

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry  
Draft Resource Management Guides  
Owen Putnam State Forest  
Document Number: OPSF 2019-1**

The Indiana State Forest system consists of approximately 158,000 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.

For management and planning purposes each State Forest is divided into a system of compartments and tracts. In general terms compartments are 500-1,000 acres in size and their subunits (tracts) are 20-200 acres in size. Resource Management Guides (RMGs) are then developed for each tract to guide their management through a 15-25 year management period. There are approximately 1,700 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 for the following Compartments and Tracts contained in this document are part of tracts under review this year for **Owen-Putnam State Forest**.

State Forest	Compartment	Tract
Owen-Putnam	1	1
Owen-Putnam	6	9
Owen-Putnam	6	11
Owen-Putnam	7	6
Owen-Putnam	9	1

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Note: Some graphics may distort due to compression.

**State Forest:** Owen-Putnam  
**Forester:** R. Duncan  
**Management Cycle End Year:** 2033

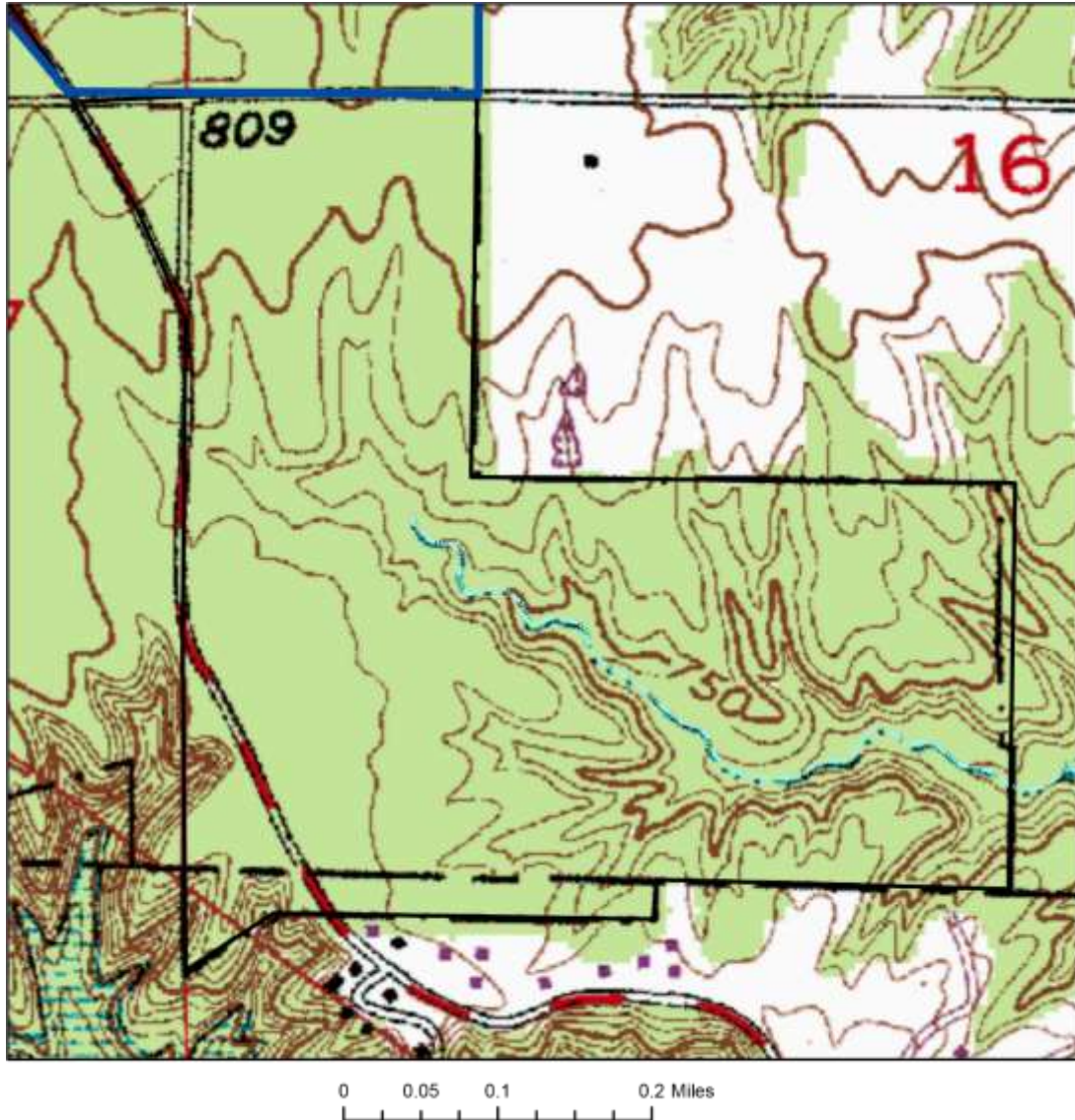
**Compartment: 1** **Tract: 1**  
**Date:** October 2018  
**Management Cycle Length:** 15 Years

## Location

Compartment 1, tract 1 is located primarily in the south-west quarter of section 16, township 12N, range 4W, Cloverdale Township, Putnam County. A small portion in the south west corner of the tract is located in Owen County. The tract is near the small town of Cunot Indiana and the Lieber State Recreation Area (IDNR) and Cagles Mill Lake (Army Corp of Engineers). The tract is separated from Lieber SRA by State Rd. 243 to the west, with private property to the east and south and state forest property to the north.



