

**Resource Management Guides
Clark State Forest
30-day Public Comment Period (April 17 - May 16)**

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 160,251 acres of primarily forested land. These lands are managed under the principle of multiple use-multiple benefit to provide forest conservation, goods, and services for current and future generations. The management is guided by scientific principles, guiding legislation and comprehensive forest certification standards which are independently audited to help insure long term forest health, resiliency, and sustainability.

For management and planning purposes each State Forest is divided into a system of compartments and tracts. In general terms compartments are 300-1,000 acres in size and their subunits (tracts) are 10 - 300 acres in size. Resource Management Guides (RMGs) are then developed for each compartment or tract to guide their management through a 15-25 year management period. There are approximately 1,600 tracts in the State Forest system. During annual planning efforts 50-100 tracts are reviewed and RMGs developed based on current conditions, inventories and assessments.

The RMGs listed below and contained in this document are part of the properties annually scheduled forest inventories under review for Clark State Forest.

Compartment 6 Tract 1
Compartment 9 Tract 10

To submit a comment on this document, go to:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/state-forest-management/public-comment/submit/>

You must indicate the State Forest Name, Compartment number and Tract number in the "subject or file reference" line to ensure that your comment receives appropriate consideration. Comments received within 30 days of posting will be considered and review posted at:

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Clark State Forest
Forester: Bartlett
Tract Acreage: 143
Management Cycle End Year: 2029

Compartment: 6 **Tract:** 1
Date: January 2019
Forested Acreage: 134
Management Cycle Length: 20 years

Location

Compartment 6 tract 1, also known as 6300601, is located in both Clark and Scott County, Indiana, more specifically sections 26 and 35, Township 2N, Range 6E of Monroe and Finley Townships respectively. This tract is approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Henryville, IN.

General Description

The tract is approximately 134 forested acres and contains three delineated cover types: dry oak-hickory, mixed hardwoods, and non-forest. The mixed hardwood overstory is primarily yellow-poplar occurring in the ravines which are common in this tract. The oak-hickory cover type occupies the slopes and ridges consisting of mostly low quality, stressed chestnut oaks.

History

- 1903 Land acquisition to create tract
- 1921 Land acquisition added to the tract
- 1940 - Land acquisition added to the tract
- 1982 - Forest inventory and resource management guide
- 2018 -Forest inventory
- 2019 - Resource management guide

Landscape Context

This tract is located within rural southern Indiana. Within a mile, a majority of the land cover is either agricultural or forested. It is 80% forested within a mile of the tract. A majority of the agricultural fields in the area are cattle fields.

Topography, Geology, and Hydrology

There is a flat ridgetop that provides access to most of the tract. The remainder of the tract is steep slopes ranging in degrees of steepness.

There are multiple ephemeral drains that drain into an intermittent stream that continues into Wilcox Lake. General riparian management zone (RMZ) guidelines will be implemented in these areas in accordance with the Indiana Logging and Forestry 2022 Best Management Practices Field Guide.

Soils

The soils in this area are well-drained. The bedrock for this area is Mississippian shale and siltstone. The major soils are listed below.

BcrAW - Beanblossom silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded, very brief duration, 3.6 acres

This nearly level, deep, well-drained soil is found along alluvial fans and flood plain. It is well suited to trees. Management planning should consider wet times of year. This soil has not been evaluated for site index.

BvoG - Brownstown-Gilwood silt loams, 25 to 75 percent slopes, 63.3 acres

This moderate to very steep, deep, well-drained soil is found sideslopes in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Equipment limitations and erosion hazards are main management concerns that should be considered during sale layout and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Brownstown has a site index of 50 for black oak and gilwood has not been rated.

CwaAQ - Cuba silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded, <1 acre

This nearly level, well-drained soil is on flood plains. It is occasionally flooded for brief periods in the spring which should be considered when planning management activities. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 100 for yellow poplar.

GgfD - Gilwood-Wrays silt loams, 6 to 18 percent slopes, 16.8 acres

This gently to moderately sloping, moderately deep, well-drained complex is found on side slopes of the uplands knobs. The hazard of erosion is main management concerns that should be considered when implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Wrays has a site index of 70 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar and Gilwood has not been evaluated.

