Resource Management Guides
Owen-Putnam State Forest
30-day Public Comment Period (September 22, 2026 – October 21, 2026)

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 160,778 acres of primarily forested land distributed across the state. These lands are managed under the principle that we're stewards of this land for the future. This work is guided through legislation and comprehensive scientific national and international forest certification standards which are independently audited to ensure long-term forest health, resiliency, and sustainability.

Resource management guides (RMGs) are developed to provide long-term, scientific forest management planning tailored to each forest compartment (300-1,000 acres in size) and tract (10 - 300 acres in size). There are 1,594 tracts across the state forest system statewide. Annually, 50-100 tracts are reviewed, and these guides are developed based on current assessments. Through science-based management practices, we prescribe management actions on selected tracts every 15-25 years, diversifying the forested landscape and sustaining ecosystems.

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

Compartment 6 Tract 2

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:

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

Note: Some graphics may distort due to compression.

Owen-Putnam State Forest
Resource Management Guide

Compartment:	6
Tract:	2
7-digit Tract Number:	6380602
Tract Acres:	114
Management Cycle End Year:	2045
Management Cycle Length:	20
Inventory Date:	April 22, 2025
Inventory Forester:	Taylor Ardisson
Property Manager Approved:	Phil Jones

Location:
This tract is located in Owen County, Indiana, specifically in Public Lands Survey System (PLSS) section 21, Township 11 North, Range 4 West in Morgan civil township. This tract lies on the north side of county road 580 North, approximately eight miles northwest of Spencer, Indiana.

General Description:
This multiple use tract consists of several different cover types: conifer, mixed hardwoods, mesic oak-hickory, a tree planting and 5 acres of non-forested. Topography is moderately steep in areas and flat to gentle slopes in other parts. Aspects include predominantly southern and eastern facing.

History

- On October 14, 1951, 135 acres were purchased from James A. & Gertrude V. Lenox for $1,975.00. Approximately 31 acres became compartment 9 tract 1.
- On February 23, 1953, 1,332 acres were purchased from John & Pauline Dowdall for $1.00. 43 acres became part of compartment 9 tract 1. At this point, half of compartment 9 tract 1 was grazed land or planted in pine.
- In 1988, compartment 9 tract 1 became present-day compartment 6 tract 2. A forest inventory was completed estimating 3,869 board feet (BDFT) per acre with a stocking level of 97%.
- On October 5, 1994, 40 acres were purchased from Charles W. Taylor, Sr. and Helen L. Taylor for $38,000.00. This entire purchase became part of compartment 6 tract 2.
- In 1999, ten acres of old field were planted in northern red oak and black cherry.
- In 2003, another three acres were planted in northern red oak, white oak, black cherry, and black walnut. Pruning was conducted in 2010.
- On November 16, 2005, a salvage timber sale was conducted in compartment 6 tracts 2, 6, & 7 following a windstorm. An estimated 94,600 BDFT in 561 trees and 192 culls were sold to R. Booe & Son Hardwoods, Inc. for $11,400.00. The top five species by volume were yellow poplar, red oak, sugar maple, sassafras, and shagbark hickory.
- In 2009, Forester Rob Duncan conducted a forest inventory and developed a resource management guide (RMG). Data estimated the tract to contain 7,815 BDFT per acre, with

3,418 BDFT harvestable, a basal area of 122 square feet per acre in trees over 6" dbh, and a stocking level of 99%. Basal area in trees greater than 12" dbh was 75 square feet per acre. The top five species by volume were yellow poplar, red oak, eastern white pine, white oak, and pignut hickory.

- On February 24, 2010, an estimated 83,318 BDFT in 499 trees, 10 poles, and 19 culls were sold to John M. Wooley Lumber Co., Inc. for $28,852.00.
- On May 19, 2010, the February 24, 2010, timber sale was rebid and sold to Timberland Resources, Inc. for $21,588.00. The top five species by volume were yellow poplar, largetooth aspen, sassafras, white ash, and bitternut hickory.

Landscape Context

This tract is located in a rural area characterized primarily by hardwood forest. Limited residential development and agricultural fields are present to the south, east, and west. No significant land-use changes are anticipated in the near future.

