

**Cucumber Magnolia High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Proposal
Clark State Forest
30-day Public Comment Period (August 9 – September 7)**

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 160,000 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.

As part of forest certification, areas can be designated as High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF). Designated HCVF's are forest areas that receive added consideration of management activities to maintain or enhance conservation value attributes. These attributes may be of biological, ecological, or cultural significance.

Nominations for new HCVF may come from within the Department of Natural Resources or from individuals or interested groups. For more information regarding HCVF on State Forests or the HCVF proposal process, visit

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-HighConservationValueForests.pdf>

To submit a comment on this document, go to:

<https://in.accessgov.com/dnr/Forms/Page/forestry/forestry-comment/0>

Please use Cucumber Magnolia HCVF Proposal in the "Subject or File Reference (PDF)" line to ensure that your comment receives appropriate consideration. Comments received within 30 days of posting will be considered by the HCVF Review Team for this proposal.

Cucumber Magnolia High Conservation Value Forest Proposal

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PROPOSAL

Make the State Endangered Cucumber Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) the recipient of high conservation value 1 designation, at least on par with the previous designation of yellowwood tree. This proposal would include protection of existing population clusters, enhancement of those population clusters, and distribution of individuals from those clusters to establish new populations. I estimate that there are fewer Cucumber Magnolias in native stands in Indiana than there are yellowwood trees. This would not include the magnolias already in a managed nature preserve.

HISTORY

Cucumber Magnolia is a relatively common tree in the Appalachians. Like many Appalachian species it had fingers of populations that reached into the Midwest. Charles Deam noted several existing individuals through his work in the early 1900's. One of his most impressive notations was from a "pioneer" in Jackson County who said a long ridge northwest of Medora had half dozen magnolias to the acre. He also noted a shrubby individual on Clark State Forest.

A sizable population of Cucumber Magnolia was located on Jackson-Washington State Forest in the mid-1980's. The area in Washington County near Potter Lake was placed into a nature preserve. The Division of Nature Preserves has spent a considerable amount of resources managing this population of several mature individuals and many seedlings and saplings.

A second population of Cucumber Magnolia was located in Washington County east of the Potter Lake population. It was identified during a property line run for a neighboring private lands timber harvest – also in the mid 1980's. The timber harvest, while quite heavy, seems to have helped the population by releasing it from competition. The majority of the population appears to be on the private property, there is at least one and possibly several mature individuals here along with a number of seedlings and saplings on state forest land. The location of the property line here is not well identified, which makes it difficult to fully inventory the extent of the population on state forest. Some work has been done on the state forest population in recent years to release seedlings and saplings, though more work is needed.

There is a population at Clark State Forest off Flatwood Road. In the past at least three mature individuals were known at the site. Currently that seems to be down to one, with past drought probably taking a toll. But a past timber harvest designed to open the canopy enhanced the regeneration and some work in recent years to further release the regeneration from the midstory shade tolerants has created a great number of sapling sized individuals.

A second population cluster was recently located at Clark State Forest off Forestry Road. It is in an area that had a timber harvest from about a decade ago. One mature individual was cut, but it has vigorous stump sprouts. At least two other mature individuals were identified. And the

