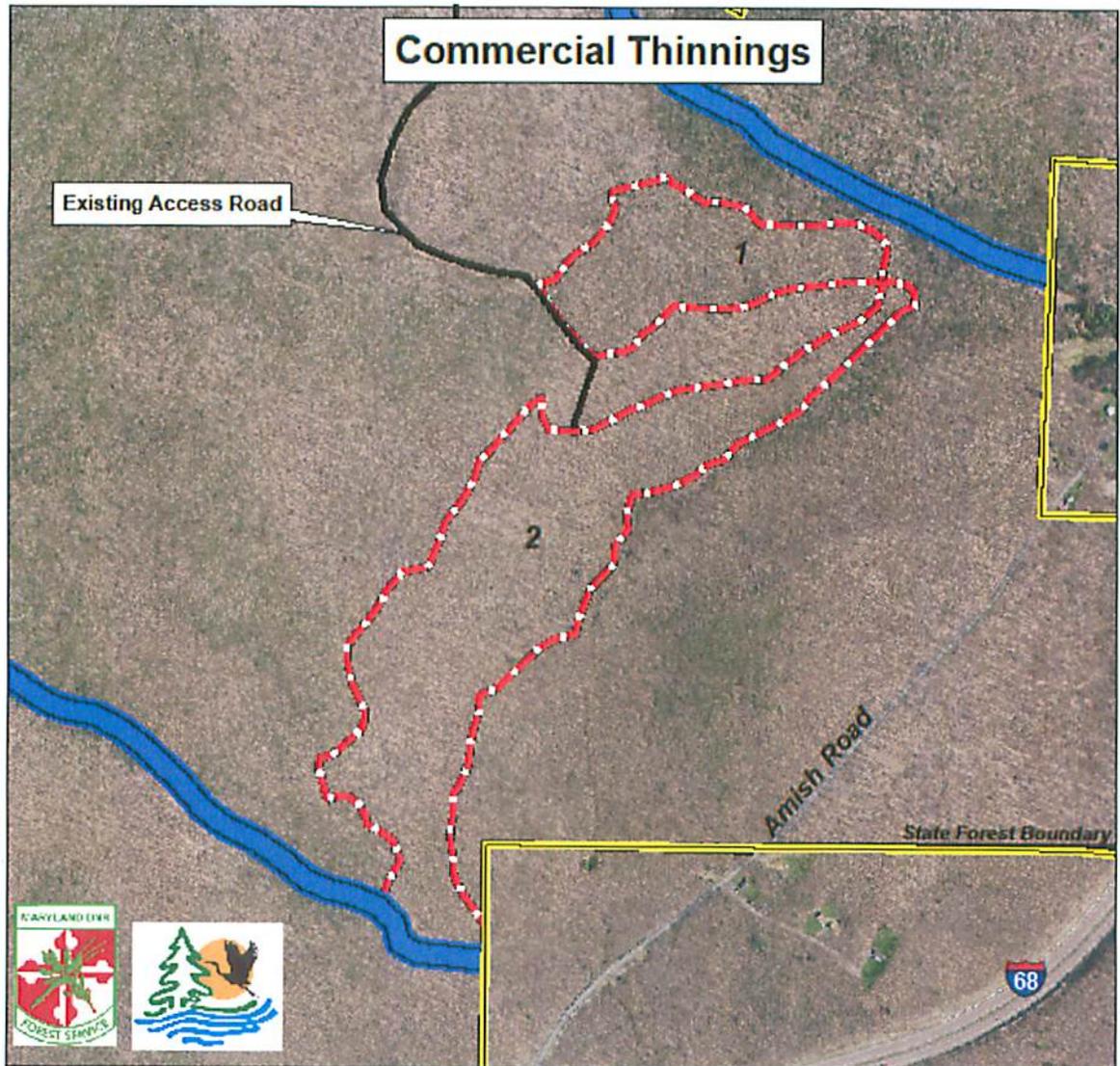
The recommendation for part one is a commercial thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove all the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately, 111 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand. The layout of part one will be done in conjunction with the Heritage and Wildlife Service. The recommendation and objective is similar for part two with residual basal area target of 106 sq. ft. These areas should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.



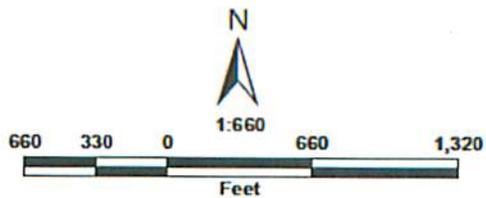
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 5
Approximately 62 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 5
Approximately 62 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 6 – Commercial and Pulpwood thinning on 54 acres

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This proposal consists of two parts. The commercial thinning will be done in stand 0 and the pulpwood thinning will be done in stand 39. Both parts are mixed oak stands dominated by northern red oak and red maple in stand 0 and by red maple, chestnut oak and northern red oak in stand 39. Both are overstocked: Stand 0 has a relative density of 105 percent and a basal area of 149 sq. ft., stand 39 has a relative density of 119 percent and a basal area of 138 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 3 and appendix 4) Gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, but this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

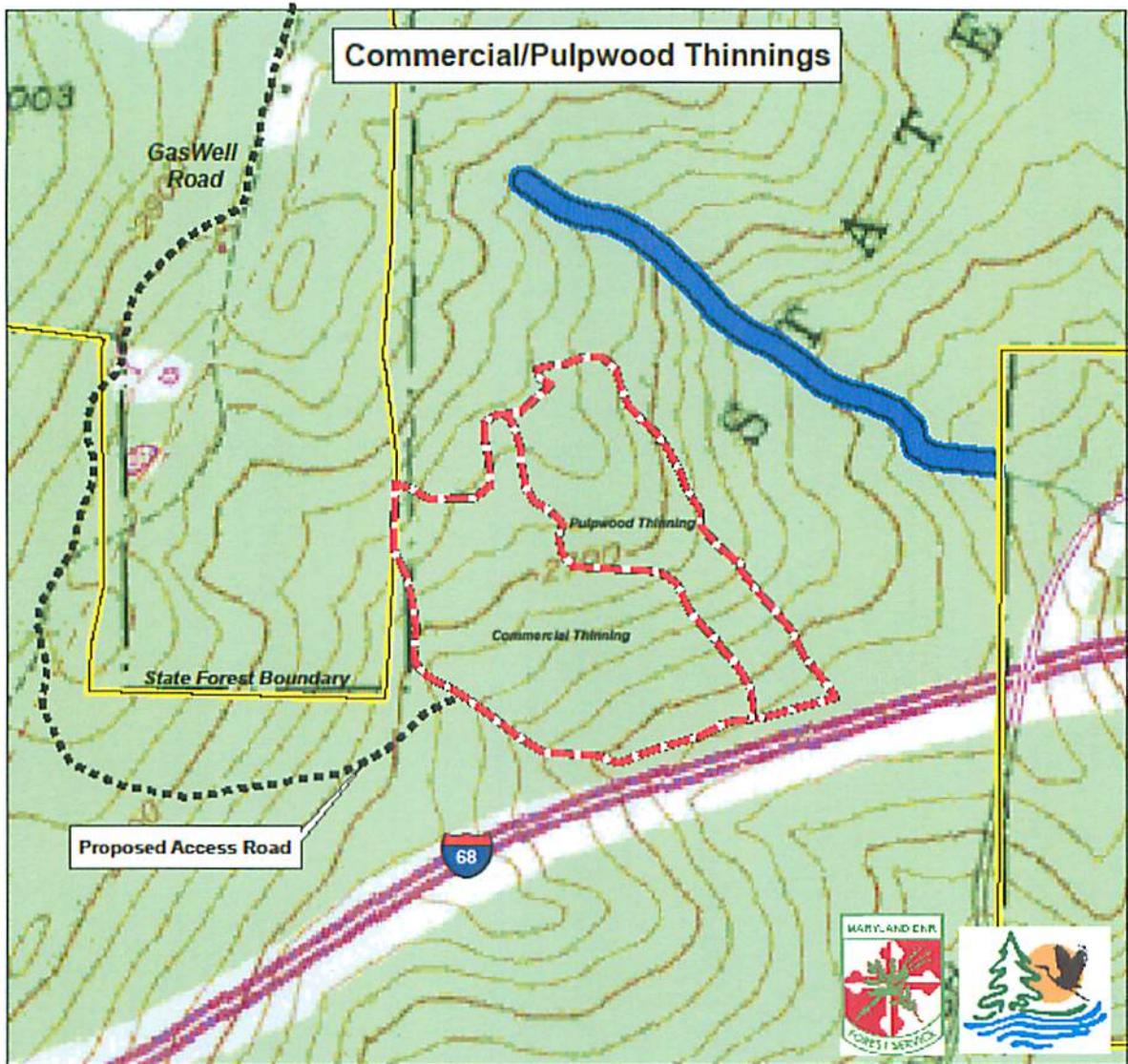
Water Resources: On the northern end of the proposed activity there is an unnamed tributary to the North Branch of the Casselman River. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of our riparian buffer for this stream and typically more than 500 feet away from the stream.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Gilpin-Cookport-Dekalb association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

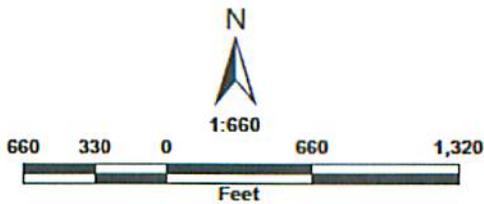
Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF, was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed in either stand during the recon. To the west of the stand 0 there is an area that was harvested in 1993.

Silvicultural Prescription

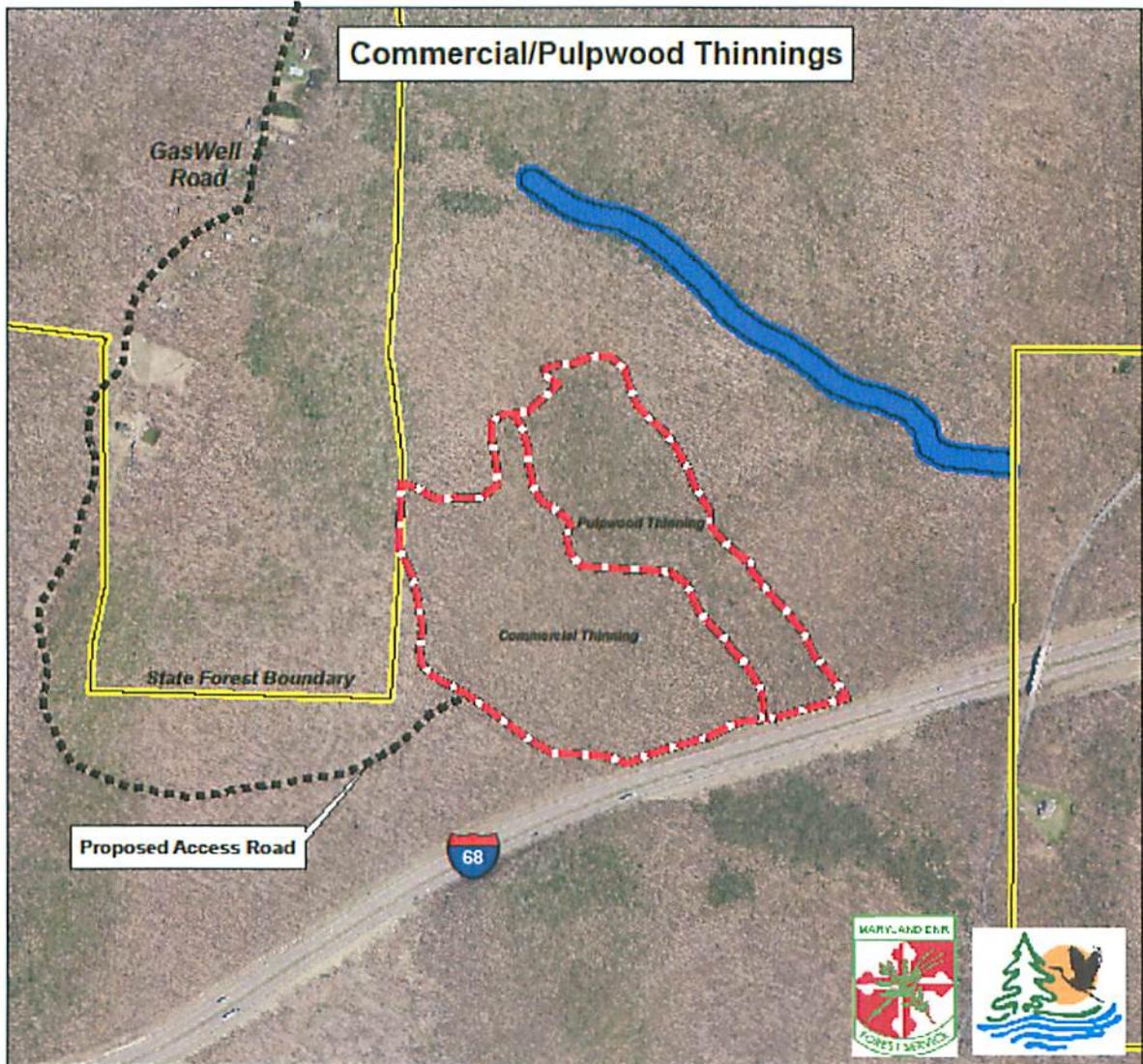
The recommendation for stand 0 is a commercial thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove all the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately 100 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand. The recommendation for stand 39 is a pulpwood thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove all the unacceptable growing stock and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately, 92 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand. Stand 0 should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.