Topography, Geology, and Hydrology

The topography of this tract consists of a large ridge oriented in a north-south orientation with most of the tract on a southern aspect. East and west aspects are more prevalent than north. Elevation is 850'+ on the ridgetop. Slopes range from 0 to 60 percent, although the greatest slopes are confined to a small portion close to the northern boundary of the tract. The moderate slopes of 25-35% are confined to the eastern portion of the tract, within 300 feet of the tract's eastern boundary.

A wildlife pond is located in the northeast corner of the tract, adjacent to the Bridle Loop Horse Trail. Most of the tract drains east via small ephemeral streams into the East Fork of Fish Creek, which then drains into Fish Creek approximately two miles to the south. Part of the western boundary of the tract, approximately, .2 miles, is an intermittent stream before becoming the perennial, East Fork Fish Creek. The west side of the tract drains via ephemeral streams that eventually drain to the north to Jordan Creek.

The tract consists of 14 different soil series. Parent materials of these soils include fine-silty loess over loamy pedisediment over paleosol till, loess over loamy till, loamy alluvium, loamy colluvium and/or clayey residuum, Fine-silty loess over clayey residuum weathered from shale over loamy residuum weathered from sandstone and shale, and loess over loamy residuum over shale.

Soils

<u>CkkB2- Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded</u>

This gently sloping, deep, well drained soil is on side slopes in the uplands. It is well suited for trees. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

<u>HepG- Hickory-Adyeville complex, 35 to 60 percent slopes</u>

This very steep, deep, well-drained soil is on dissected till plains over interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. It is fairly well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

HeuF- Hickory-Wellston silt loams, 25 to 35 percent slopes
This moderately steep to steep, deep, well drained soil is on dissected till plains over interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. It well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

OfaAV- Oldenburg silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, very brief duration
This nearly level, deep, moderately well drained soil in on flood plains. It is well suited to trees. Equipment limitations and windthrow hazards are concerns that should be considered when planning management activities. Timing of activities should consider wet times of year. This soil has a site index of 90 for northern red oak and 94 for yellow poplar.

OfcAV- Oldenburg fine sandy loam, sandy substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, very brief duration
This nearly level, deep, moderately well drained soil is on flood plains. It is well suited to trees.

SneC2- Solsberry silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
This moderately sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on the side slopes of the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Windthrow hazards are a concern that should be considered during management planning. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

SneC3- Solsberry silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded
This moderately sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on the side slopes of the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Windthrow hazards are a concern that should be considered during management planning. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

SneD3- Solsberry silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded
This strongly sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on the side slopes of the uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

SneD5- Solsberry silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes, gullied
This strongly sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on the side slopes of the uplands. . It is well suited to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and windthrow hazards are management concerns that should be considered during planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

TtcE- Tulip-Wellston-Adyeville silt loams, 18 to 25 percent slopes
This strongly sloping to steep, deep, well drained complex is found on sideslopes in the uplands. It is suited to trees.Tulip has a site index of 80 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar, Wellston has a site index of 81 for northern red oak and 90 for yellow poplar, and Adyeville has a site index of 64 for northern red oak.

ZamB2- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded
This gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained or well drained soil is on uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

ZamC2- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded
This moderately sloping, deep, moderately well drained or well drained soil is on side slopes adjacent to drainage ways in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

ZamD5- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum, 12 to 18 percent slopes, gullied
This strongly sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on narrow side slopes in the uplands. It is fairly well suited to trees. A fragipan is present that can limit rooting depth. It has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

ZapD3- Zanesville, soft bedrock substratum-Tulip silt loams, 12 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded
This strongly sloping, deep, moderately well drained soil is on narrow side slopes in the uplands. It is fairly well suited to trees. A fragipan is present that can limit rooting depth. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main concerns that should be considered when planning management activities. This soil has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

Access
This tract is accessible via two fire lanes from County Road 580 North. The easternmost gated fire lane originates from the Mountain Bike Trailhead and travels northeast into 6380601. This fire lane also serves as part of the Bridle Hores Trail or Bridle Loop (Blue), which is also open to mountain biking. The western gated section runs parallel to the property line for approximately a quarter mile, ending at the power line right-of-way. Road maintenance may be required during management activities. Within the tract, access is adequate through previously used skid trails.