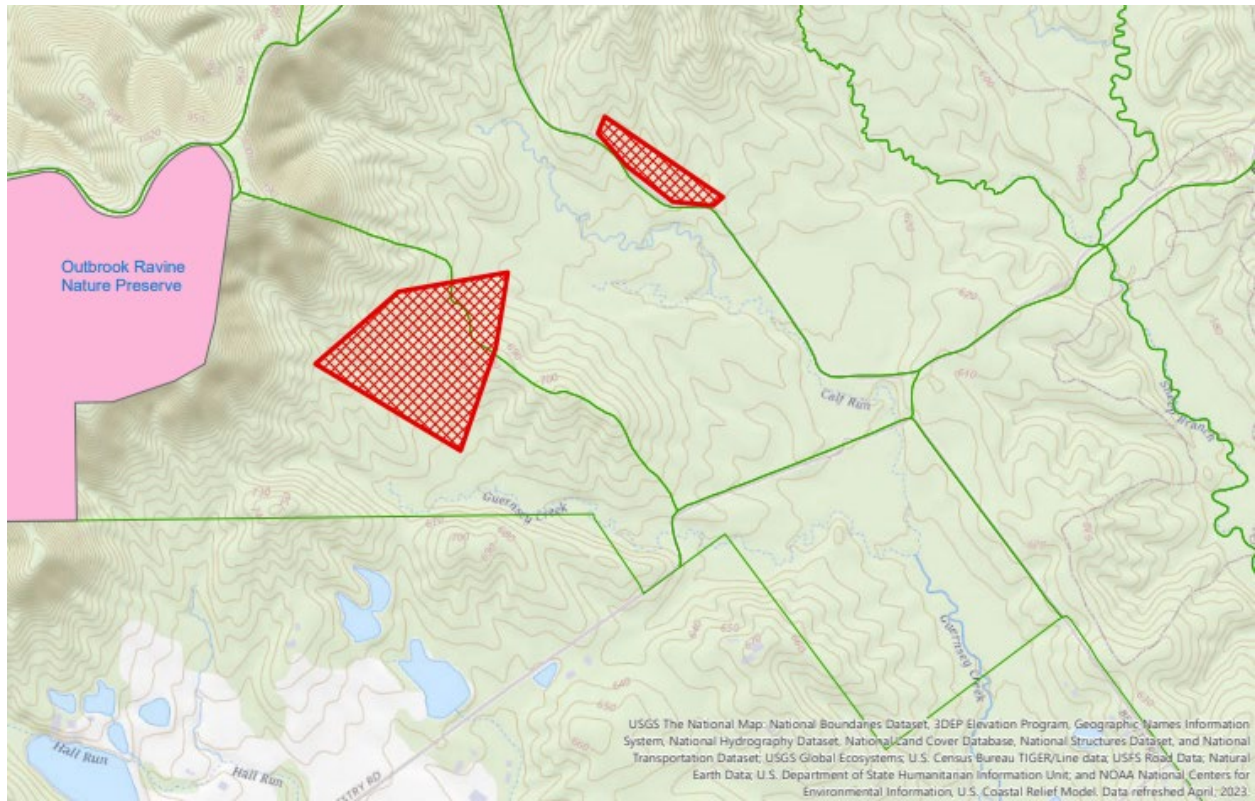
harvest created an opening that is home to many dozens of seedling and sapling regeneration. There is also one small individual located next to a parking unit along the road to the firetower. This is by far the largest population cluster of individuals I know of. Since this land was part of the initial Clark purchases circa 1903, it is very possible that one of these mature trees is either the shrubby individual Deam noted or the offspring of Deam's tree. The trees in the JWSF nature preserve seem to be spreading reproduction outside the preserve with at least one seedling/sapling along the road. Perhaps some more regeneration will show up in the recent harvest that is across the road.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