GmaG - Gnowbone-Kurtz silt loams, 20 to 60 percent slopes, 38.1 acres

This moderately to very steep, moderately deep, well-drained complex is found on side. It is well suited to trees. The hazard of erosion and equipment limitations are main management concerns. These should be considered when planning management activities and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Kurtz has a site index of 60 for northern red oak and Gnowbone has not been evaluated.

StaAQ - Steff silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded, <1 acre

This nearly level, deep, moderately well-drained soil is on bottom land. It is flooded for brief periods, mainly in winter and spring. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 88 for black oak and 107 for yellow poplar.

Uaa - Udorthents, cut and filled, <1 acre

These nearly level, deep, poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils are found in variable areas. These soils generally consist of mixed loamy or clayey soil in areas that have borrowed for fill materials or in areas of the fill material itself. Onsite investigation is needed to determine specific soil properties affecting land use. This soil has not been evaluated for site index.

Access

Access to this tract is good. Swithback Road, a paved road, traverses along the southern boundary of the tract. This road continues to Wilcox Lake. There is a parking lot on the north side of Wilcox Lake off Pounds Road providing good foot access to the lake and western portion of the tract.

Boundary

This tract borders other Clark State Forest tracts on the south, east, and west. The northern and northwestern boundaries are shared with private landowners.

Ecological Considerations

This tract contains diverse vegetation and wildlife resources conducive to providing habitat for a variety of wildlife. Habitat types include oak-hickory and mixed hardwoods.

The Indiana DNR Division of Forestry has developed compartment level guidelines for snag tree retention, which is an important wildlife feature. Snags are standing dead or dying trees. Snags provide value in a forest in the form of habitat features for foraging activity, den sites, decomposers, bird perching, bat roosts, squirrel caches, and stores a wide variety of invertebrates. As time passes, these snags fall down and then contribute to the nutrient cycling as downed woody debris (DWD). DWD decomposes providing nutrients for remaining and new vegetative growth as well contributing to the complexity of the forest floor.

	Maintenance Level	Inventory	Available Above Maintenance
Snags 5"+	496	1,041	545
Snags 9"+	372	747	375
Snags 19"+	62	99	37

Snags in this tract exceeded maintenance levels for all three size classes by significant margins.

Invasive species observed were Japanese stiltgrass, multiflora rose, and Amur honeysuckle. Stiltgrass was the most consistent invasive species present and found near the horse trail. An occasional multiflora rose and Amur honeysuckle were seen within the tract. These should be managed with a situational approach.

There are two man made wildlife ponds within this tract. General maintenance of these ponds will occur such as removal of invasive species and addressing level/dam issues, but both will be avoided during management activities following all BMP riparian management zone guidelines as addressed in the 2022 BMP field guide.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered communities were identified for this area, the activities prescribed in this guide will be conducted in a manner that will not threaten the viability of those species.

Recreation

This tract has multiple recreation opportunities due to its location and water feature. Wilcox Lake can be accessed from two locations. A parking lot below the dam off Pounds Road offers foot access to the lake while Swithback Road provides access to the shallow upper region where a canoe or kayak could be launched. A small section of horse trail runs along the southwest corner but is only inside the tract for approximately 1/10th of a mile. Hunting and fishing are permitted within the tract. Management activities within the tract will not impact use of Wilcox Lake.

Cultural

This tract was reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory. Cultural resources may be present on this tract, but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any management activity.

Tract Subdivision Description and Silvicultural Prescription

The current forest resource inventory was completed in June 2018 by Forester Bartlett. A summary of the estimated tract inventory results are located in the table below.

Total acres = 134	Overall % stocking = 73%
Total trees per acre = 113	Present volume per acre= 5,916 bd. ft.
Basal area per acre= 90 sq. ft.	Harvest volume per acre = 1,377 bd. ft.

Species	# of Sawtimber Trees	Total Bd. Ft.	Bd. Ft. per acre
Chestnut Oak	2,701	383,106	2,859
White Oak	444	94,068	702
Yellow Poplar	266	84,286	629
Black Oak	184	55,610	415
Sugar Maple	446	53,466	399
Pignut Hickory	262	37,520	280
Virginia Pine	170	33,366	249
Scarlet Oak	163	22,914	171
Northern Red Oak	60	19,966	149
American Beech	36	3,350	25
Black Cherry	12	2,948	22
Black Walnut	157	2,144	16
Total	4,760	792,744	5,916

Mixed Hardwoods - 40 acres

The mixed hardwood cover type is fully stocked at 60% and a harvest is recommended for this area. A single tree selection harvest is recommended to release the higher quality yellow-poplar that exist in the ravines. Residual c trees should be selected based on health, quality, and species.