Boundary
The northern boundary begins a quarter mile east of section twenty-one's northeast corner. The boundary runs east for a quarter mile up a drainage to the property line. The property lines serve as the tract boundary for approximately 500 feet south. The tract boundary then continues to the south interior of Owen-Putnam State Forest for approximately 1,500 feet down a drainage until eventually the intermittent stream serves as the tract boundary south to the property line. The intermittent stream eventually becomes a perennial, the East Fork Fish Creek. Hale Hill Road serves as the southern boundary of the tract for approximately 0.43 miles to the west until the property line. The entire western boundary of the tract is the state forest property line for 0.63 miles.

The state forest property line was identified using field evidence such as corner stones, rebar, or historic fences and GPS handheld units when no field evidence was identified. Property lines are typically painted when good evidence is present or flagged when evidence is lacking.

Ecological Considerations
A diverse assortment of wildlife resources can be found in this tract that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. These include oak-hickory and mixed hardwood cover types, variety of forest structure, an open area created by the power line right-of-way, and both intermittent and perennial streams.

Hard mast trees such as oaks, hickories, and American beech provide a food source to both game and non-game wildlife species.

Forest wildlife depends on live trees for shelter, escape cover, roosting, and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate) food resource. The retention of live trees within various diameter classes is of particular concern to habitat specialists.

The Division of Forestry has developed compartment level guidelines for important wildlife structural habitat features such as snags and legacy trees. Snags are standing dead or nearly dead trees. Snags provide value to a stand in the form of habitat features for foraging activity, den sites, decomposers, bird perching, and bat roosting. Snags eventually contribute to the future pool of downed woody material, which provides habitat for many ground-dwelling species and contributes to healthy soils. Legacy trees are live trees of a certain species and diameter class, that have potential future value to various wildlife species, if retained in the stand.

In the compartment that includes this tract, inventory data indicate snag densities meet Division of Forestry (DoF) targets in all size classes having a suitable sample for estimation. The sample at the compartment-level was insufficient for density estimation in the largest size-class (>=19" dbh); although, the tract-level density reported from the inventory meets the maintenance target for this size-class. Legacy tree densities exceed DoF compartment-level targets; although, retaining large diameter oaks, hickories, and maples will help ensure these densities remain above target densities following timber harvest.

The plant communities observed throughout the tract were typical of this part of Owen County. Understory diversity consists of many shrubs and small trees such as American beech, American hornbeam, flowering dogwood, greenbrier, iron wood, spice bush and more. Exotic/invasive species that were observed were Japanese stiltgrass, multiflora rose and autumn olive, some of which was more prevalent along the trail than others. These species all commonly occur throughout the county. Control measures can be taken during pre or post-harvest timber stand improvement (TSI) focusing on heavy infestations first.

A formal Ecological Review process, which includes a search of Indiana's Natural Heritage Database, is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species were found to be associated with this area, the activities prescribed in this guide will be conducted in a manner that will not threaten population viability of those species or communities.

Recreation

Recreational use of this tract is moderate. The Bridle Loop, also serving as a mountain bike trail, runs through this tract for approximately 1.25 miles. Beginning at the Mountain Bike trailhead, the trail runs north a short distance before it splits to the east and west. The western fork continues through the tract while the eastern fork exits into 6380601 before eventually reentering the tract a half mile later. There is a connecting portion of this trail near the northern boundary of the tract through the tree planting.

Other activities may include hunting, foraging or wildlife viewing.

During any management activity, specifically a timber harvest, access to this tract will be restricted due to safety concerns. The western portion and connecting portion of the trail will be closed during any management activities. The eastern portion of the trail may remain open depending on logistics and current activity of such management activities. Following the management activity, the tract will be reopened to public use.

Cultural

Cultural resources may be present, but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources will be avoided during any activities.

Tract Subdivision Description and Silvicultural Prescription

A current forest resource inventory was completed in April 2025 by Forester and Property Manager Taylor Ardisson. A summary of the estimated tract inventory results are located in the table below. The data below only resembles 87 acres of the 114 tract total and includes the stand types: conifer, mixed hardwoods and mesic oak-hickory.