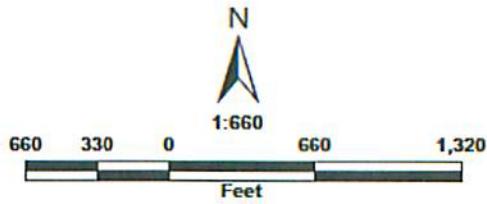
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 6
Approximately 54 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 6
Approximately 54 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 6 – Understory/pulpwood thinning on 40 acres

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is a mixed oak type that is dominated by red maple, northern red oak and white oak. The stand is overstocked and has a relative density of 108 percent and a basal area of 145 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 5) While gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: On the southern end of the proposed activity there is Tarkiln Run and the North Branch of the Casselman River. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of our riparian buffer for this stream and typically more than 500 feet away from the stream. Further inbetween the stand and the streams is an old strip mined area.

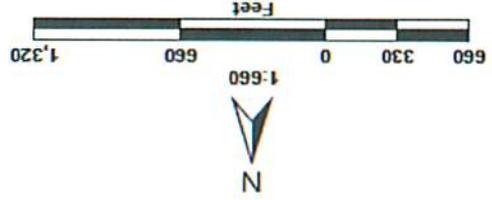
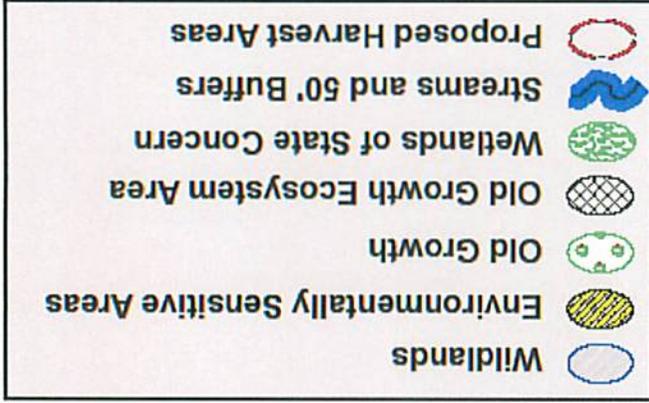
Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Gilpin-Cookport-Dekalb association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed in either stand during the recon. To the north of the stand and Amish Road there is an area that was cut in 1997.

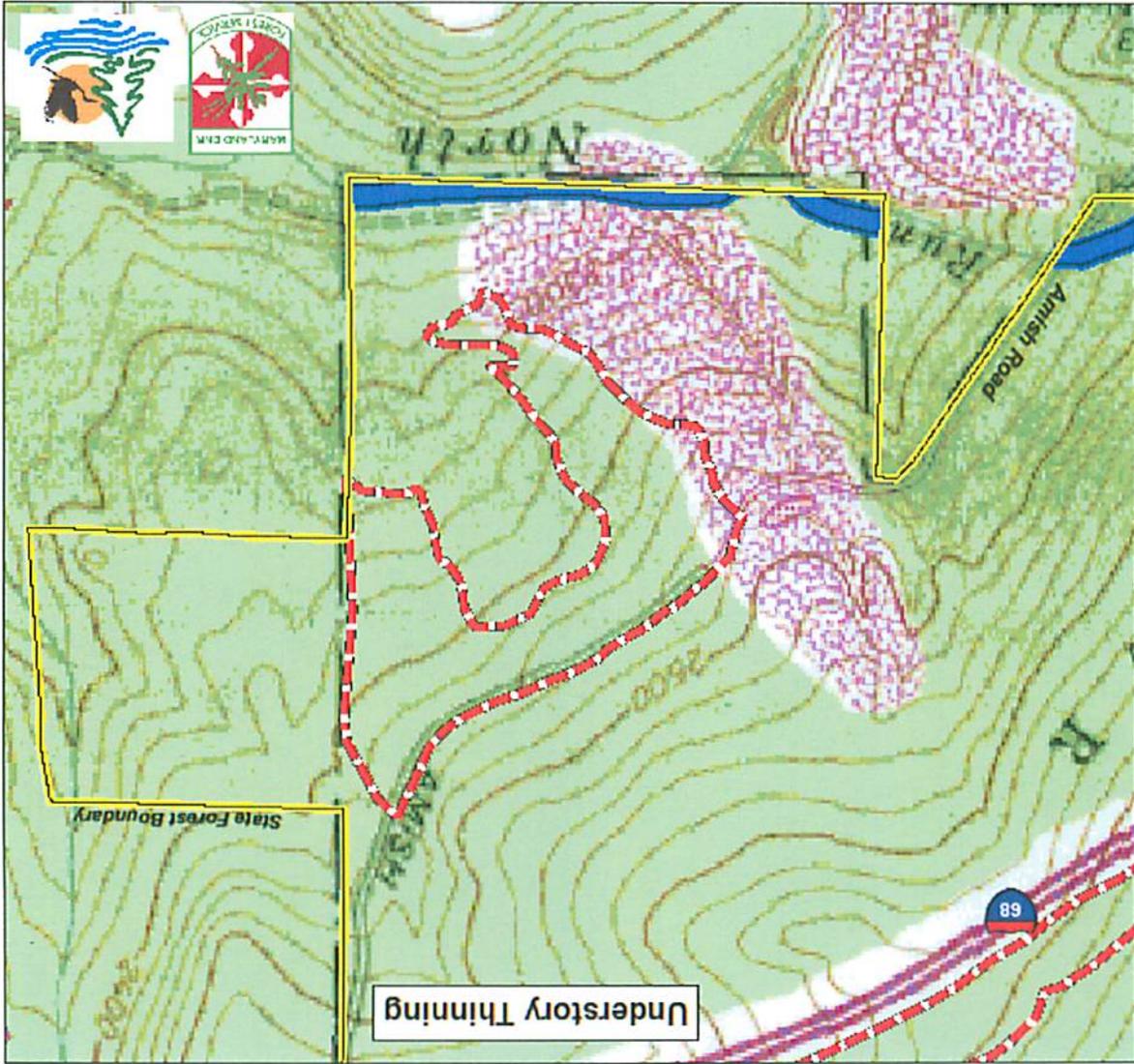
Silvicultural Prescription

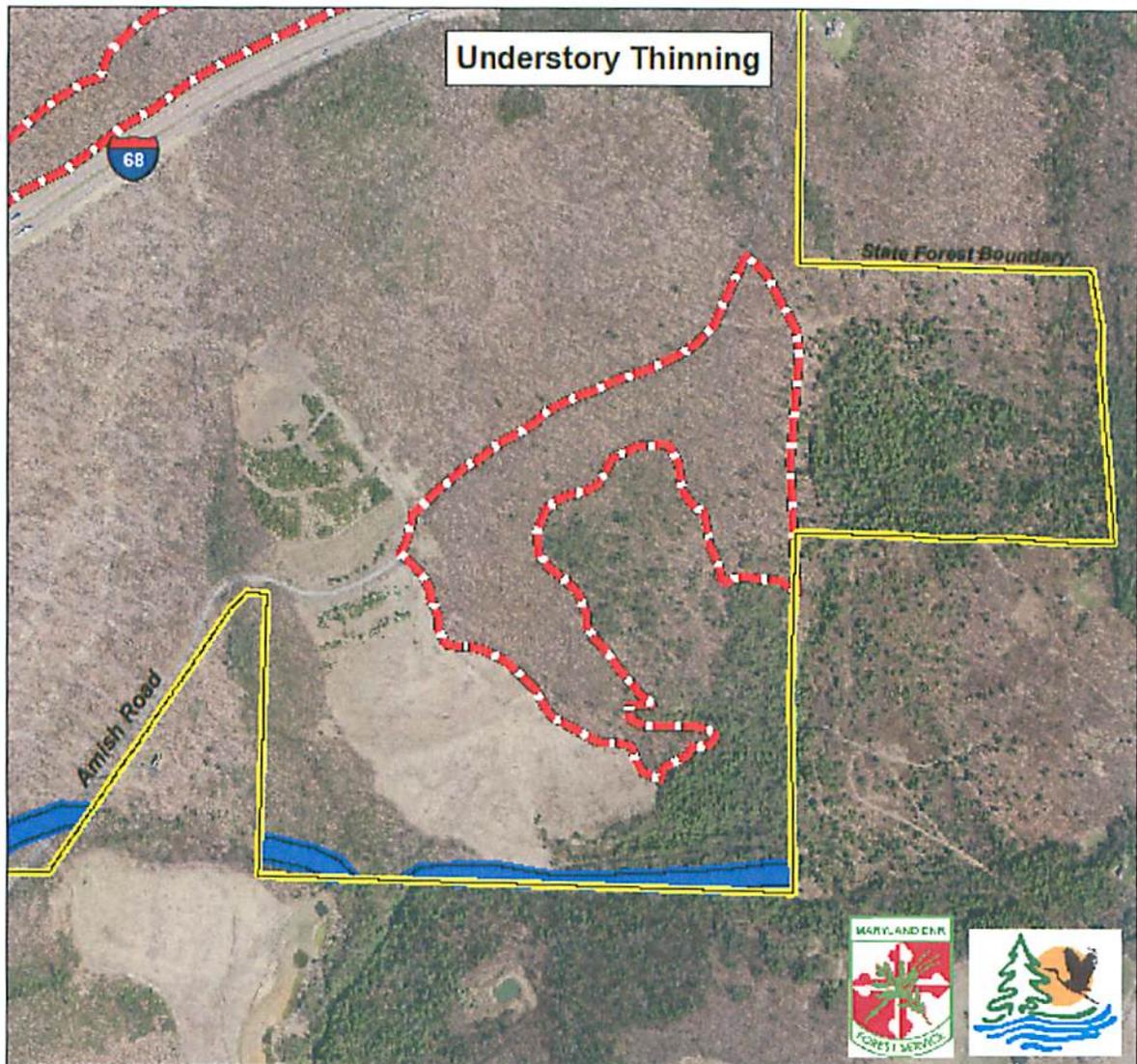
The recommendation for this stand is a pulpwood thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove some of the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately 97 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand.

This stand should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.

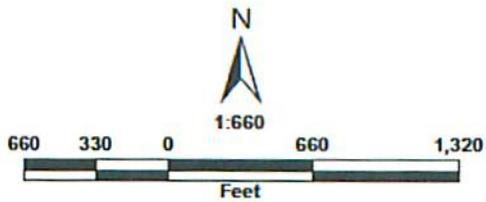


Savage River State Forest
 Harvest Proposal FY 2014
 Compartment 6
 Approximately 40 Acres





**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 6
Approximately 40 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 6 – Commercial thinning on 37 acres

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This proposal consists of two parts. Commercial thinnings will be done in stand 14 and stand 24. Stand 14 is adjacent to the powerline. Both stands are mixed oak stands dominated by red maple, northern red oak, white oak and chestnut oak in stand 14 and by red maple and northern red oak in stand 24. Both are overstocked: stand 14 has a relative density of 105 percent and a basal area of 139 sq. ft., stand 24 has a relative density of 91 percent and a basal area of 124 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 6 and appendix 7) Gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, but this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: On the southern end of the proposed activity there is Alexander Run. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of the riparian buffer for this stream and typically more than 300 feet away from the stream .

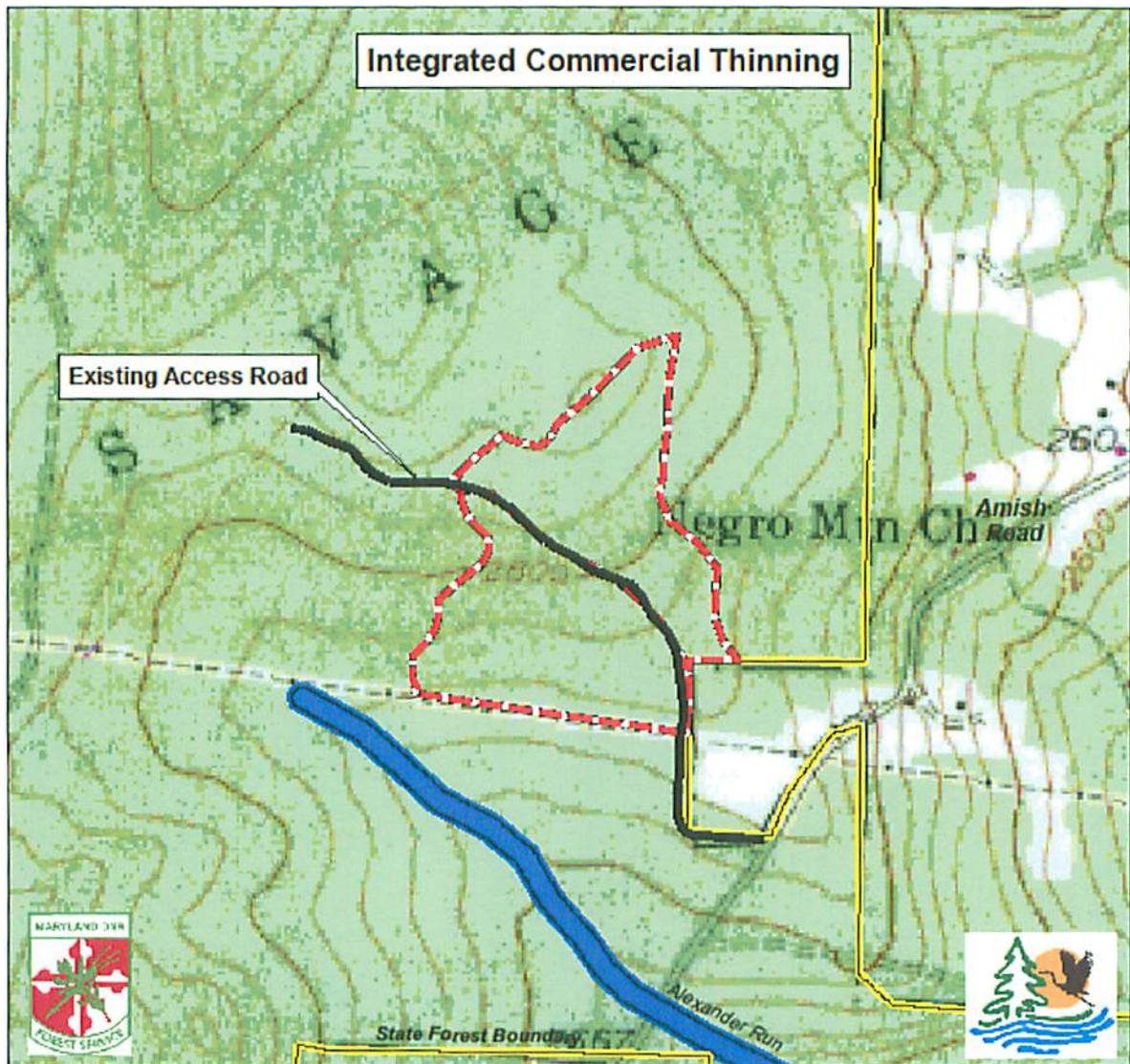
Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Gilpin-Cookport-Dekalb association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF, was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed in either stand during the recon. To the east of the stand 24 there is an area that was cut in 1992 and south of stand 14 on the opposite side of the powerline is a stand that was thinned in 2010.