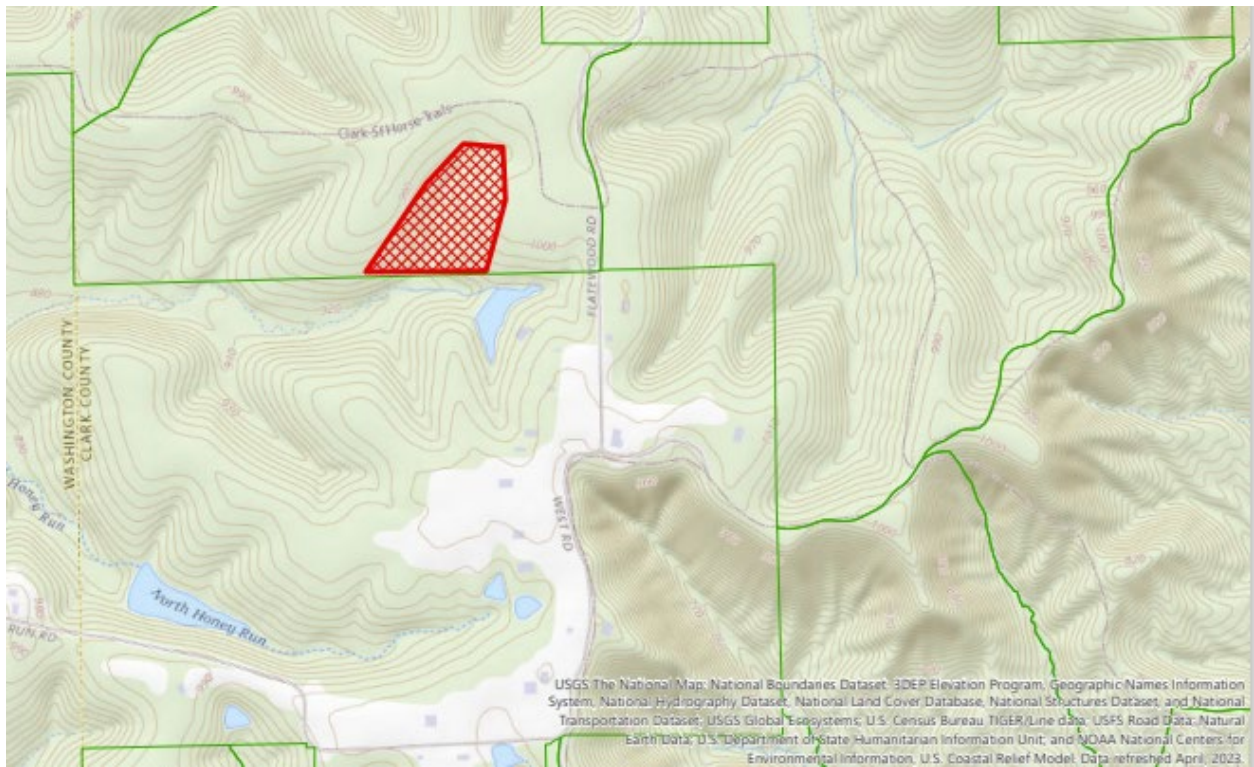
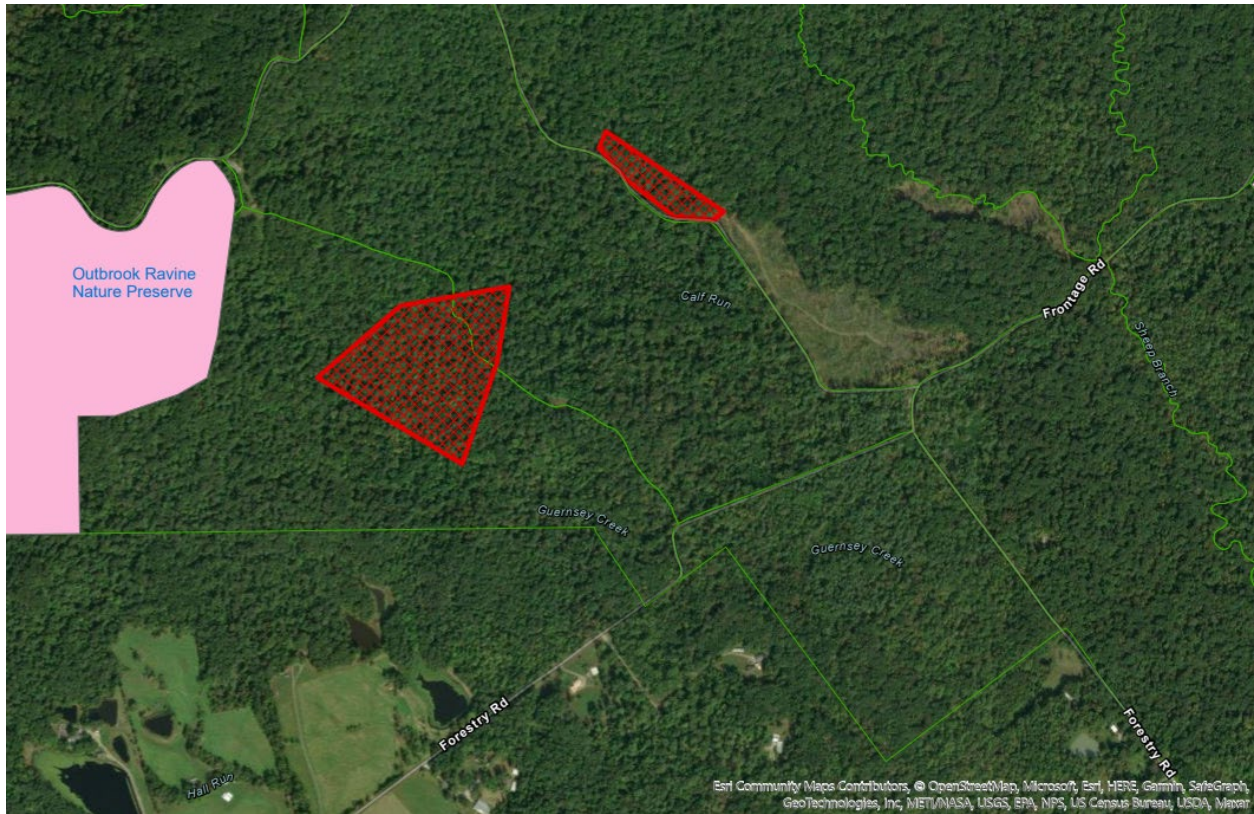
There are several proposals below to help protect and enhance the three populations not in the nature preserve.