Tract Summary Data (trees >11"DBH):

Category	Estimate
Tract Acres (Forested)	87
Gingrich Stocking Percent (%)	70
Trees Per Acre	54
Basal Area Per Acre (SQFT)	92
Volume Per Acre (BDFT)	11,614 BDFT

Tract Summary Data (trees >11"DBH):

Species	# Sawtimber Trees	Total Bd. Ft
Yellow Poplar	681	243,780
Eastern White Pine	633	166,420
Pignut Hickory	589	130,200
Northern Red Oak	212	91,420
Shagbark Hickory	326	66,880
Sugar Maple	583	53,300
Virginia Pine	560	48,330
Red Maple	228	29,980
White Oak	184	28,650
Black Cherry	108	22,330
American Beech	176	20,750
Sassafras	106	14,090
Black Gum	48	7,640
Black Oak	7	2,980
Black Oak	22	1,810
TRACT TOTALS	5,855	928,560

Mixed Hardwoods (38 Acres)
This cover type represents approximately 33% of the tract acreage in four stands and characterized by the diverse species composition. For trees over 11 inches DBH, the stand is 50% stocked, with 44 trees per acre and a basal area of 65. For trees 6 inches DBH and larger, the stand is 67% stocked, with 85 trees per acre and a basal area of 82. The sawtimber component is primarily yellow poplar (50%), followed by white oak (12%), northern red oak (10%), shagbark hickory (8%) and black cherry (5%).
This stand type currently has 7,761 BDFT per acre.

Within this cover type there are areas of closed canopy with little sunlight reaching the forest floor. This type of condition doesn't promote crown growth, limits the amount of regeneration in the understory and affects the health of the trees. There are also trees with crown damage or dieback, decay, poor form, poor health or over-maturity.

The recommended management activity is to conduct an improvement harvest utilizing single-tree and group selection. Patch-cut openings should be utilized where conditions warrant larger groups of trees to be removed. Where possible, trees selected for harvest should favor releasing oak and hickory species.

Mesic Oak-Hickory (19 Acres)
This cover type is characterized by the species composition heavy in oak and hickory. This cover type encompasses approximately 17% of the tract and is found in two stands. For trees over 11 inches DBH, the stand is 90% stocked, with 61 trees per acre and a basal area of 120. For trees 6 inches DBH and larger, the stand is 110% stocked, with 105 trees per acre and a basal area of 143. The sawtimber component is primarily pignut hickory (41%), followed by northern red oak (15%), shagbark hickory (15%), sugar maple (6%), and American beech (6%).

This cover type consists of many areas of little sunlight reaching the floor. This is observed especially in the northern stand. This type of condition doesn't promote crown growth, limits the amount of regeneration in the understory and affects the health of the trees. There are also trees with crown damage or dieback, decay, poor form, poor health or over-maturity.

The recommended management activity is to conduct an improvement harvest utilizing single-tree and group selection silviculture. Patch-cut openings should be utilized where larger groups of trees need to be removed. Removal of shade tolerant species should be priority within this stand type to further enhance a favorable condition for oak and hickory regeneration.

Conifer (30 Acres)
This cover type is characterized by pine encompassing approximately 26% of the tract acres in one stand This cover type is found on the southern aspect south of the powerline. Pine was planted in the early 1900's to help with eroding soils following heavy agricultural use whether it was farmed or grazed. Since then, the pine has successfully controlled the erosion, and native hardwoods have begun to regenerate. The pine is stagnant in growth, overmature and declining in health. Mortality was observed within the cover type.

For trees over 11 inches DBH, the stand is 70% stocked, with 58 trees per acre and a basal area of 90. There is approximately 11,750 BDFT per acre in this cover type. The top five sawtimber species are Eastern white pine (47%), followed by yellow poplar (25%), Virginia pine (11%), northern red oak (6%) and white oak (3%). The yellow poplar is predominantly overmature, likely seeded in around the time the pine was planted. The other hardwood species were typically found around the edges of the cover type.

The recommended management activity is to conduct an improvement harvest utilizing single-tree and group selection. Patch-cut openings could be used in areas where larger groups of pine removal are necessary. Removal of most if not all pine is recommended as it is non-native.