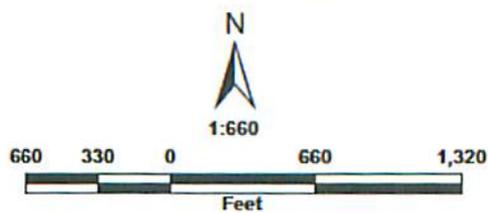
Silvicultural Prescription

The recommendation for stand 14 is a commercial thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove all the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately, 93 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand. The recommendation and objective is similar for stand 24 with residual basal area target of 80 sq. ft.

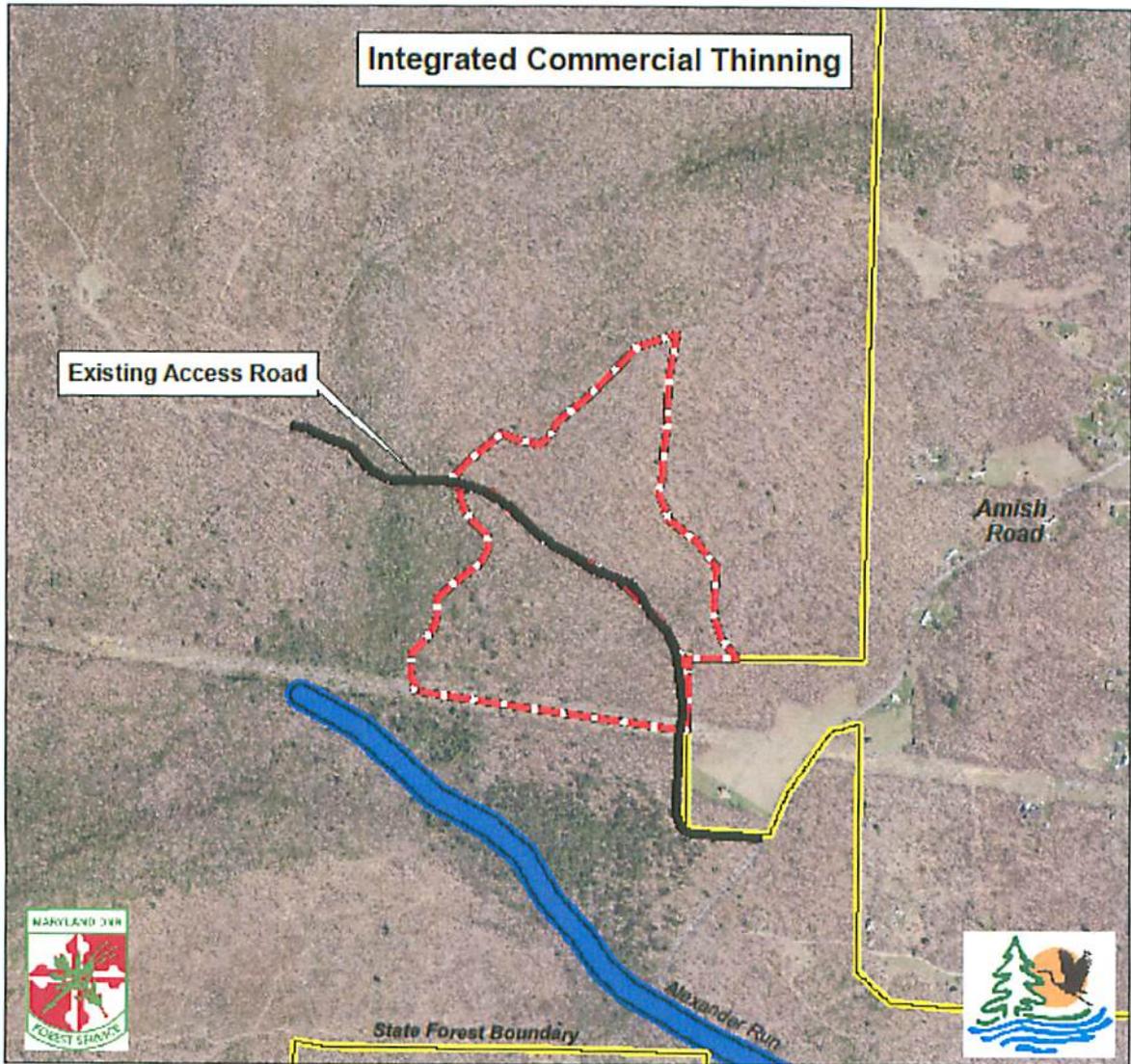
Both these stands should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.



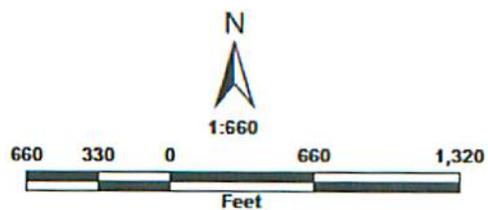
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 7
Approximately 37 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 7
Approximately 37 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 8 – Commercial thinning on 14 acres (Stand 20)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is a mixed oak type that is dominated by northern red oak, red maple and black cherry. The stand is overstocked and has a relative density of 112 percent and a basal area of 177 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 8) While gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: On the northeastern side of the proposed activity there is an unnamed tributary to the North Branch of the Casselman River. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of our riparian buffer for this stream.

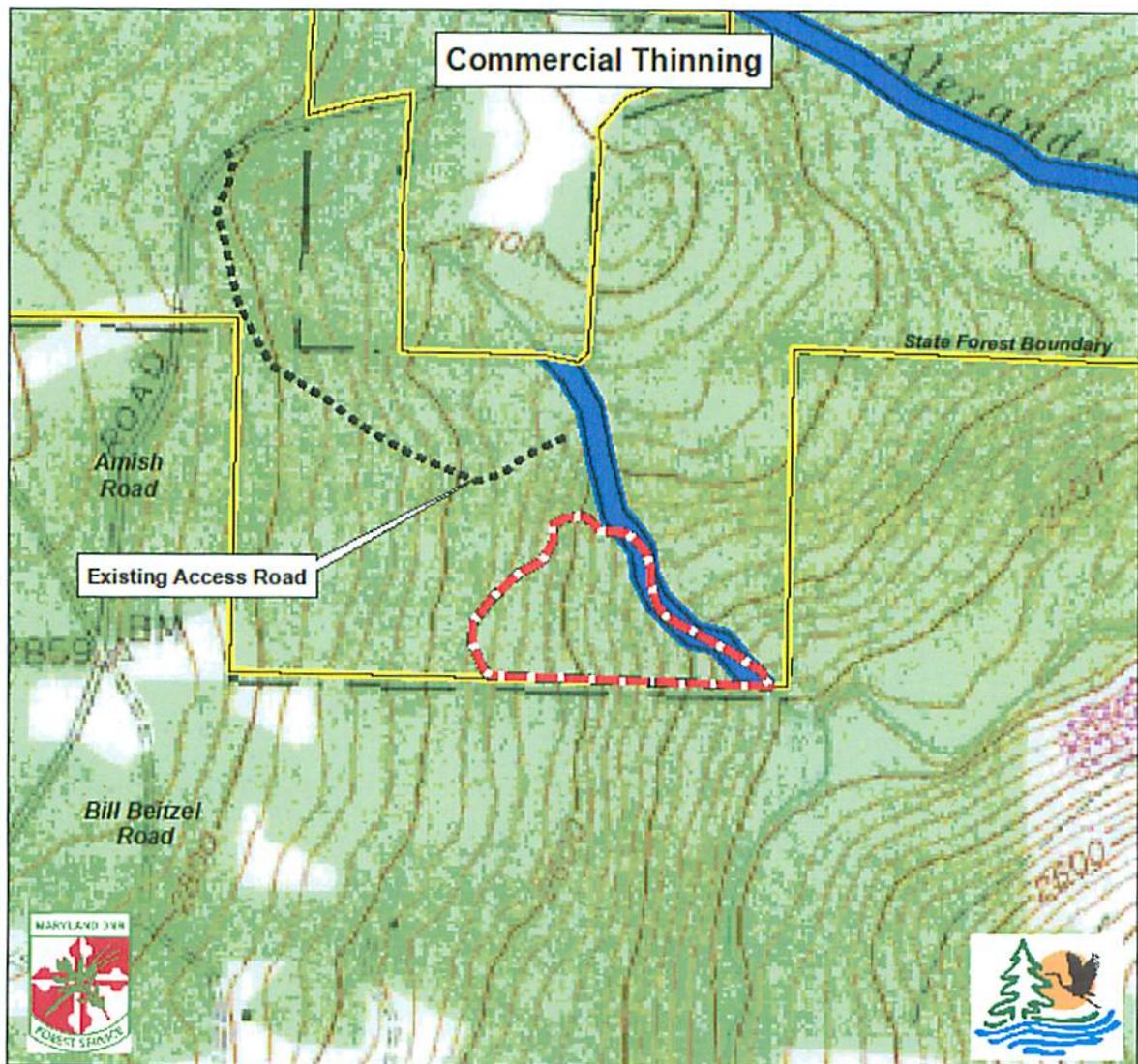
Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Gilpin-Cookport-Dekalb association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF, was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed in either stand during the recon. To the west of the stand and toward Amish Road there is an area that was cut in 1996.

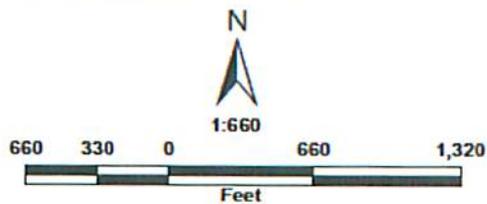
Silvicultural Prescription

The recommendation for this stand is a commercial thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove some of the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately 115 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand.

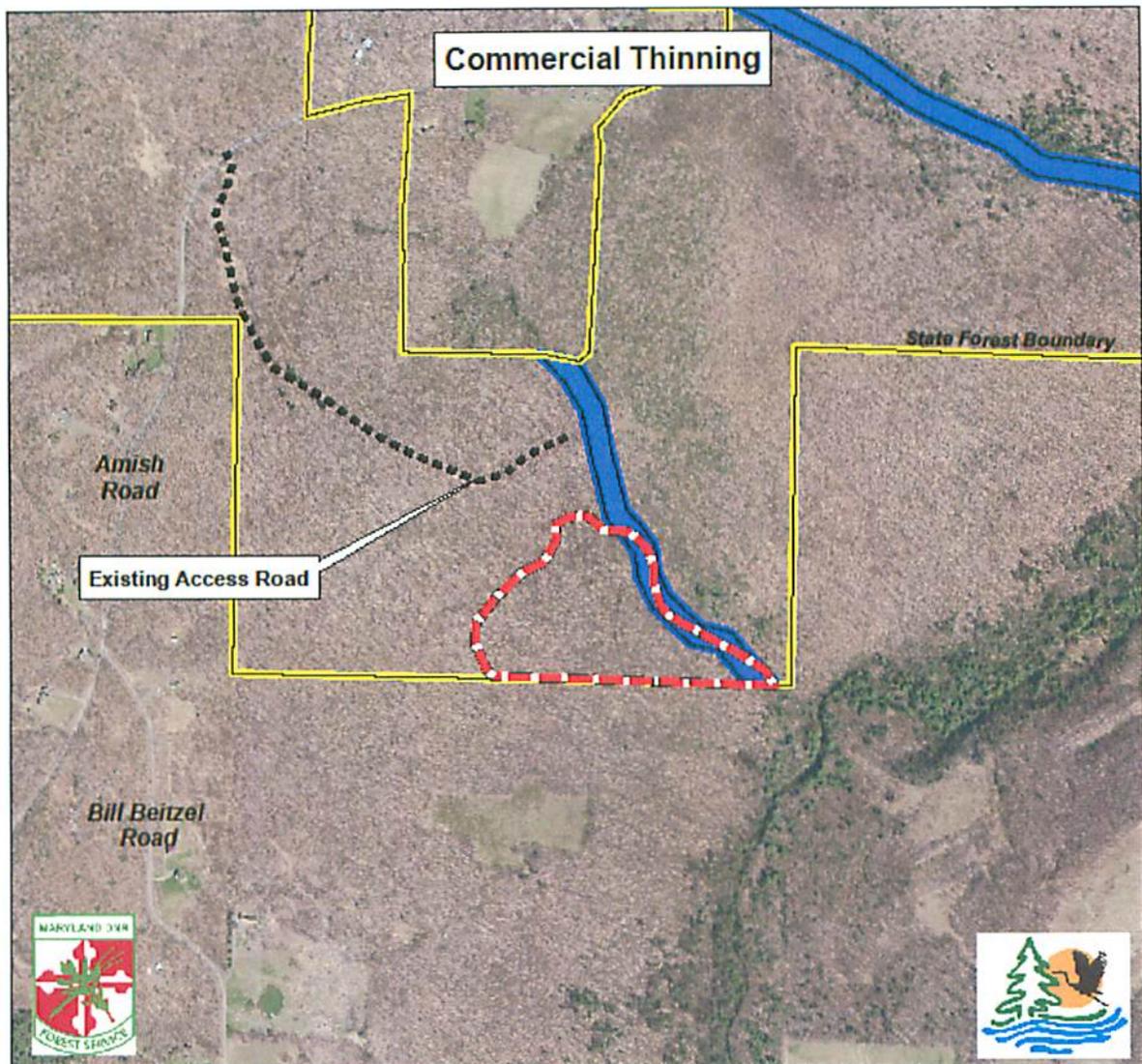
This stand should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.