- It is recommended that periodic work continues to release seedlings and saplings from shade tolerant competition and other competition as needed so they become mature individuals.
- It is recommended that a seed orchard with individuals from all three populations be established for the state tree nursery.
- It is recommended that a neighbor private holding adjacent to the Jackson-Washington SF population not located in a nature preserve be targeted for land acquisition when available as it contains a sizable magnolia population.

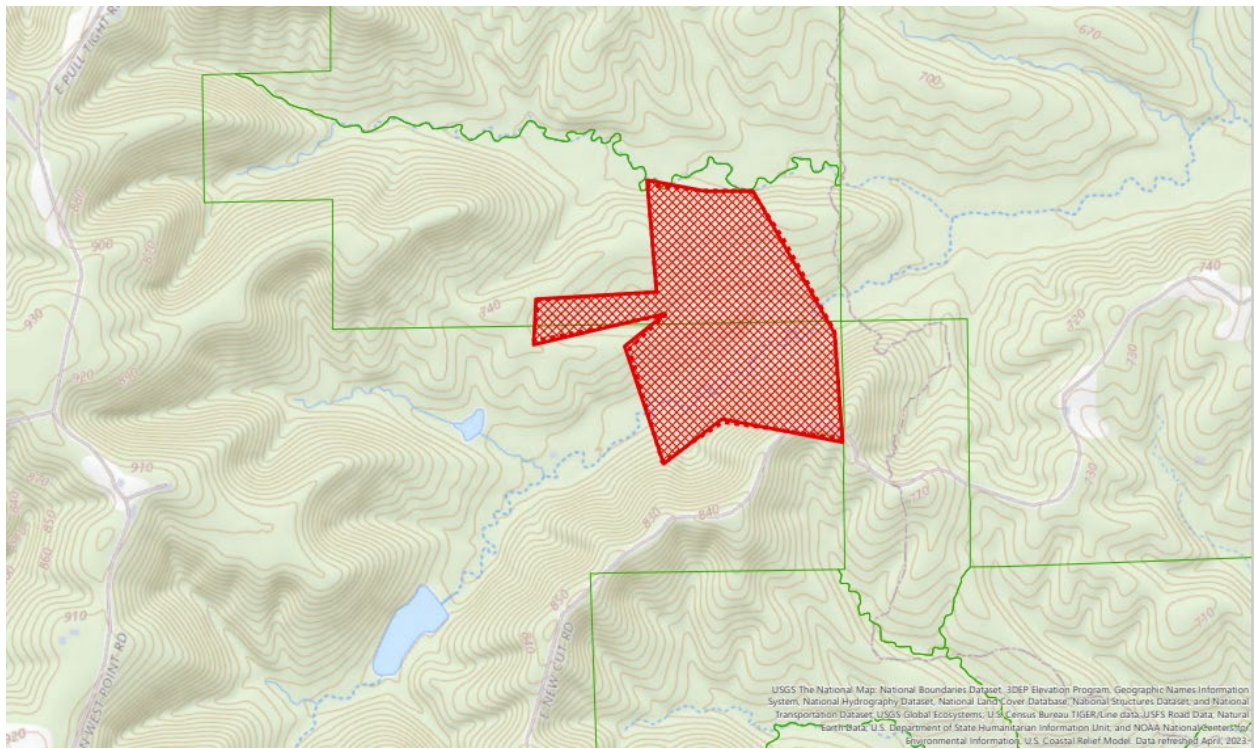
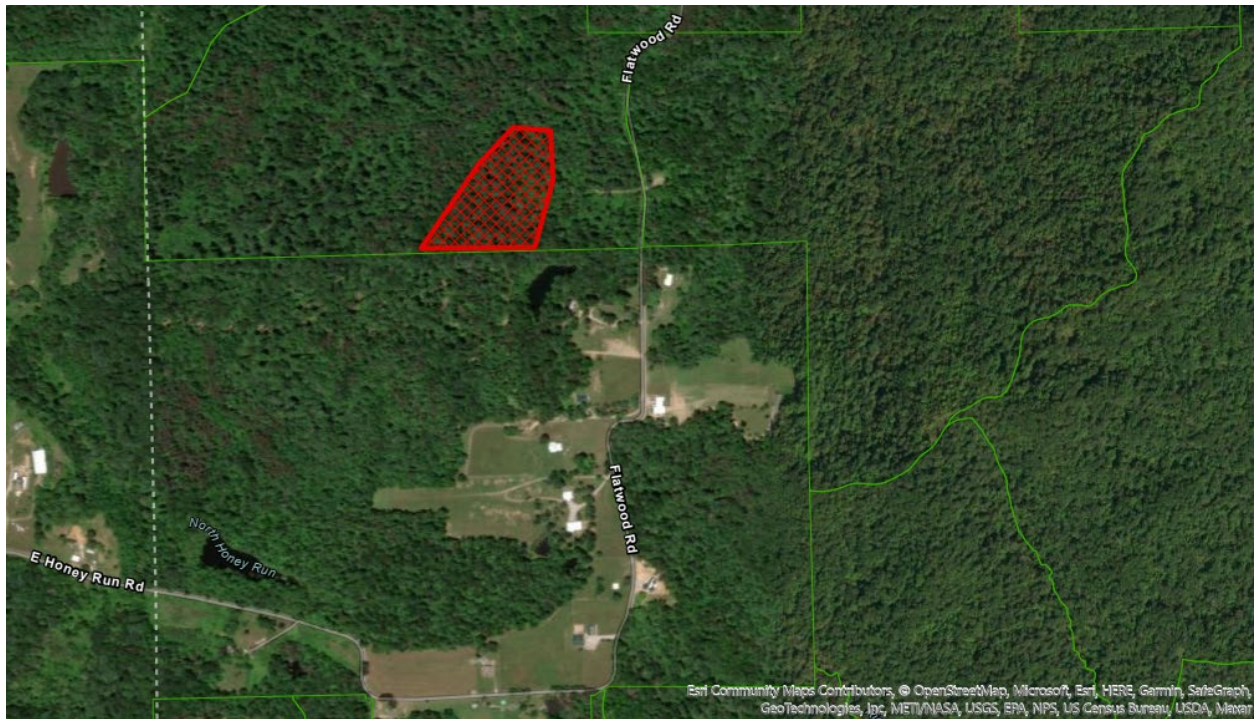
I have included maps of approximate locations of the three magnolia populations not in the nature preserve. One thing I have learned with the magnolia is that the more you look, the more you will find. Another thing is that if it is cut down, don't worry, it will resprout.