Tree Planting (22 acres)
This cover type is found in the northern part of the tract, just north of the power line right-of-way, on a broad ridge top. There are multiple tree plantings within this cover type. One planting established in 1999 consists of 10 acres of red oak and black cherry. An additional 3-acre planting was completed in 2003 with white oak, red oak, black cherry, and black walnut. Additional areas within the cover type appear to include pine plantings as well.

The original boundaries of the planted areas are difficult to distinguish due to Virginia pine regeneration across the 22-acre tract. Approximately 5 acres consist of dense, stagnated pine stands. Within the broader area, 4–10 acres would benefit from timber stand improvement (TSI) to support the established hardwood plantings. TSI efforts should prioritize locations where hardwoods are performing well, have higher stocking, and would gain the most benefit. Work in these areas should focus on removing pine, poplar, and other shade-intolerant species competing with oak, hickory, cherry, and black walnut. TSI may also include pruning to promote desirable future form.
The remaining acreage could be either replanted with native hardwoods or managed through TSI focused on controlling invasive species and problematic vines.

Non-Forested (5 Acres)
This is a powerline right-of-way, managed by the utility owner.

Summary Tract Silvicultural Prescription and Proposed Activities
The average BDFT per acre for the three forested cover types (mixed hardwoods, mesic oak-hickory and conifer) is 11,614 BDFT. The average number of trees per acre is 54 with an average basal area of 92. The average stocking is 70%. Overall, the tract has a diverse species composition in a wide range of conditions relating to stocking, health, age, etc.

The proposed management activity is to conduct an improvement harvest to promote the overall health, vigor, resiliency, and quality of the tract. This improvement harvest will utilize single-tree and group selection silviculture. Patch cut openings should be utilized where larger groups of trees require removal. . Aesthetics along the trail and diversity should be considered. The purpose of single-tree selection is to remove trees with poor form, poor health, drought stressed, or wind damaged trees to promote a healthier growing forest. It will also target mature and over mature trees where present, and other intermediate trees needed to release residual desired trees. Young, vigorous ash will be retained for possible resistant features. Group selection or patch-

cuts may be used to target groups of trees that fit the above description growing together. When possible, selection for harvest should favor releasing trees of the oak and hickory family.

TSI should follow the timber harvest to release desired tree species that were not adequately released during the harvest, complete regeneration openings, deaden cull trees, removal of poor form or poor quality sub merchantable or pole trees or removal of problematic vines. Additionally, TSI may be utilized to control targeted invasive species in the tract, deaden a small percentage of low value trees to create snags for wildlife, or reduce the shade tolerant understory. TSI may be done prior to the harvest if found necessary by the property forester.

The harvest volume of pine is projected to be 150,000 to 225,000 BDFT and includes predominantly eastern white pine and Virginia pine. The harvest volume of hardwoods within the tract is projected to be between 175,000 and 225,000 BDFT. Some of the top hardwood species recommended for removal within the tract are yellow poplar, pignut hickory, sugar maple, northern red oak and sassafras.

The desired future condition of the tract is to provide for multiple economic and ecological services specifically a quality hardwood timber stand, dominated by mid and late seral species, while providing diverse habitat structure, hard mast and mid to late seral habitat for wildlife.