Basal are per acre (square feet)	72.9
Trees per acre	101
Approximate stocking	60%

Species	Bd. Ft. per acre
Yellow Poplar	2,073
Chestnut Oak	1,000
Sugar Maple	820
White Oak	492
Pignut Hickory	467
Black Oak	230
Scarlet Oak	217

Species	Bd. Ft/Acre
Virginia Pine	195
Northern Red Oak	102
American Beech	90
Black Walnut	56
Total	5,742

Dry Oak-Hickory - 94 acres

The dry oak-hickory cover type is fully stocked at 79%. A harvest is recommended for this area which is showing mortality in the chestnut oaks. Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) data indicates chestnut oak has the highest mortality among tree species across Clark State Forest. An improvement harvest is prescribed to remove these trees in decline while providing space for healthy trees. Group selections or patch-cuts are prescribed to be performed in areas where considerable overstory dieback occurs. Preference to these selections are areas that have desirable regeneration. The goal of these patch-cuts is to create early successional habitat, young forests, while encouraging the regeneration of oak and hickory species.

Basal are per acre (square feet)	96.8
Trees per acre	118
Approximate stocking	79%

Species	Bd Ft/per acre
Chestnut Oak	3,578
White Oak	783
Black Oak	486
Virginia Pine	270
Sugar Maple	236
Pignut Hickory	208
Northern Red Oak	167
Scarlet Oak	153
Yellow Poplar	71
Black Cherry	31
Total	5,983

Non-forest - 9 acres

This area includes Wilcox Lake, Wilcox Lake's dam and the public parking area north of Wilcox Lake.

Other considerations

Regeneration evaluation - Three to five years after the completion of the timber harvest, a regeneration inspection will be performed. This inspection identifies any regeneration or invasive concerns, addressing them as deemed necessary.

Timber stand improvement (TSI) - If needed, TSI should be performed within two years of timber harvest completion. The objective would be to complete openings, remove species marked for harvest but not removed or trees inhibiting desirable regeneration objectives, and manage invasive species.

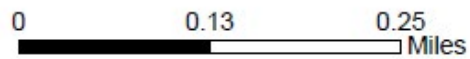
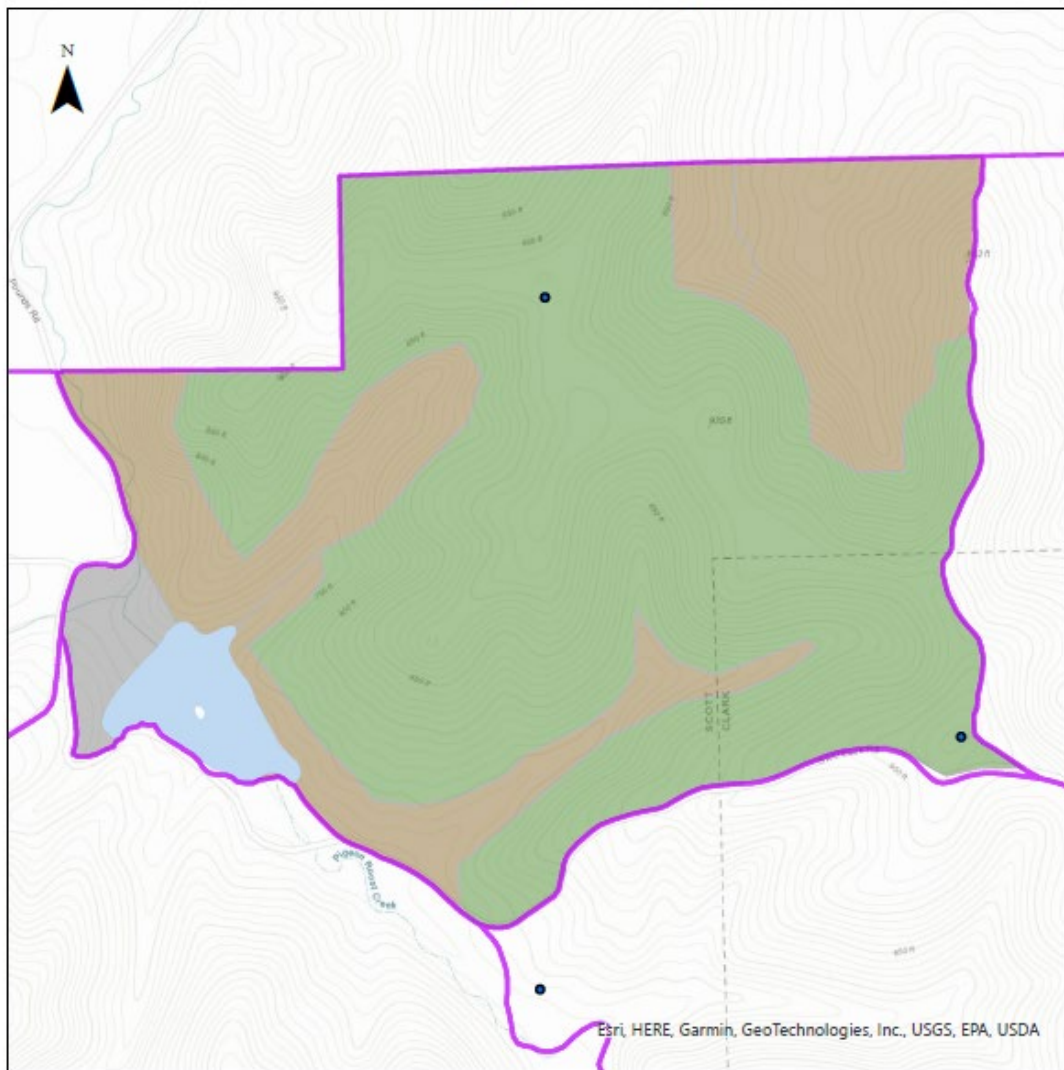
Best management practices (BMP) - During and after completion of the proposed management activity, BMPs will be implemented to minimize soil displacement and protect waterways.