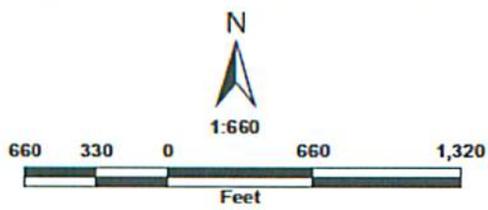
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 8
Approximately 14 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 8
Approximately 14 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 10 – Regeneration harvest on 10 acres (Stand 5)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is a mixed pine-hardwood type that is dominated by black cherry, white pine, yellow poplar and aspen. The stand is overstocked and has a relative density of 101 percent and a basal area of 210 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 9) The pine in this stand should have been thinned many years ago and there is significant mortality in the pine, and the hardwood volunteers are generally of poor quality.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

Habitats and Species of Management Concern: There is an environmentally sensitive area west of the stand that is within 100 feet of the stand.

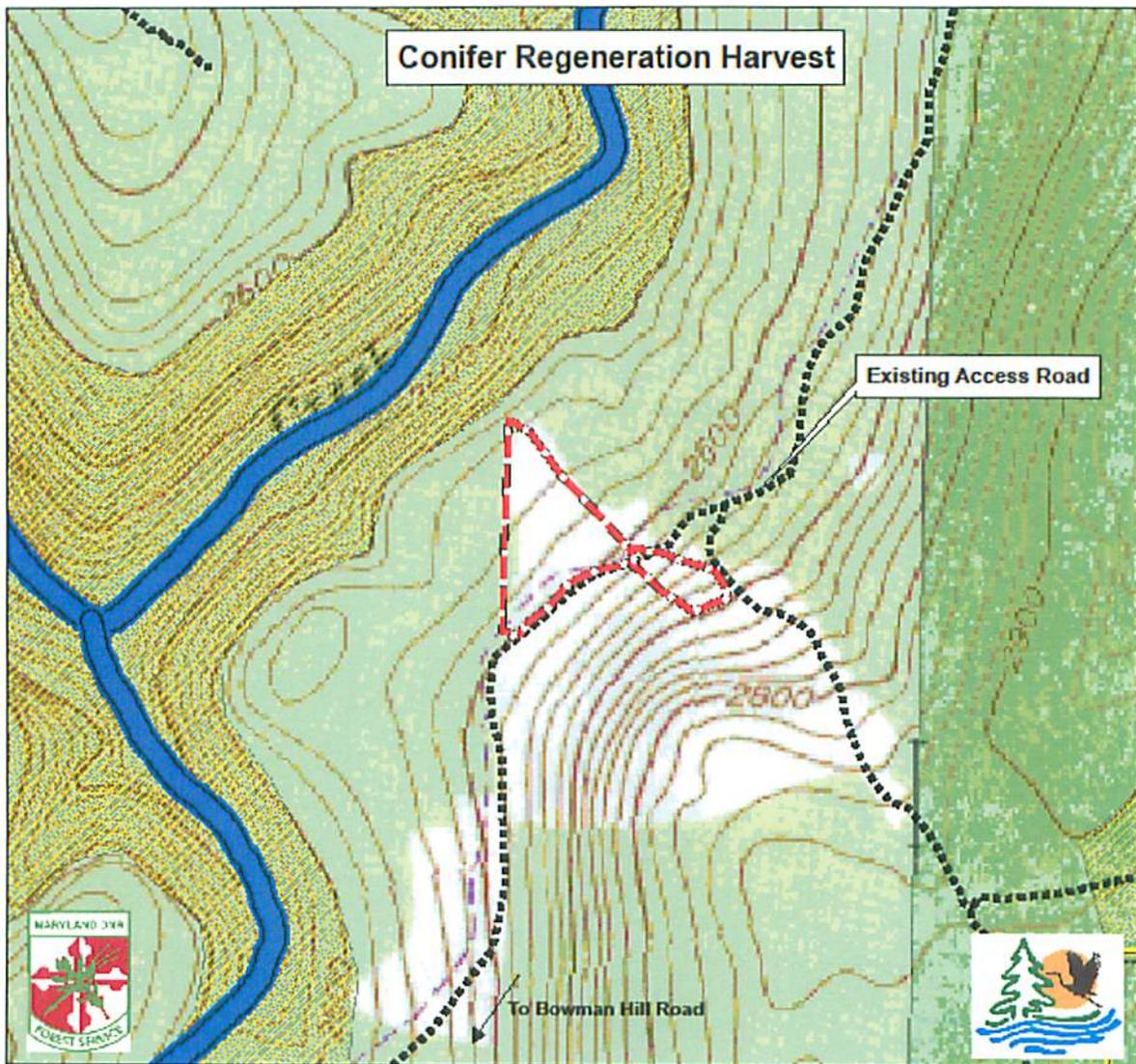
Water Resources: On the western side of this stand there is Little Bear Creek, a valuable trout stream. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of the riparian buffer for this stream and at least 500 feet away.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Calvin-Gilpin association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained soils; formed over acid, red to grey shale and sandstone. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

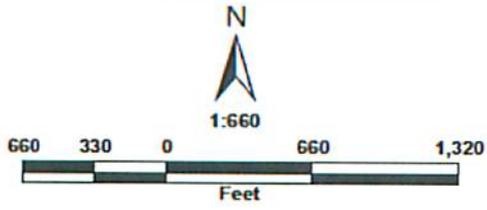
Historic Conditions: This site is abandoned agricultural land and was planted in white pine some time before 1962. There is no evidence of recent fire or cutting activity in the stand during the recon. To the west of the stand there is an area that was cut in 1992 and to the east there is a stand that was cut in 1976.

Silvicultural Prescription

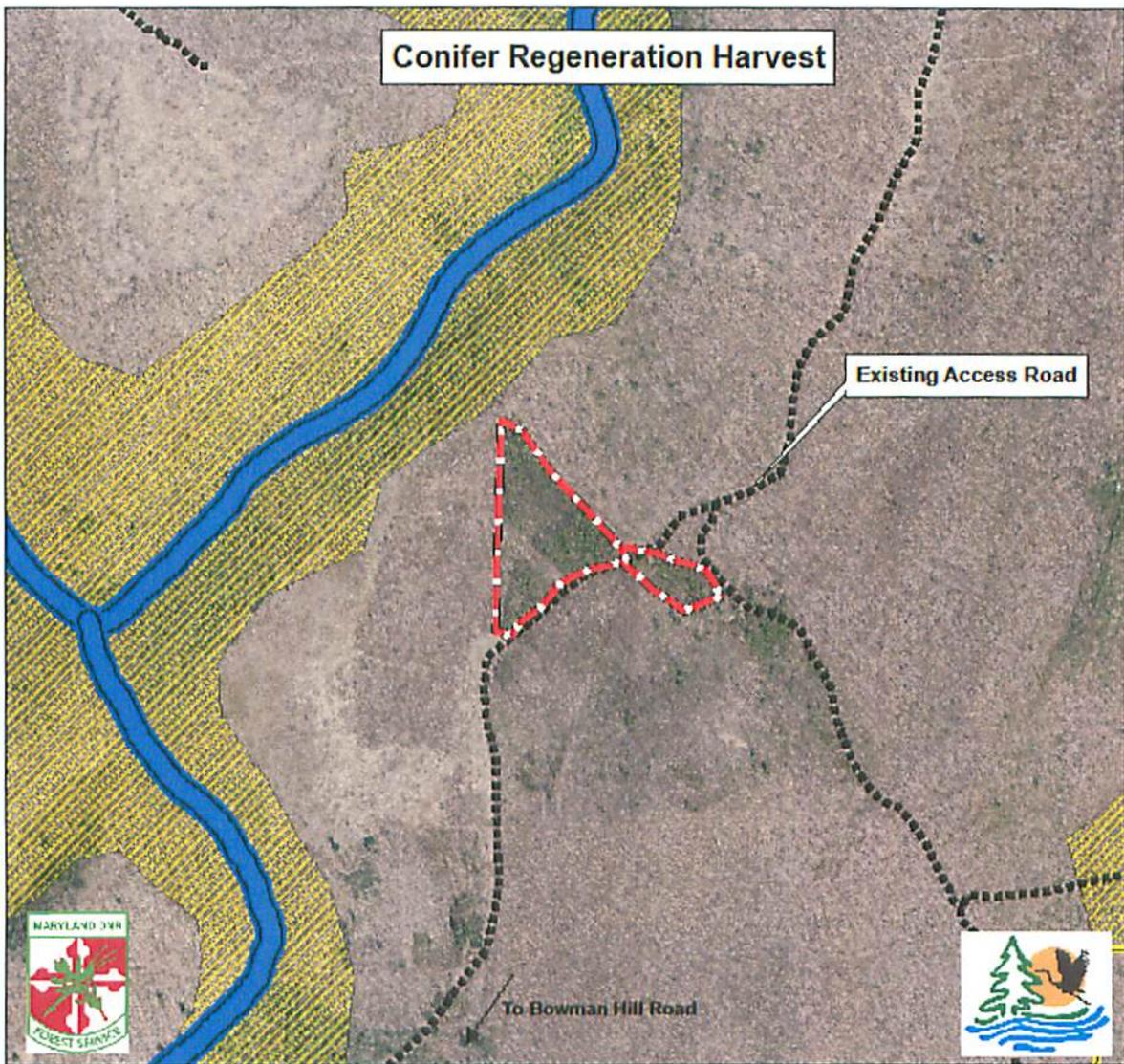
Due to the poor quality of conifers and the hardwood volunteers the recommendation for this stand is a regeneration harvest. There is too much advance hardwood regeneration to make replanting with conifers practical, therefore the next stand will be a mixed hardwood stand. An effort will be made to retain patches of white pine where practical. After the stand is cut a prescribed fire or herbicide treatment should be applied to the stand to reduce the competing vegetation. This stand should be examined again in 10 years to evaluate the regeneration success.



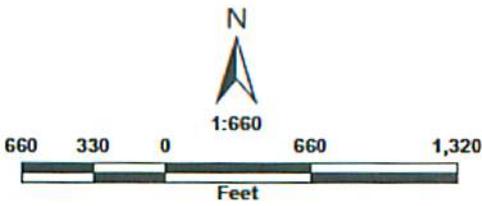
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 10
Approximately 10 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 10
Approximately 10 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Areas

Compartment 14 – Sanitation harvest on 20 acres (Stand 46)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is an Allegheny hardwood type that is dominated by black cherry, white pine, and red maple. The stand is overstocked and has a relative density of 114 percent and a basal area of 199 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 10) Black knot has infested almost all of the cherry in the stand and cherry represents 82 percent of the stand.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

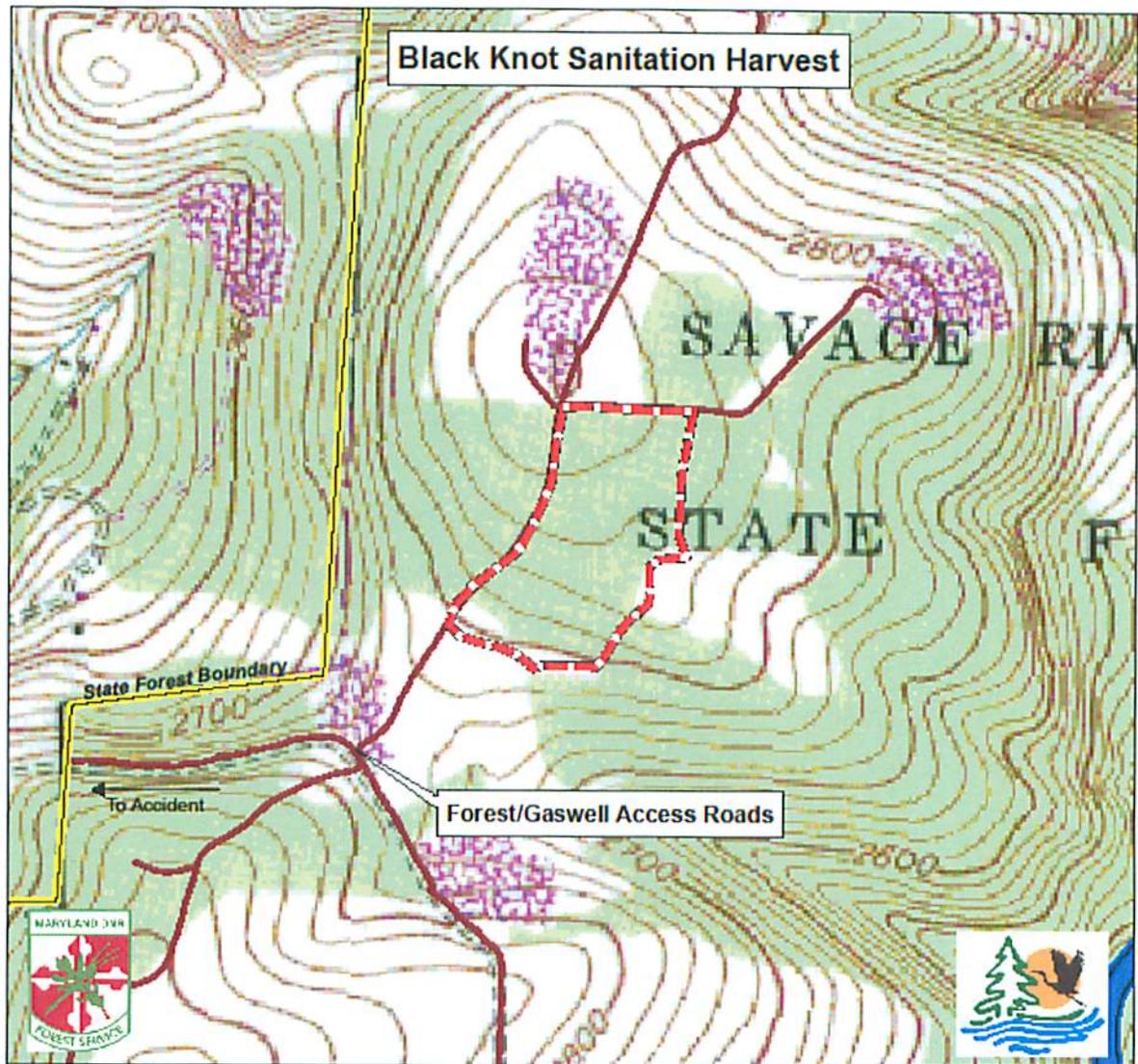
Water Resources: There are no streams or wet areas within 1000 feet of the stand.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Calvin-Gilpin association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained soils; formed over acid, red to grey shale and sandstone. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

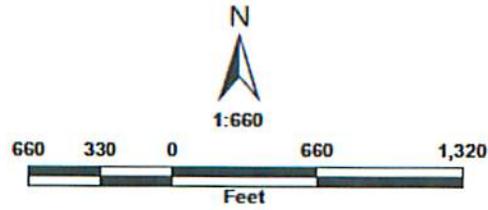
Historic Conditions: This site is abandoned agricultural land and was planted in white pine some time before 1962. The stand was harvest in 1976 and 1984 leaving a few white pine and left to naturally regenerate. There is no evidence of recent fire or cutting activity in the stand during the recon.