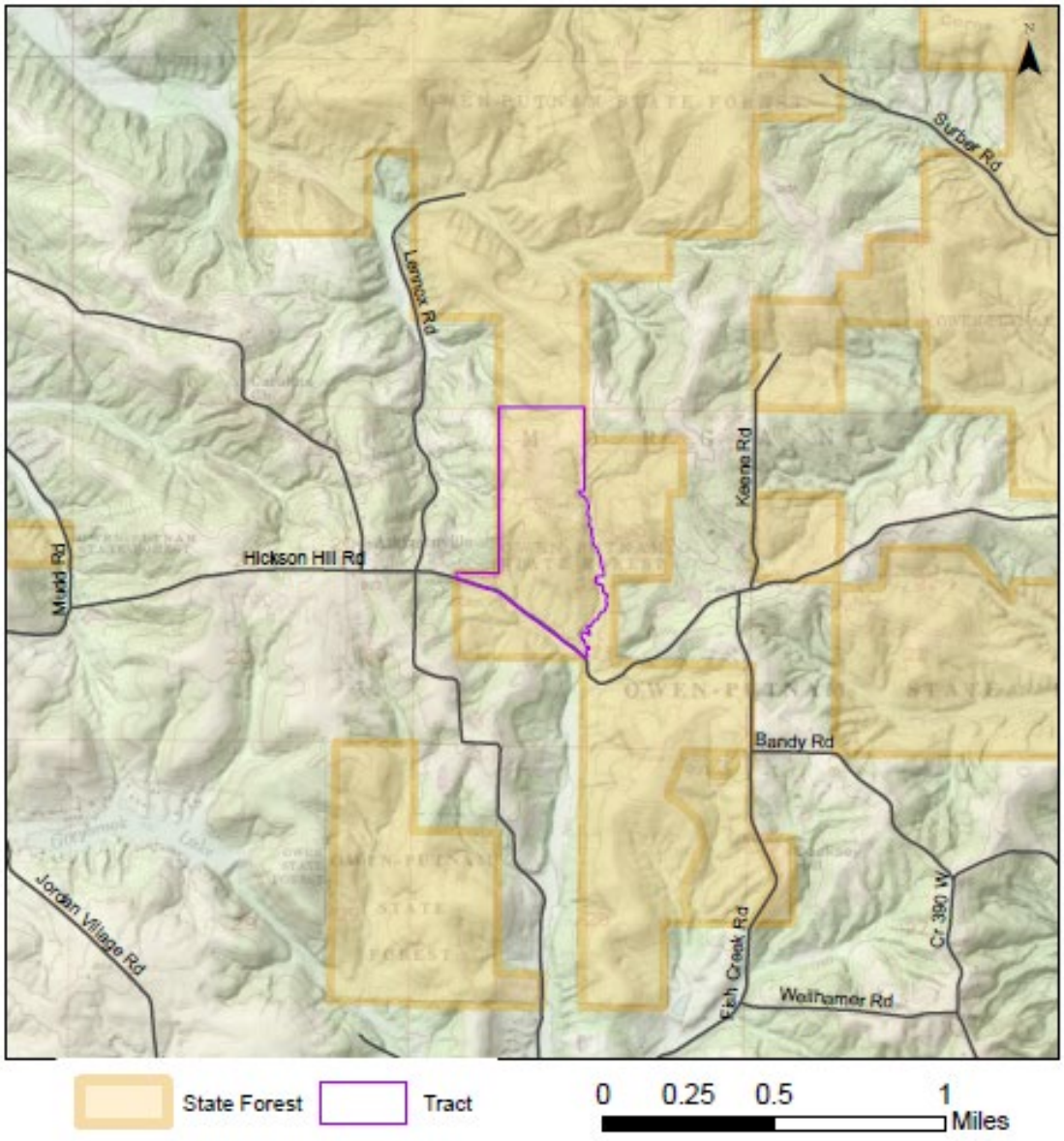
A prescribed fire regime would be beneficial primarily in the oak and hickory cover type due to the nature of the species composition. If post-harvest the mixed hardwoods species composition is heavier in the oak and hickory component, these areas should be considered for a prescribe fire regime as well. Prescribed fire will help prepare the forest floor for regeneration of oak and hickory and reduce the shade tolerant saplings and invasive species and promote more forest floor diversity amongst the flora. A prescribe fire may utilize trails, fire lanes, public roads or waterways as fire breaks which may include adding approximately 10 acres in tract 6380601.

During and after completion of the proposed management activity best management practices (BMP's) will be implemented to minimize soil erosion. This tract should receive another inventory and management guide 15-20 years following the completion of the timber harvest.