Guide revision - This tract should receive another inventory and a management guide be written 20 years after the completion of this inventory.

Prescribed fire - A regime of prescribed burns may be started within this tract to reduce the abundance of the shade tolerant species in the midstory while improving conditions more favorable for seedling establishment and advancement of intermediate and shade intolerant species. These prescribed burns would additionally assist in the control of invasive species.

Proposed Management Activity	Proposed Date
Invasive species management	2022-2023
Timber harvest	2022-2025
Post-harvest TSI and invasive species management	Within 2 years post-harvest
Post-harvest regeneration inspection	3-5 years post-harvest
Prescribed fire regime	2025+
Re-evaluate tract	2042

Clark State Forest Compartment 6 Tract 1 Cover Types Map



-  Dry Oak-Hickory
-  Mixed Hardwoods
-  Non-forest
-  Wilcox Lake
-  Wildlife Ponds
-  Tract Boundary
-  Wilcox Lake

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The RMGs listed below and contained in this document are part of the properties annually scheduled forest inventories under review for Clark State Forest.

Compartment 6 Tract 2
Compartment 9 Tract 8
Compartment 14 Tract 1
Compartment 14 Tract 2
Compartment 14 Tract 3

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Clark State Forest	Compartment 6	Tract 2
Forester: Alwine	Date: 1/31/2019	
Total Acreage: 83.9	Forested Acreage: 83.9	
Management Cycle End Year: 2039	Management Cycle Length: 20 years	

Location

This tract, also known as 6300602, lies within Scott and Clark County approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Henryville, Indiana. More specifically, the tract is located within Sections 26/35, Township 2N, and Range 6E.

General Description

This is an 83.9-acre oak forest located on terrain ranging from gently to extremely steep slopes on knobs. A majority of the tract is located on an east facing slope. There are some large trees present and evidence of past management activity (e.g., wildlife pond, stumps, felled trees, etc.).

History

- Land acquisition in 1903 from Marguret Kline
- Land acquisition in 1929 from James & Lolie Dean
- Land acquisition in 1940 from Amy Weaver
- Inventory/Resource Management Guide completed in 1982 by Frank Ballintyn
- Inventory completed in 1986 for State Forest Inventory Program
- Inventory completed in 2018 by Ryan Bartlett
- Resource Management Guide completed in 2019 by Dustin Alwine

Topography, Geology and Hydrology

The topography is steep. Practically the whole tract has an east facing aspect and the western boundary following a ridgetop. The entire tract is located within the "knobs" of southern Indiana. The tract becomes less sloped near Brownstown Road. The underlying bedrock in this tract is siltstone.