Silvicultural Prescription

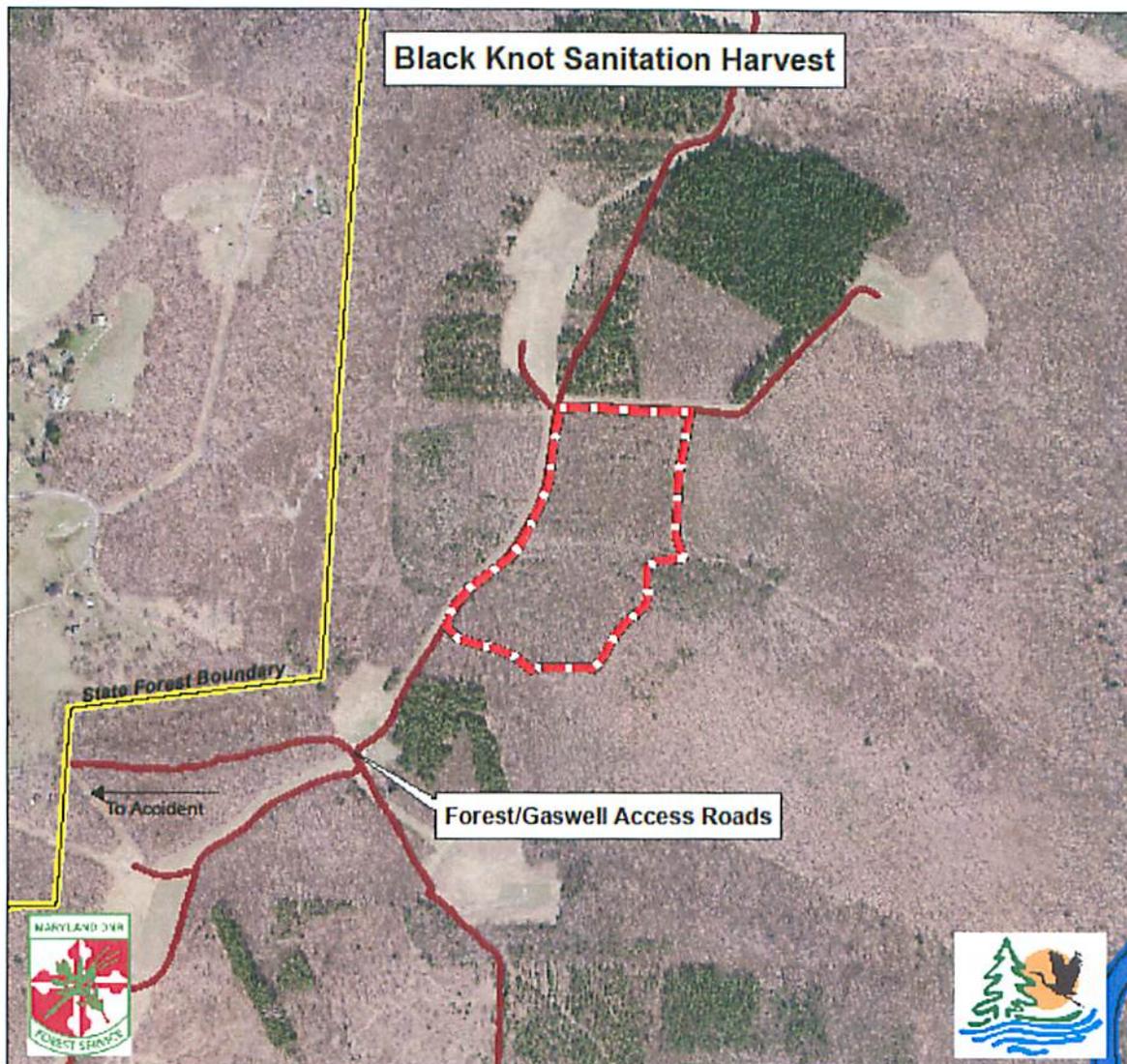
Due to the extreme amount of black knot on the cherries in this stand the recommendation is a sanitation/regeneration harvest. The white pine and the sugar maple will be left in the stand. After the stand is cut a prescribed fire or herbicide treatment should be applied to the stand to reduce the competing vegetation. This stand should be examined again in 10 years to evaluate the regeneration success.



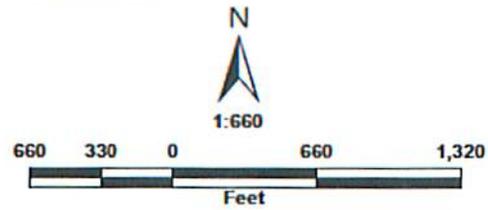
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 14
Approximately 20 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 14
Approximately 20 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area

Compartment 15 – Commercial thinning on 44 acres (Stands 39 & 50)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This area is a mixed oak type dominated by northern red oak, red maple and chestnut oak. The stand is overstocked, the relative density is 123 percent and the basal area is 181 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 11). Gypsy moth infestations are an ongoing problem in the forest, but this stand has escaped the most recent infestation and this thinning is designed in part to increase the resilience of the oak to defoliation and reduce the suitability of the stands for gypsy moth.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: There are no streams or wetlands within 1000 feet of the sale boundaries. There appears to be some intermittent streams north and south of the proposed sale and they will be buffered according to our BMPs.

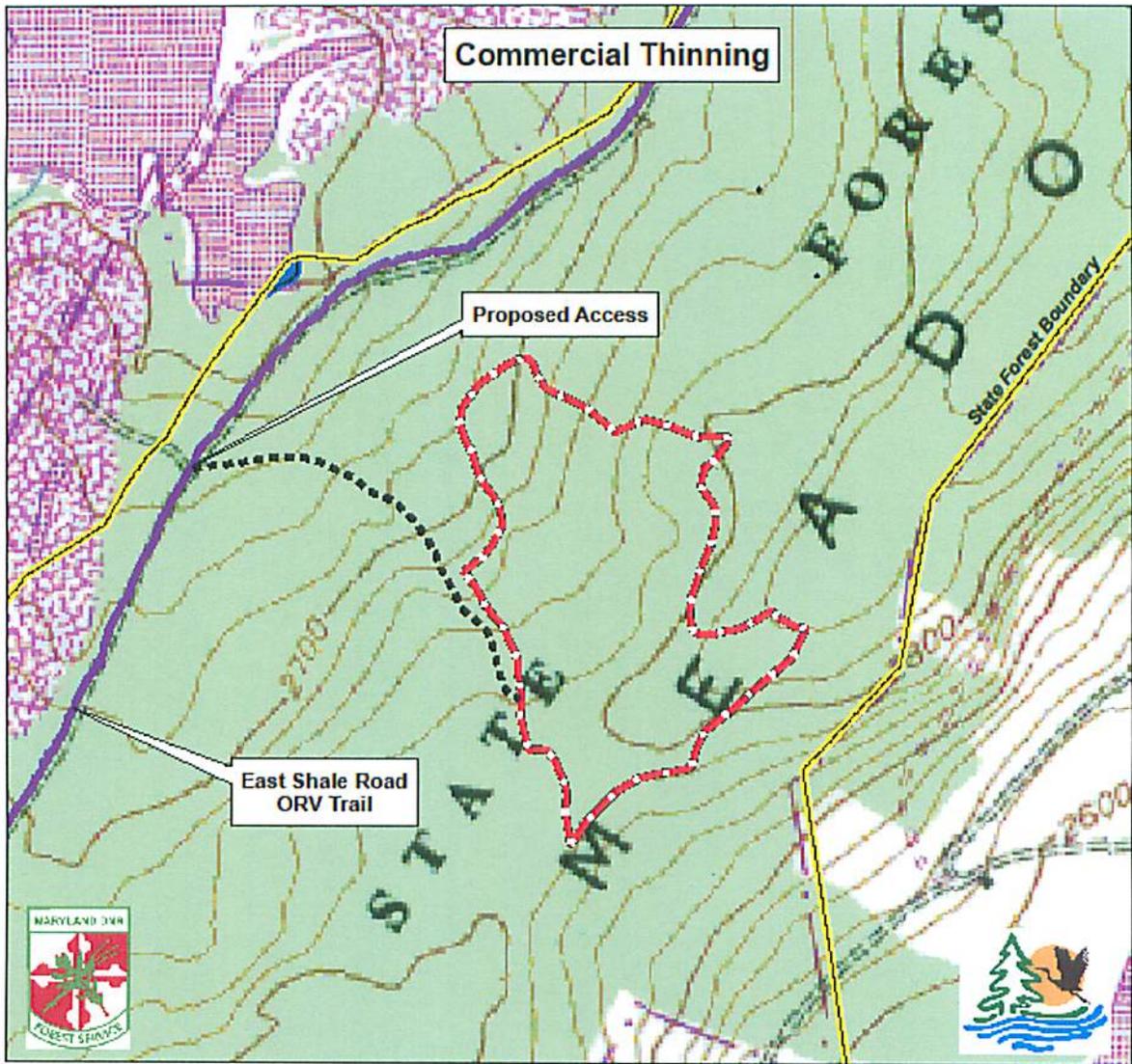
Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Dekalb-Gilpin-Cookport association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained, very stony soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF, was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire or cutting activity was observed in either stand during the recon.

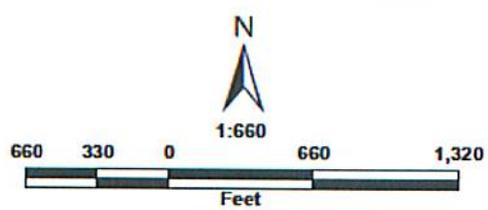
Silvicultural Prescription

The recommendation for this stand is a commercial thinning. The objective of this thinning is to remove all the unacceptable growing stock, reduce the oak component and to improve the vigor and health of the residual trees. Approximately 120 sq. ft. of basal area per acre is the target for the residual stand.

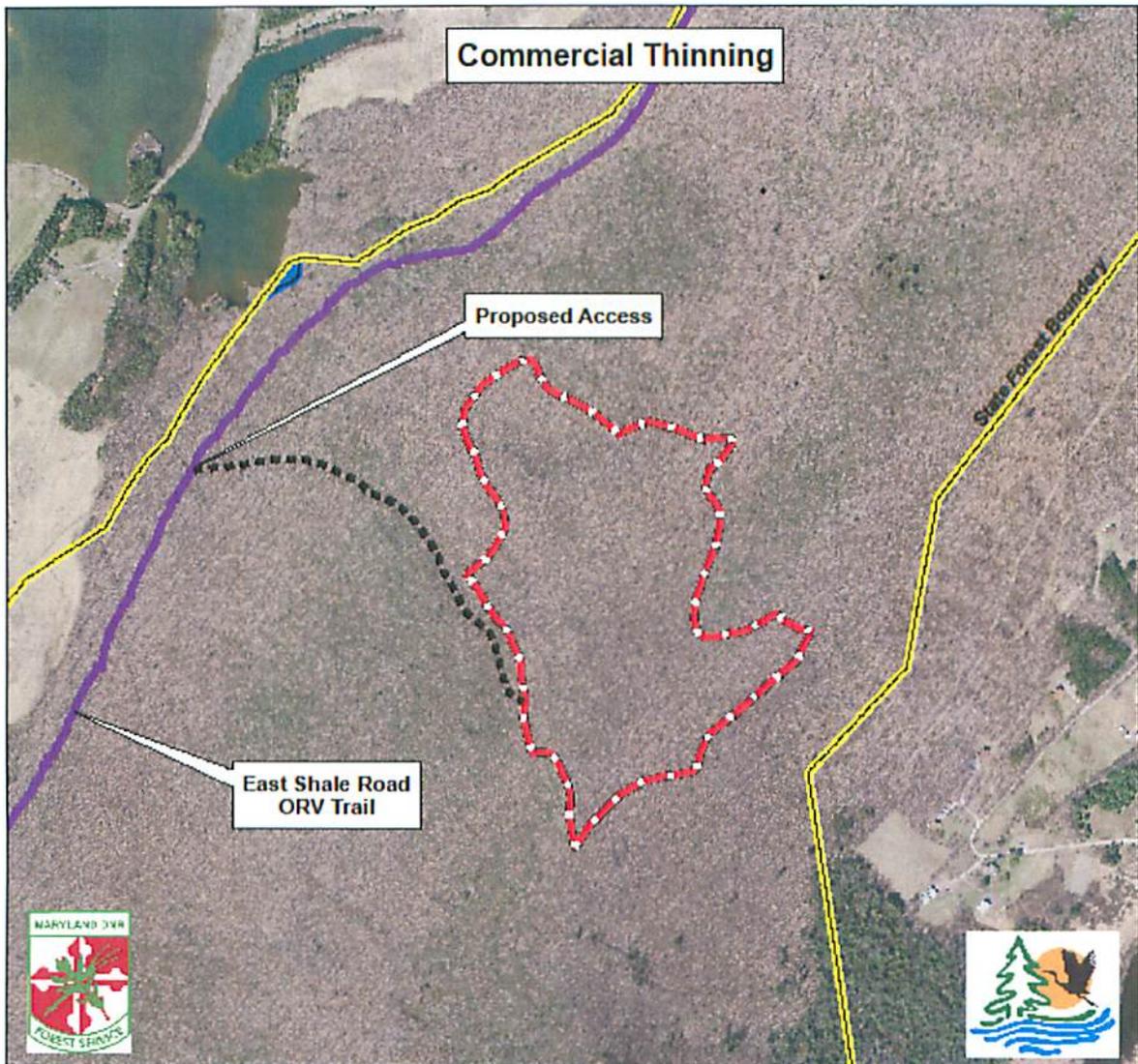
Both these stands should be examined again in 10 years to begin planning for a regeneration harvest.