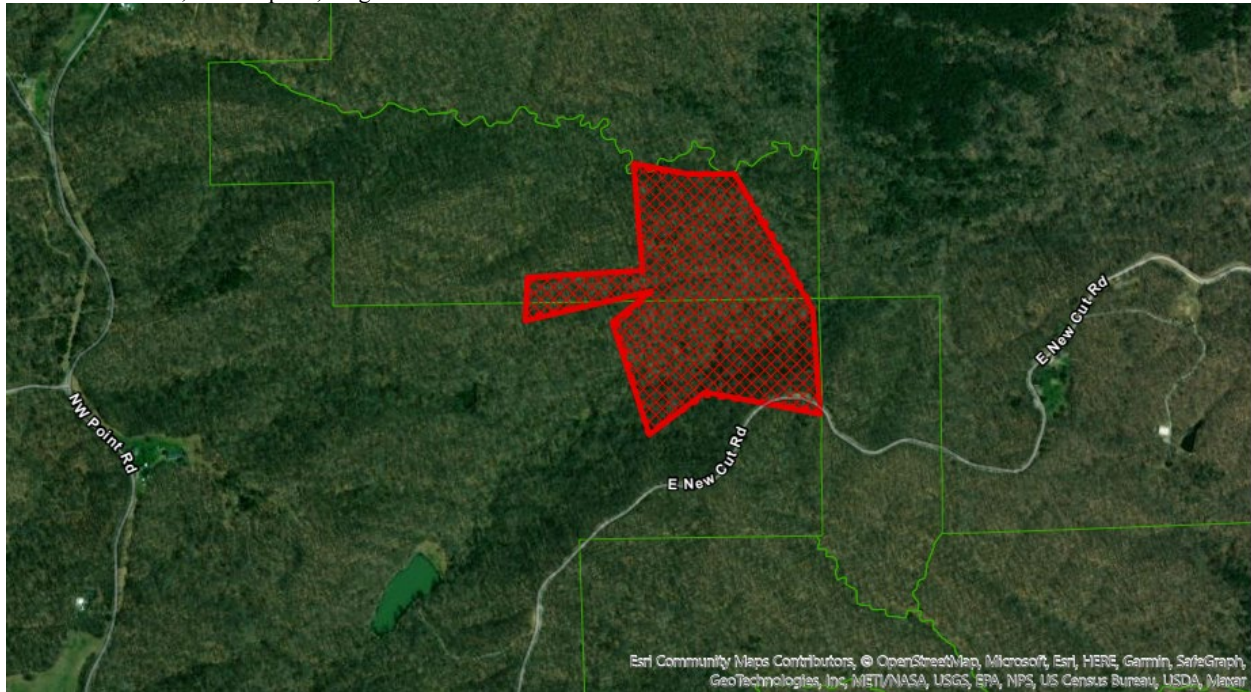
Figures 1 & 2. Proposed HCVF areas that contain known populations of Cucumber Magnolia in Clark State Forest off Forestry Road. These areas combined are approximately 21.5 acres in size. The smaller section to the North is approximately 3.5 acres and the larger one to the South is approximately 18.2 acres. These areas are in Clark County in Sections 1 & 2, township 2N and range 6E and in Sections 35&36, township 1N and range 6E.



Figures 3 & 4. Proposed HCVF area with known Cucumber Magnolia populations off Flatwood Road in Clark State Forest. This area is approximately 9 acres. This area is in Clark County, in section 9, township 1N, and range 6E.



Figures 5 & 6. Proposed HCVF area with known and historical Cucumber Magnolia populations on both public and private property. State forest tracts are outlined in green. Proposed area is approximately 29.5 acres. This area is in Washington County, in sections 17&20, township 3N, range 5E.





The three photos above were all taken of the Flatwood Rd population. There is a sizeable parent tree and a healthy population of young seedlings and saplings with a few midstory sized trees. Seedlings were marked with pink flagging in the bottom photo.