Tract 6300602 is located within the Pigeon Roost Creek Watershed. There is a mapped intermittent stream that runs the eastern boundary of the tract. This stream merges with other intermittent and ephemeral streams until it eventually flows into Pigeon Roost Creek. There are multiple ephemeral streams located within this tract as well that flow off the knobs into the mapped intermittent.

Soils

BcrAW- Beanblossom silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded, very brief duration- 1.7 acres

This nearly level, deep, well-drained soil is found along alluvial fans and flood plain. It is well suited to trees. Management planning should consider wet times of year. This soil has not been evaluated for site index.

BvoG-Brownstown-Gilwood silt loams, 25 to 75 percent slopes- 37.4 acres

This moderate to very steep, deep, well-drained soil is found side slopes in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Equipment limitations and erosion hazards are main management concerns that

should be considered during sale layout and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Brownstown has a site index of 50 for black oak and gilwood has not been rated.

ConD- Coolville-Rarden complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes- 2.3 acres

These strongly sloping, deep, moderately well drained soils are found on side slopes in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Erosion hazards are concerns that should be considered during implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Coolville has a site index of 66 for northern red oak and Rarden has a site index of 71 for black oak.

GgfD- Gilwood-Wrays silt loams, 6 to 18 percent slopes- 11.8 acres

This gently to moderately sloping, moderately deep, well drained complex is found on side slopes of the upland knobs. The hazard of erosion is main management concerns that should be considered when implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Wrays has a site index of 70 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar and Gilwood has not been evaluated.

GmaG- Gnawbone-Kurtz silt loams, 20 to 60 percent slopes- 24.1 acres

This moderately to very steep, moderately deep, well drained complex is found on side. It is well suited to trees. The hazard of erosion and equipment limitations are main management concerns. These should be considered when planning management activities and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Kurtz has a site index of 60 for northern red oak and Gnawbone has not been evaluated.

PcrB2- Pekin silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded- .1 acres

This gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on alluvial terraces. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 70 for white oak and 85 for yellow poplar.

PcrC2- Pekin silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded- 3.8 acres

This moderately sloping, deep, well-drained soil is found on side slopes adjacent of drainage ways on alluvial terraces. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 70 for white oak and 85 for yellow poplar.

PcrC3- Pekin silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded- 1 acre

This moderately sloping, deep, well-drained soil is found on side slopes adjacent of drainage ways on alluvial terraces. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 70 for white oak and 85 for yellow poplar.

StaAQ- Steff silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded- 1.9 acres

This nearly level, deep, moderately well drained soil is on bottom land. It is flooded for

brief periods, mainly in winter and spring. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 88 for black oak and 107 for yellow poplar.

Access

Access to this tract is good. The south side is given access by Switchback Road that runs along the southwest border. The northern portion of this tract is accessed from Brownstown Road.

Boundary

Tract 6300602 is bordered by other tracts except for the northwest corner where it shares a boundary with private property. Brownstown Road and Switchback Road run along the northern and southern borders, respectfully. A mapped intermittent stream serves as the eastern boundary between tract 6300603. Other state forest tracts that share boundary lines with 6300602 include: 6300601, 6300608, 6300609, and 6300507.

Ecological Considerations

This tract contains diverse vegetation and wildlife resources conducive to providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The high density of oak species provides habitat and food sources for a variety of wildlife. The yellow poplar trees present are also good for pollinators.

A Natural Heritage Database Review was completed for this tract. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species (RTE's) were identified for this tract, the activities prescribed in this guide will be conducted in a manner that will not threaten the viability of those species.

The Indiana DNR Division of Forestry has developed compartment level guidelines for snag tree retention, an important wildlife feature. Snags are standing dead or dying trees. Snags provide value in a forest in the form of habitat features for foraging activity, den sites, decomposers, bird perching, bat roosts, squirrel caches, and stores a wide variety of invertebrates. As time passes, these snags fall contributing to the nutrient cycling as downed woody debris (DWD). DWD decomposes providing nutrients for remaining and new vegetative growth as well contributing to the complexity of the forest floor.