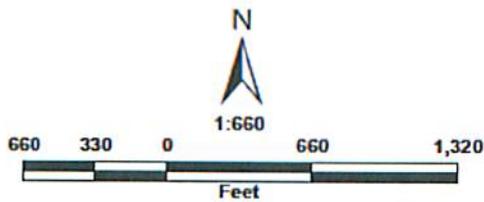
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 15
Approximately 44 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 15
Approximately 44 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area

Compartment 17 – Commercial thinning on 46 acres (Stand 20 & 52)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is a conifer pine plantation that is dominated by white pine, black cherry, Norway spruce and red pine. The stand is overstocked and has a relative density of 108 percent and a basal area of 175 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 12)

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

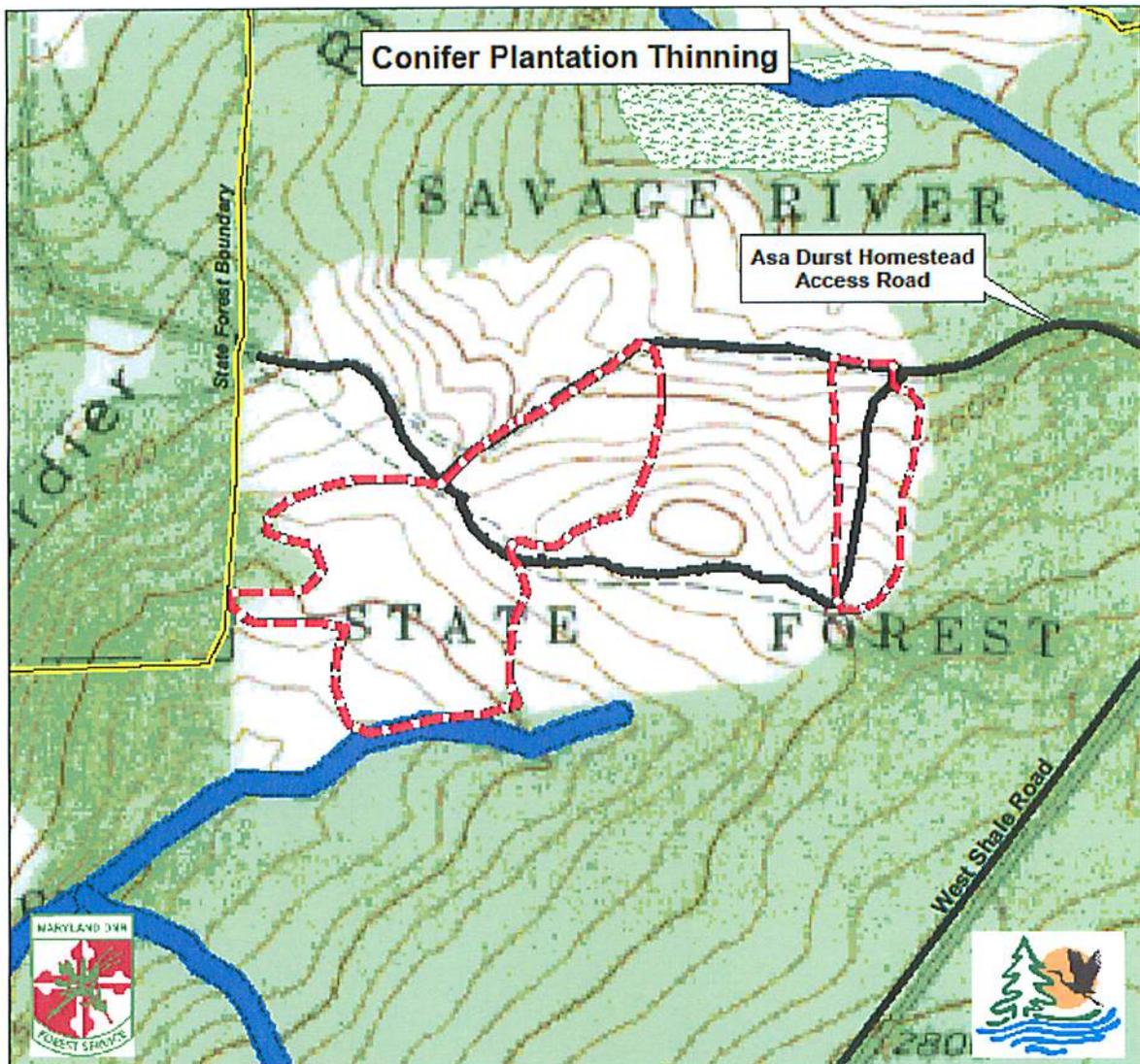
Water Resources: On the southern side of this stand there is Little Laurel Run. The silvicultural treatments will be outside of the riparian buffer for this stream.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Calvin-Gilpin association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained soils; formed over acid, red to grey shale and sandstone. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

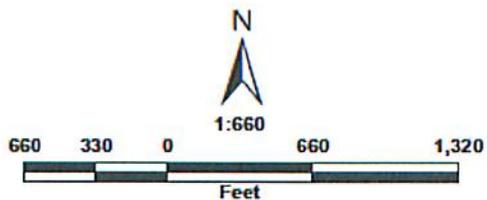
Historic Conditions: This site is abandoned agricultural land and was planted in conifers some time before 1962. There was no evidence of recent fire activity in the stand during the recon. The stand was thinned in either 1975 or 1981.

Silvicultural Prescription

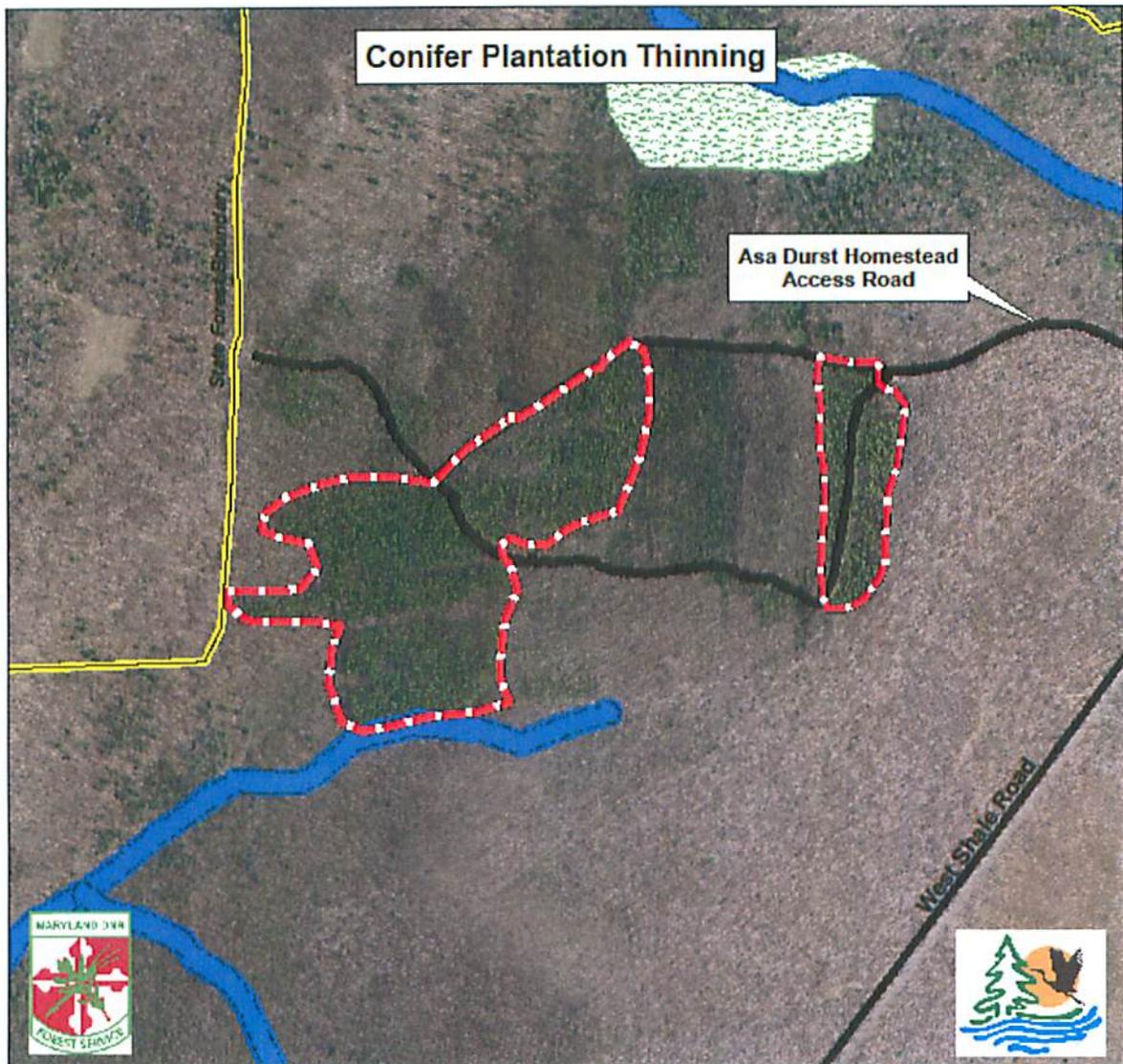
The recommendation for this stand is a thinning to remove approximately 1/3 of the conifer basal. The objective of the thinning is to improve the growth and vigor of the residual conifers. The target residual basal area is 113 sq. ft. per acre. The part of the area where there is a good mixture of hardwoods and conifers will not be cut. This stand needs to be further examined prior to the thinning to verify that no additional treatments are needed to prepare it for future regeneration.



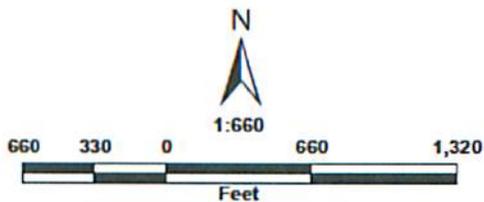
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 17
Approximately 46 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 17
Approximately 46 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area

Compartment 38 – Pre-commercial Crop Tree Release on 37 acres (Stand 17)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This area is a mixed hardwood type dominated by black cherry, red maple and sweet birch. The stand is overstocked, the relative density is 124 percent and the basal area is 127 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 13)

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: There is an unnamed tributary to Sand Spring that is off the Southeast corner of the sale boundary. It is approximately 150 feet away from the treatment area which exceeds our BMPs and should not be impacted.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Dekalb-Gilpin-Cookport association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained, very stony soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

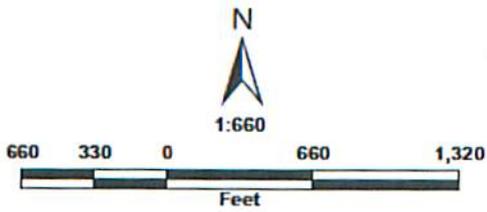
Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent fire activity was observed in the stand during the recon. The stand was regenerated in 1999. Historic Braddock Trail runs through the stand.