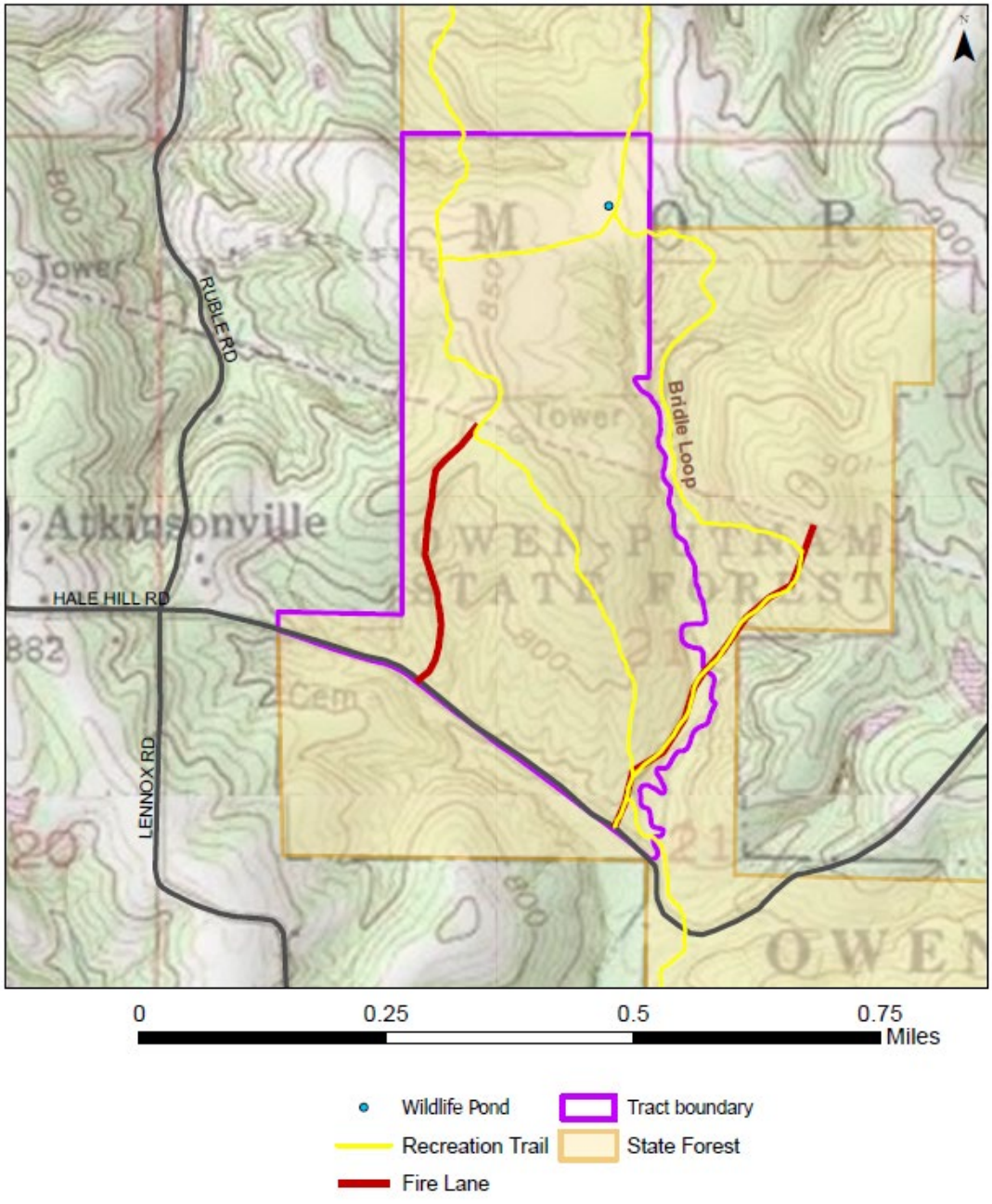
Proposed Activities Listing

Proposed Management Activity	*Proposed Date*
Pre-harvest invasive species work	Ongoing
Pre-harvest timber stand improvement	1-2 years preharvest.
Timber Harvest	2030-2033
Prescribed Fire Regime	Every 1-3 Years
Post-harvest invasive species work	Post Harvest+
Post-harvest Timber Stand Improvement	1-4 years post-harvest
Post-harvest regeneration review	Three years after harvest
Next forest inventory	2045

Owen-Putnam State Forest
Location Map
Compartment 6 Tract 2



Owen-Putnam State Forest
Compartment 6 Tract 2
Tract Map



Owen-Putnam State Forest
Compartment 6 Tract 2
Cover Types Map