	Maintenance Level	Optimal Level	Snag Inventory	Above Maintenance	Above Optimal
Snags 5"+	336	587	359	23	-228
Snags 9"+	252	503	359	107	-144
Snags 19"+	42	84	55	13	-29

Inventory data shows snag densities met maintenance levels for all three size classes but not optimal levels. It is important to note that these are compartment guidelines and that even though the estimated tract data does not quite meet all target levels, it is likely that suitable levels are present for these habitat features in the surrounding landscape. Prescribed management will work to increase these snag densities.

Invasive species are located within this tract. Most of them are in the northeastern corner by the

intermittent stream and blue multipurpose trail. They include Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, Asian bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, multi-flora rose, and privet. Other spots that have higher than average invasive species densities include where the red multipurpose trail is located and along Switchback Road. There is a wildlife pond just across the boundary in 6300601 where Switchback Road leaves the tract. When the pond was established, it appears autumn olive was planted or invaded the area. These invasives are encroaching 6300602 along that ridgetop. While none were noted during the inventory, Ailanthus has been recorded in nearby tracts on the slopes where mortality has occurred.

Japanese stilt grass was observed in the mapped intermittent, especially near Brownstown Road. The multipurpose trails have Japanese stilt grass throughout. Densities of other invasive species including multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle were relatively low.

Recreation

Hunting is likely one of the primary recreational uses of this tract. However, sections of the multipurpose trails enter the tracts boundary for short distances. The blue multipurpose trail enters the tract twice on the northeastern side along intermittent stream. The red multipurpose trail enters the southern portion of the tract on the ridgetop. Sections of these trails may be closed or rerouted during active forest management.

Cultural

Cultural resource may be present, but their location is protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any activities.

Tract Subdivision Description and Silvicultural Prescription

The current forest inventory for this tract was completed by property forester Ryan Bartlett and inventory intern Gary Steffek in 2018. A summary of those results is listed below.

Tract Summary Data	
Total acreage= 83.9 acres	Overall % stocking= 74%
Trees per acre= 87	Present volume per acre= 7,931 BdFt
Basal area per acre= 94 ft ²	Dominant overstory tree= chestnut oak

Due to the homogeneous nature of this tract, it will all be classified into one stand for the purpose of this guide and management prescriptions.

Descriptions:

Dry Oak-Hickory- 83.9 acres

This stand is fully stocked and consists mostly of medium sized chestnut oaks and large yellow poplar. The percent stocking in this stand is approximately 74% which puts stocking well above the B-line. The average tree size was around 16 to 18 DBH with some of the yellow poplar in the upper 20's. Large poplar is more prevalent near the creek. The midstory of this stand consists mostly of American beech, red maple, and ironwood. Oak regeneration is inadequate. A majority of the overstory trees are mature showing signs of crown decline.

Species	Trees per acre	Basal Area per acre	Volume per acre
Chestnut oak	24	37.6	2,893
Yellow poplar	11	16.4	2,408
White oak	3	6.5	686
Virginia pine	3	5.2	575
Sugar maple	11	7.2	260
Northern red oak	1	2.4	234
American beech	15	5.1	155
Scarlet oak	0.1	1.1	124
Eastern white pine	0.1	0.9	105
Black oak	1	1.3	98
American sycamore	0.1	0.8	85
Red maple	9	3.4	77
Pignut hickory	1	1.1	69
White ash	1	1.1	61
Bigtooth aspen	0.1	0.6	43
Shagbark hickory	0.1	0.4	36
Blackgum	1	0.6	10
Sassafras	1	0.6	7
Black walnut	0.1	0.2	5
American basswood	1	0.2	0
Black cherry	0.1	0.4	0
Ironwood	1	0.1	0
Red elm	2	0.4	0
Total	86.7	93.6	7,931

Summary Tract Silvicultural Prescription and Proposed Activities

Dry Oak-Hickory- 83.9 acres

This cover type has some large, mature stems. It also has a poor midstory and regeneration. The prescribed management should promote oak regeneration while working to lower the stress on current overstory trees. Timber stand improvement (TSI) should be implemented to lower the prevalence of shade tolerant midstory species while making the site more inviting to oak regeneration. One way to achieve this would be to use prescribed fire. A timber harvest would benefit areas where feasible. The harvest would remove an estimated 180,000 - 230,000 bdf aiming to promote a new cohort of upland oaks while removing declining trees. This would be accomplished through an improvement harvest utilizing single tree selection, group openings or patch cuts, and oak shelterwoods. These silvicultural techniques should be used in unison with TSI. After any harvest, post-harvest TSI should be completed to deaden culls, complete openings, and treat invasive species.