Silvicultural Prescription

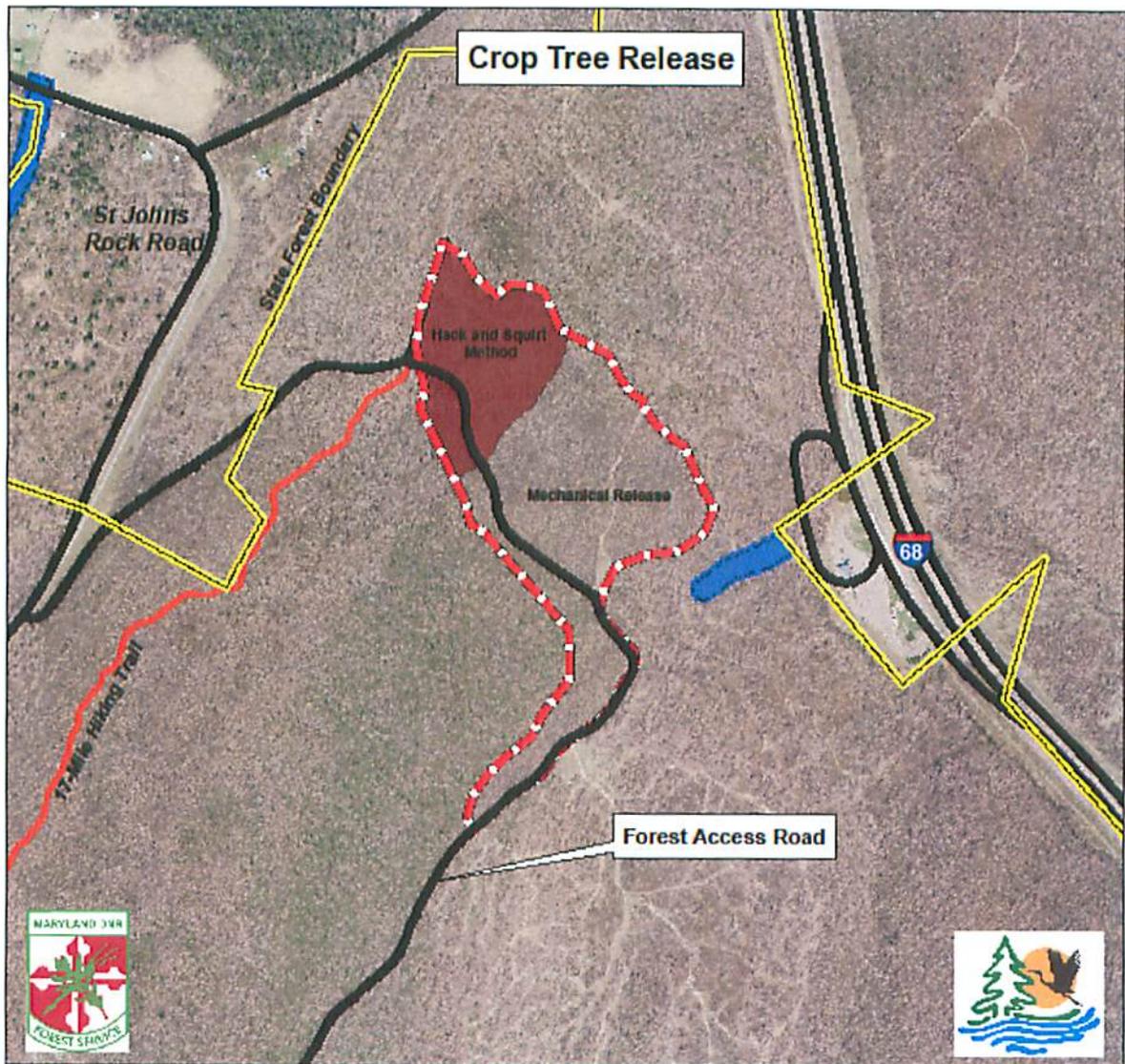
The recommendation for this stand is a pre-commercial crop tree release. The objective of this thinning is to control species composition by favoring the oaks. Approximately, 24 sq. ft. of basal area per acre will be removed to encourage oak development. One-half the stand will be treated by the hack 'n' squirt method and the other half will be treated mechanically. This work will be done by the staff of Savage River State Forest.



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 38
Approximately 37 Acres**

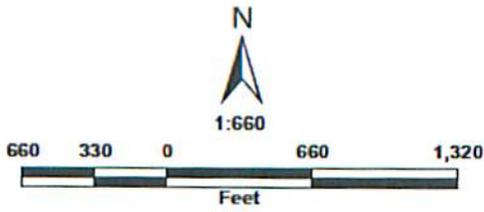


-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 38
Approximately 37 Acres**

-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



Compartment 42 – Regeneration Clear-cut on 23 acres (stand 91 & 92)

Description/Resource Impact Assessment

Forest Community Type: This stand is a northern hardwood type dominated by sugar maple, basswood and white ash. The stand stocking is above average with a relative density of 74 percent and the basal area is 104 sq. ft. (Stand summary data is included in appendix 14) There was evidence of fire found in the stand.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered species: There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species on this site or impacted by the silvicultural prescription.

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

Water Resources: Laurel Run borders the southeast part of this stand. The normal stream buffer BMP and the retention area along the stream should provide protection of the water quality.

Soil Resources: The soil association found on this site is the Dekalb-Gilpin-Cookport association. It is typically gently sloping to steep, moderately deep, well drained and moderately well drained, very stony soils; formed over acid, gray to yellowish sandstone and shale. The productivity of the site will be protected by minimizing the haul roads and skid trails as per our BMP and rutting guidelines.

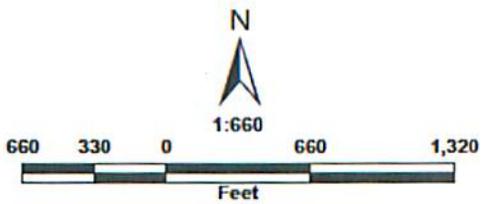
Historic Conditions: This site, like most of SRSF was likely cutover and burned around the turn of the last century. No evidence of recent cutting activity was observed in the stand during the recon.

Silvicultural Prescription

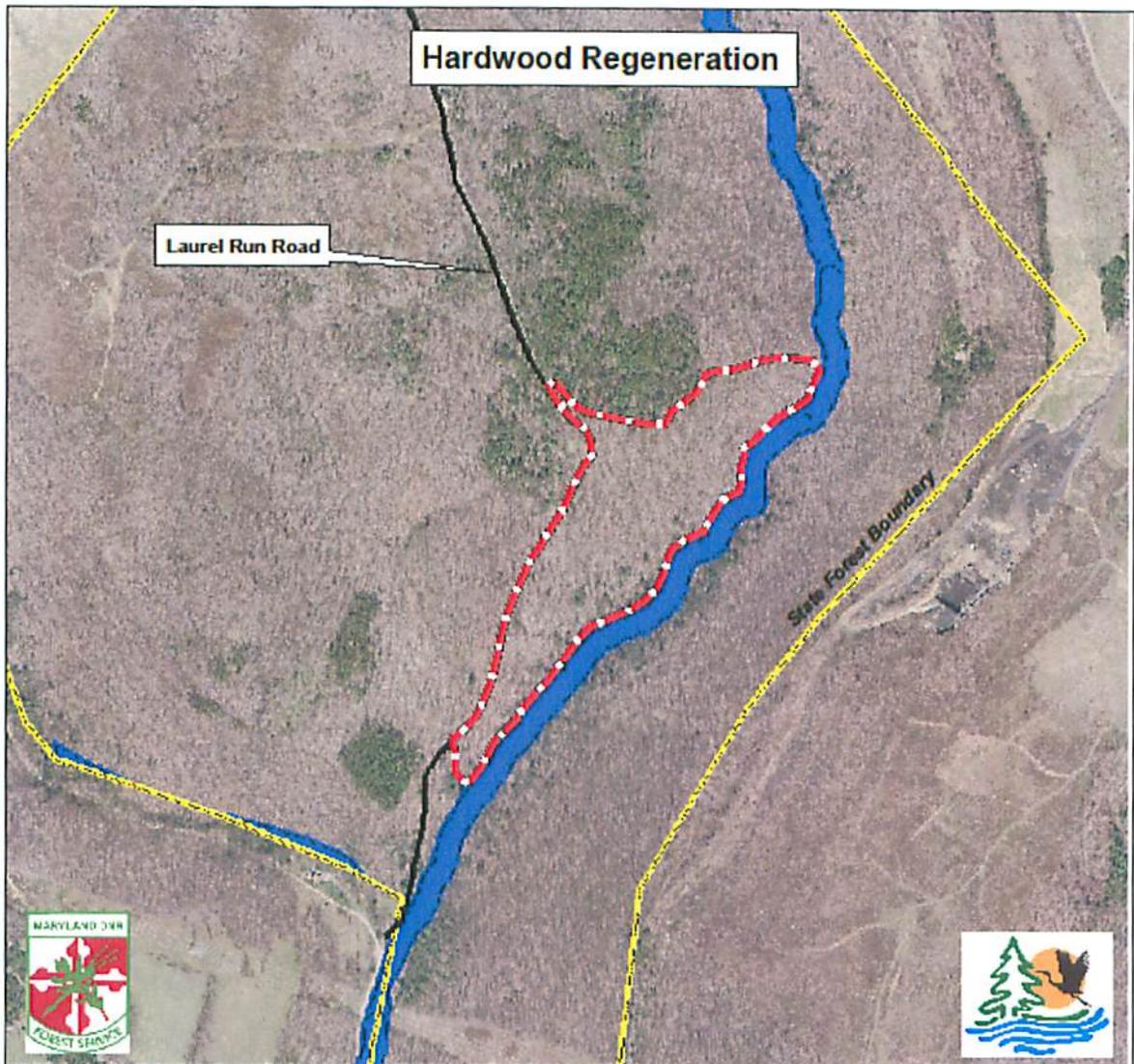
The recommendation for this stand is a regeneration clear-cut. The objective of this treatment is to regenerate the stand. Pole sized sugar maple and oaks should be retained on the site. The retention and buffer area along Laurel Run will exceed our BMP guidelines. The stand will need to be herbicided to control exotic invasives and competing vegetation prior to the cutting treatment.



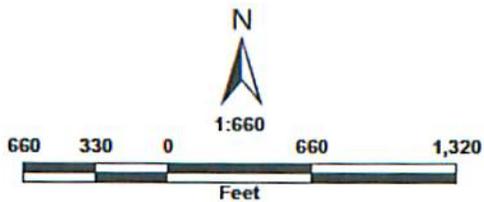
**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 42
Approximately 23 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area



**Savage River State Forest
Harvest Proposal FY 2014
Compartment 42
Approximately 23 Acres**



-  Wildlands
-  Environmentally Sensitive Areas
-  Old Growth
-  Old Growth Ecosystem Area
-  Wetlands of State Concern
-  Streams and 50' Buffers
-  Proposed Harvest Area

G. Watershed Improvement Projects

The Bureau of Mines' plan to reduce the acidity in the headwaters of the Casselman River Drainage is expected to take place in FY 2013 or early in FY 2014. The Bureau of Mines and their contractors will be implementing this project. The forest staff's role will be limited to oversight and protection of forested resources.

In conjunction with the Youghiogheny Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Savage River Watershed Association, and students from Frostburg State University efforts are being made to keep our streams clean from debris. The Savage River Watershed Association has also taken the lead in underplanting a number of hemlock stands with red spruce in the hopes of maintaining conifer cover over streams in the advent of serious hemlock woolly adelgid infestation.

E. Ecosystem Restoration Projects

In fiscal year 2012, the Inland Fisheries Service and the staff at SRSF submitted a grant request to implement a "chop and drop" program where woody biomass is selectively added to Big Run to improve habitat for brook trout. This effort should be completed in FY 13 but may run into FY 14. If this effort is successful we will continue the program in other streams.

In the Fairview Wildlife Habitat unit there are a number of areas with exotic and invasive plants that will be controlled in conjunction with the Wildlife and Heritage Service, the Savage River Watershed Association, students from Frostburg State University and other volunteers. These activities will also be occurring prior to silvicultural activity unless they will be controlled during or after the silvicultural treatment.

Along Dry Run there was discovered an infestation of yellow archangel, an urban land cover that we have been working to eliminate from the forest. We expect to be successful because it is limited in size. But because of buried seed it may take a few years of treatment.

Monitoring Projects

On going silvicultural timber operations will be monitored at least weekly and more often during adverse weather conditions.

Regeneration harvests will be monitored 5 and 10 years after harvest.

Ongoing research projects will likely continue in FY 2014.

Submitted Budget Request

The Budget for Savage River State Forest is \$600,523. Of that amount, \$295,607 goes to fund classified salaries and benefits for four employees, \$100,028 goes to fund six contractual employees, and \$43,750 to Garrett County in lieu of taxes payment, leaving \$161,138 to conduct forest operations. Savage River has for many years generated revenue that greatly exceeded its cost of operation. The majority of revenue is obtained from the sale of forest products. Successful marketing by selling the mix of species and grades of wood products that the market most demanded contributed substantially to successful revenue generation over the years.

Operational Management

1. Introduction

This section of the plan is designed to cover the annual cost and revenues associated with the operational management of Savage River State Forest (SRSF). It is the Department's intent that all revenues generated from SRSF will be used to pay for the management and operation of the Forest. 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 of Revenues and Operational costs associated with SRSF. These figures are only estimates that are based on projected revenues and operational expenses. Yearly changes in timber markets and weather conditions can severely affect revenues. Operational expenses will vary from year to year and the numbers below are based on the budget request submitted for FY-2013

2. SRSF Funding Sources: Estimated - \$600,523

State Forests in Maryland are funded from several sources. The first source is the revenue generated by the forests. These funds are deposited in the Department of Natural Resources' Forest or Park Reserve Fund and must be appropriated by the General Assembly through the annual budgeting process before being spent. The state forest budget is prepared approximately one year before the beginning of the fiscal year in which it will be spent. The budget 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). Revenue generated by the state forest is designated special fund revenue. There may be special funds provided from the Department of Natural Resources' Forest or Park Reserve Fund that are not generated by this particular forest or there may be less special funds shown in the budget than was generated on this specific forest. The target for timber sale revenue in FY 14 is \$175,000. It is estimated that revenue from recreation activities on the forest will be approximately \$20,000.

The second source is included in the Maryland Forest Service's Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Budget. This separate budget is based on revenue generated from ORV permit sales statewide and is allocated back to the state forests through the budgeting process. ORV funds generated as permit sales at SRSF do not necessarily reflect funds allocated back to the SRSF operating budget. These funds must be appropriated before being spent. ORV funds are a restricted special fund and can only be spent for ORV Trail related expenditures. The optimistic estimate for ORV funds in FY 14 is \$10,000

3. Operational Cost: Estimated Annual Expenses - \$600523

Operational expenses are those costs paid directly out of the SRSF operational budget by the State Forest Manager. 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-2014 budget proposal will be prepared in August of 2012.

-Classified Salaries, Wages and Benefits: \$295,607

This cost is associated with Special Funds which are state tax revenues provided annually. These funds are used to pay SRSF Maryland Classified Employee Salaries.

-Contractual Staffing: \$100,028

This cost is associated with contractual staffing associated with operations of the state forest. Contractual personnel are responsible for 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 implementing all maintenance, recreational, silviculture, and ecosystem restoration projects.

- Land Operation Cost: \$161,138

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, non-commercial thinning and other forest management practices. These costs vary greatly from year to year based on the activities identified in the Annual Work Plan.

- County Payments: \$43,750

These are revenue payments to local county governments which will vary every year. Payments are made on an annual basis to Garrett County based on 25% of the gross timber sale revenue generated from SRSF. 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 Costs associated with the SRSF. As described, these figures will vary from year to year.

Total Revenue	\$600,523
Total Expenditure	\$600,523

Appendices



Savage River State Forest

ID Team Annual Work Plan FY 2014

August 15, 2012

Attendance: Wade Dorsey, Eric Null (Parks), Jim Mullen (W&HS - Wildlife), Dave Marple (NRP), Scott Boylan (MDE), Pete Hartman (MDE), Bob Webster, Jack Perdue, Scott Campbell, Rick Latshaw (W&HS - Wildlife), Ed Thompson (W&HS - Natural Heritage), Alan Klotz (Fisheries), John Wilson (LAP), Steve Carr (LAP).

Forest Manager Introductions

Maintenance projects – plan to work on 37 miles of trail/road improvements through money proposed in the FY13 Critical Maintenance money and proposal in FY14 budget.

Recreation – Continental Loop Trail. Possible new ORV trail at St. John's Rock

Special Projects – Big Run Rd streamside work to improve banks. Fairview Wildlife Mgt unit proposed by the Wildlife & Heritage Program.

Boundary maintenance – 80 miles is recovered each year on a 4-year rotation. Much of the effort is put into boundary recovery.

Culvert/Road work – Scott Boylan asked about permits with MDE. We would need to contact Paul Busan (MDE) about culvert permits. Jack Perdue has contacted Jeff Thompson (MDE) about the permit requirements and that information was used in the roads inventory used for state forests.

Silviculture

Exotic plants will be treated with herbicides at least once before silvicultural works begin.

Compartment 5 – Commercial thinning on 62 acres, area #1 will be harvested only during times when the ground is frozen. One concern stated, is it was indicated that this area has spring seeks and may not freeze. The question was raised whether we could limit the harvest to low pressure equipment. The ID Team wanted to visit this site.

Compartment 6 – Commercial and Pulpwood thinning on 54 acres. Understory pulpwood thinning. Wanting to increase vigor and quality of the trees and enhance the oak component of this stand.

Compartment 6 – Understory/pulpwood thinning on 40 acres
No comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 6 – Commercial thinning on 37 acres
No comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 8 – Commercial thinning on 14 acres (Stand 20)

No comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 10 – Regeneration-commercial thinning on 10 acres (Stand 5)

This effort is to maintain and encourage conifer stand regeneration. The stand contains a mixture of pine. There were no other comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 14 – Sanitation harvest on 20 acres (Stand 46)

Proposing to remove the black cherry since it has black knot issues and the pathologist stated that research recommends that the source of the inoculum needs to be removed to successfully grow black cherry. This work will retain the white pine and sugar maple. There were no other comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 15 – Commercial thinning on 44 acres (Stands 39 & 50)

No comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 17 – Commercial thinning on 46 acres (Stand 20 & 52)

No comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 38 – Pre-commercial Crop Tree Release on 37 acres (Stand 17)

The historic Braddock Trail runs through this site and the forest manager will send this proposal specifically to MD Historic Trust for review and comments. There were no other comments from the ID Team.

Compartment 42 – Regeneration Clear-cut on 23 acres (stand 91 & 92)

A concern was raised about the buffer requirements for this proposal. It will exceed specifications with an extended buffer -- 150' from the stream. There were no other comments from the ID Team.

The Savage River State Forest staff has found a new exotic invasive plant on the forest – yellow archangel. It was found along a streamside and traced back to an abandoned home site upstream.

Watershed Improvement Projects

The Bureau of Mines' plan to reduce the acidity in the headwaters of the Casselman River Drainage is expected to take place in FY 2013 or early in FY 2014. The Bureau of Mines and their contractors will be implementing this project.

Big Run – Fisheries will use a system of drop-and-chop (dropping trees near the stream) to develop in-stream habitat in cooperation with Canaan Valley Institute. MDE asked that in-stream work be coordinated with their office to be sure all legal requirements

are met. Downed trees will be cabled to the bank to keep them from washed downstream.

Field Tour

Internal Silvicultural Assessment – the group stopped by a harvest to discuss this newly formed process required for forest certification. It was decided to review this system in the near future to determine how the ID Team can best be involved. One comment was to include the ID Team comments for a particular site in the review package. It is likely that the ISA will be done as a separate process and will not include all of the ID Team.

Georges Creek - Compartment 42, 23 acres

There are road issues here with maintenance necessary on the haul road and stream crossings. Work you will require a permit to cross the stream, usually requiring one to two years. The haul road will go to top of site. No other issues with the ID Team. It was stated that this proposal would make a good site for a future visit by the ID Team.

Spruce Plantation

This is a place where spruce are dying and were not sure why. Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service will be felling a tree to determine possible reasons. It is recommended to keep as much of the spruce as possible but may be necessary to remove some to remove the causal agents.

Black Knot in Cherry

This proposal recommends harvesting the area and following up with a burn to destroy the inoculums. The ID Team recommends proceeding with this proposal.

Pine Regeneration - 10 acre plantation

This is an old agricultural field where pine is falling out of the stand. Species include red pine, white pine and some Scots pine. The staff will work to keep as much of the white pine is possible, hoping it can be found in groups. The wood will be used for pulpwood.

Compartment 5

This site was visited on August 28, 2012 with a subset of the ID team. Two comments were made and much discussion ensued.

- 1) There is waist high cinnamon fern present an indicator of hydric soils and likely wetlands. Thus the recommendation to avoid the wetlands.
- 2) Spiker Run is close to the northern end of the sale and it should be buffered and protected.

As a summary of the discussion, this will be a difficult site to harvest, given that buffers need to be in place to protect the wetlands and intermittent stream channels. More prep work needs to be done to find ways to bring equipment to the sale and develop protective restrictions to prevent environmental damage. The members of the ID team present said that if we could find a way to do this they were OK with the sale. If we proceed with this sale I want to make sure that the ID team has a chance to see what we did.

Other proposal sites were not visited.

Savage River State Forest, SRSF
Citizens Advisory Committee, CAC
September 8th, 2012 Meeting
Annual Work Plan Review

In attendance: Sunshine Brosi, Mark Diehl, Kevin Dodge, Steve Green, Charles Hoffeditz, Rusty Leonard, Johnny Lipscomb, Jim Minogue, Scott Campbell, Wade Dorsey

Discussion:

There was some discussion on maintenance projects and recreation projects. Next July there will be major roadwork and trailwork (37 miles). DNR's engineering and construction section will hire contractors. It was noted that the upgrading and roads and trails should be contracted only to persons who have completed the "Better Roads, Better Streams" road training. The training is frequently offered and coordinated by Donnelle Keech of The Nature Conservancy, through the Potomac Partnership (www.potomacpartnership.org). Local contractors could easily acquire the training.

There is \$10,000 in the budget for boundary line surveying.

Forest management plans included a goal of having 20% oak on oak sites. It was noted that most forest management activity is taking place in the northwest corner of the forest due to the collection of inventory data in that area. CAC members mentioned that Compartment 5 forest management activities may be impacted by extensive ORV trails and illegal shack made for hunting and baiting of animals. Compartment 6 will need future fern control. Harvesting on this site will use site specific rutting guidelines to reduce site productivity damage. Compartment 7 was noted as an integrated thinning because it produces both pulpwood and sawtimber. The harvesting will not impact the Upper Negro Mountain Trail. CAC members mentioned that Compartment 7 currently has heavy ORV use which may impact advanced regeneration. Compartment 8 harvest boundary was noted to be outside the stream buffer. Compartment 10 will be managed for mixed pine and hardwood in the future. Compartment 14 is being managed to eliminate the black knot fungus in the stand. It was noted that the cherry wood impacted by black knot could be used for specialty wood products including bowl turning. Members of the group said they would contact artisans about their interest in cherry impacted by black knot. In compartment 38 it was noted that management activities will all be done by hand on small trees. This area contains the historic site of the Braddock Trail which will restrict haul roads or skidding roads. It was noted that on places along the Braddock Trail you could see where wagon wheels cut through the rock. CAC members noted that current ORV use may be impacting this historic site on Compartment 38. Compartment 42 has large trees and some trees with barbed wire in them will be retained. Current issues include crossing tributaries to Laurel Run to enter the site. This site is currently impacted by ORV users.

Watershed Improvement projects were discussed. A CAC member suggested restricting firewood permits to 50 feet from any stream so that “chop and drop” trees were not removed for firewood. Another CAC member suggested creating guidelines for campers to not remove trees from streams and post the guideline on campsites. Yellow archangel was controlled with Rodeo due to distance to stream. It was noted that Scott and his crew were very thorough in their control of this new exotic species.

There was discussion on the budget section on the limited amount of timber harvesting occurring in FY 2014. It was noted that inventory is still being completed. Current harvesting may be underutilizing the forest but that should be increased by sustainable management techniques within 3-5 years. There was a discussion on the drastic reduction of cutting compared to around 5 years ago when 3.6 million board feet was cut and before that 6 million board feet in one year. Because of inventories we will now know prior to harvesting more information on what is there. The group appreciated the table of Silvicultural Activity Summary. CAC members noted it would be beneficial to have additional usage data including campsite usage, firewood permits, ORV permits, and ginseng permits. There was discussion of removal of hazard trees from storms around campsites due to the tree fall on Campsite 140 on Big Run Road. There was discussion of the safety of the swinging bridges on the Lower Savage River.

Field Visit:

The field visit included a review of the proposed timber harvest near St. John’s Rock. While in the area we reviewed the proposed ORV trail mentioned in the Annual Work Plan. Members of CAC noted the following with respect to the potential placement of the ORV Trail. Several operational obstacles were noted which highlight the incompatibility of ORVs with multiple-use.

- There were numerous renegade trails off of the gravel road through the woods. Riders had moved rocks which were placed to stop ORV traffic. There are current ORV renegade trails which were impacting advanced regeneration of hardwood seedlings. ORV trails contained large ruts causing soil erosion. The group was concerned over the impacts of ORV on forest management including impacting timber resources and logging operations.
- The group is concerned with maintenance of the trail in addition to rogue trails.
- Many of the ORV trails led onto private land. Members of CAC noted several serious issues with access directly from State Forest land onto private land. The issue of liability of people riding off SRSF onto private land was mentioned. This issue of impeding hunting of adjacent landowners was noted. CAC members mentioned that it was not in the best interest of SRSF’s relationship with public landowners to have ORV traffic go onto adjacent private land.
- CAC members were concerned over controlling access and controlling enforcement because current illegal ORV use is not being properly mitigated. Renegade trails exist throughout the area as well as throughout East Shale Road and many other areas of the forest.

- Current illegal use has no substantial citations. Members of CAC noted that ORVs should be confiscated at the time of the action and fines should be increased.
- The area contains a hiking trail which is incompatible with ORV traffic.
- The area has very high deer densities noted by the understory of majority fern and several deer seen on the site visit. There is concern on the incompatibility of ORV and hunting which has historically occurred in the area.

The group noted that there would not be a practical way to prevent ORV riders from turning around and not riding on the powerline, on Callahan Swamp, and at St. John's Rock. Ecological impacts of an ORV trail in the area included the following.

- The proposed ORV trail is adjacent to HCVF. Trails on SRSF at Poplar Lick and at GRSF were closed due to their impact on HCVF. Logging is not proposed adjacent to HCVF because of potential impact. CAC is concerned with incompatibility of ORV trails adjacent to HCVF. CAC is concerned about the impact on Forest Certification.
- The area has saturated soils, areas of standing water and high moisture content. Much of the area has sphagnum moss and other indications of high moisture content. This area could have many wetland species including bog clubmoss and goldthread. The general wet nature of the area makes it highly susceptible to erosion and rutting. There are many times when the weather conditions would saturate the soil and increase the impacts of ORVs.
- Increased ORV trails would increase the spread and impact of invasive, exotic species.

The previously noted concerns over the proposed ORV trail are numerous. This made the group wonder why ORV trails on being considered anywhere on SRSF. Similar problems could be found for proposals on other areas. Members of the CAC noted that ORV may be more compatible with the management objectives of State Parks instead of State Forests. Members of the CAC noted that any proposals for ORV trails should be shared with the group for their comments and evaluations.

The group visited the cherry stand impacted by black knot. CAC members were impressed with the manager's plan to address this forest health issue. The Forest Manager is reducing a forest disease and increasing the biodiversity of the stand.

The group visited the Norway spruce stand with high mortality. Members of the group asked to be notified of the causational agent upon discovery.

The group ended the meeting around 5pm.

The following summary compares the work scheduled in each annual work plan against the amount of work implemented/completed in the field. Annual Works Plans (AWPs) are developed 18 months in advance of any work being implemented in the field to allow time for an internal departmental and public review process.

	Surrendered Activity Summary By Annual Work Plan												Total											
	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		Total	
	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres	Plan Acres	Actual Acres
Wetland Activity																								
Regeneration Harbors	150	175	65	25	175	175	45	25	65	65	140	72	150	96	50	0	21	0	37	0	898	518		
Various Thinning Harbors	355	355	450	221	485	383	250	220	615	218	120	71	75	0	74	38	111	0	98	0	2935	1550		
Salvage Harbors	65	65									30	30									97	0	780	445
Firewood			25	25																			25	25
Dredging			50	37	78	25	500	103			100	58			105	0							783	723
Wetland Reduction			50	50																			50	50
Fire Sprinkler Management																					19	0	18	0
Prescribed Fire															100	0							300	0