Other management in this tract should be invasive species treatment/monitoring and multipurpose trail maintenance. The Japanese stilt grass along the creek and multipurpose trails should be the focus. The multipurpose trail maintenance should be focused towards minimizing erosion and washout on the trails.

Proposed Management Activity

Prescribed fire (if applicable)

Invasive Plants Treatment/Monitoring

Timber Harvest

Post-Harvest FSI

Re-evaluate Tract

Proposed Date

2022-2023+

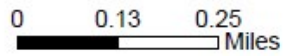
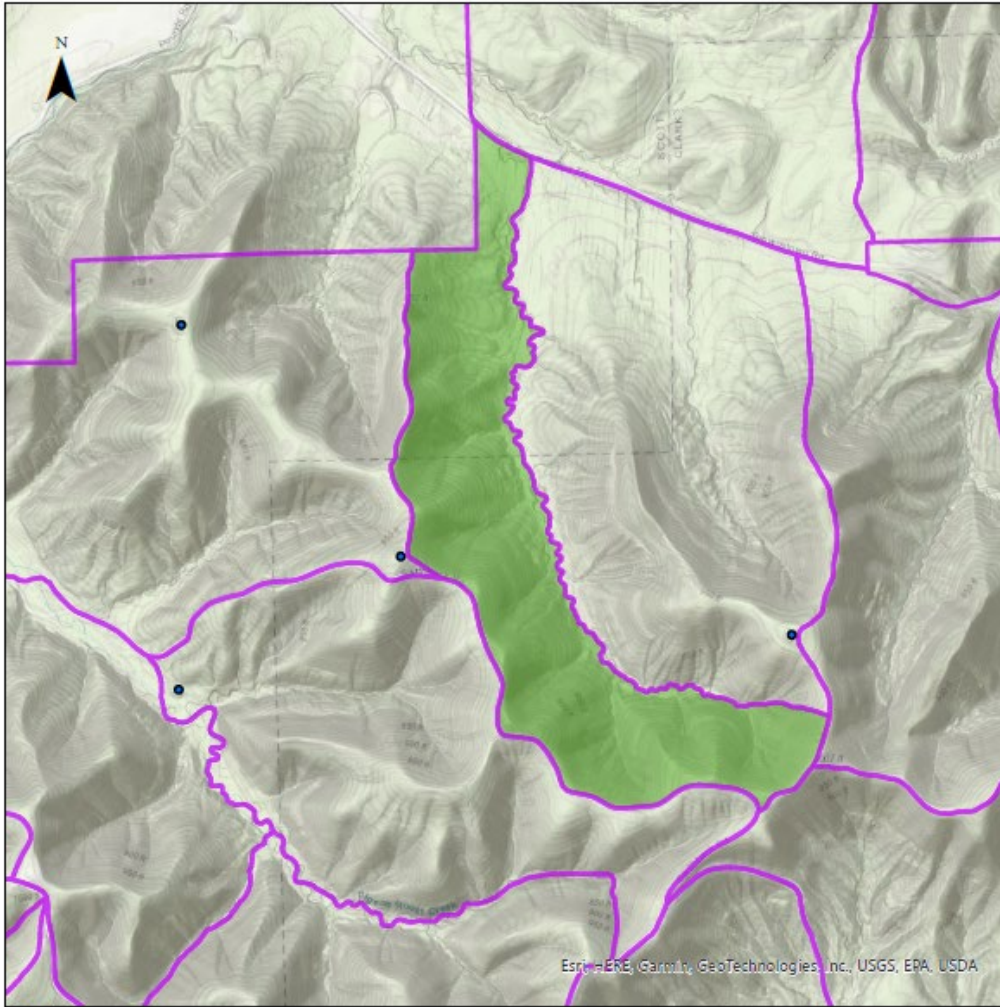
2022-2023


2023-2024



1-2 years post-harvest

2039

Clark State Forest Compartment 6 Tract 2 Cover Types Map



 Dry oak-hickory

 Wildlife Ponds
 Tract Boundary