March 2005 Aerial showing Pine stands (boundary approximated)



### General Description

This tract is a 118-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 560 acres comprising compartment 1 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Timber types include closed canopy oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods and pine. This tract was once part of a farm with nearly level terrain to the west with gentle slopes moving east and southeast. The northern and central sections of the tract were planted to eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) approximately 60 years ago to control erosion caused most likely from poor farming practices before state ownership. The pine areas show some decline due to windthrow and overcrowding. The over-story consists of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, maple, oak, hickory and ash. The quality of merchantable timber is good. However, there is some decline in the poplar due to drought and insect stress. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, hickory and poplar. This area exhibits

good opportunities for multiple use management, including timber management, wildlife management, soil and water conservation and public recreational activities, such as, hunting, hiking, gathering, viewing and interpretation.

## **History**

Owen-Putnam State Forest was established in 1948 with most of its landholdings purchased as smaller non-contiguous tracts in the 50's and 60's. Prior to state ownership, many of the ridge tops in the area were farmed through the 1930's. Sometime in the 1960's many of the severely eroded ridge tops were planted to pine to stabilize the soil. Compartment 1 tract 1 has been managed for many years.

- Timber harvest in 1975
- Property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) in 1988
- Timber inventory in 2003
- Timber harvest in 2006
- Timber inventory in 2018

## **Landscape Context**

Compartment 1 tract 1 is located in a rural area. Generally the area is forested hills and ravines with more open flat farmland to the east. The private property adjacent to this compartment and tract are primarily closed canopy, deciduous, mixed hardwood forests with no industry, some agriculture, some scattered rural and more concentrated residential housing, small fields/pastures and small ponds located primarily along county roads beyond the state forest.

## **Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

This part of Owen-Putnam State Forest falls in the Shawnee Hills Natural Region, Escarpment Section. This section includes the rugged hills situated along the eastern border of the region. It is a blend of the Crawford Upland Section and the Mitchel Karst Plain Section of the Highland Rim. Sandstone and sandstone derived soils (Wellston-Zanesville) cap most of the hills, and the lower elevations present limestone and limestone-derived soils. The upper slopes consist of an oak-hickory assortment, with a more mesic component in the coves resembling the mixed mesophytic forest community.

The topography of the area varies from nearly level ground on the ridge top along the west side of the tract to moderately steep east and south facing slopes. Water sheds into a mapped intermittent stream flowing northwest to southeast in the east half of the tract. The main soils of this tract belong to the Hickory, Cincinnati and Ava series and are generally silty soils on glacial outwash. These soils are generally deep-well-drained medium textured with moderate permeability. These soils occur throughout the Illinoian glaciated areas of the county. In the event of a harvest, the existing haul road and log yards can be utilized. Care must be taken during the planning and execution of skid trails due to the erosive nature of some soils. Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to preserve soil and water quality.

## Soils

The tract is composed primarily of the Hickory loam and the Cincinnati and Ava silt loams. The Hickory series consists of deep, well drained, steep soils that lack a fragipan and have a high potential for erosion. The Ava series consists of deep, moderately well drained soils on loess-covered uplands. These soils have a fragipan that is very slowly permeable. They formed in loess, glacial drift, and residuum of limestone and sandstone bedrock. The Cincinnati series consists of deep, well drained soils on loess-covered uplands. These soils have a fragipan. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan and moderately slow or slow in and below the fragipan. These soils formed in loess, glacial drift, and residuum of limestone and sandstone.

Specifically, this tract is composed of the following soils: (USDA, NRCS – Soil Survey, Putnam County, IN 2005).

**HoG- Hickory loam**, 25 to 70 percent slopes, this steep to very steep, deep, moderately well drained and well-drained soil on side slopes in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are management concerns that should be considered during sale planning, layout, and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

**CnC2- Cincinnati silt loam** (Putnam Co.), 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded, this moderately sloping, deep, well-drained soil is on ridgetops and side slopes in the uplands. It is fairly well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

**CkkC2- Cincinnati silt loam** (Owen Co.), 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded, this moderately sloping, deep, well-drained soil is on ridgetops and side slopes in the uplands. It is fairly well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 80 for northern red oak.

**AvB- Ava silt loam**, 1 to 6 percent slopes, this gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained is on knolls and narrow ridgetops and on sideslopes along drainage ways in the uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 75 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**AwB2- Ava silt loam**, 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded, this gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained is on knolls and narrow ridgetops and on sideslopes along drainage ways in the uplands. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 75 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**AwC2- Ava silt loam**, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded, this moderately sloping, deep, moderately well drained is on knolls and narrow ridgetops and on sideslopes along drainage ways in the uplands. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 75 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**IvA- Iva silt loam**, 0 to 2 percent slopes, this nearly level and gently sloping, deep, somewhat poorly drained soil is on broad, convex ridgetops of the loess covered uplands. It is well suited to trees. Water tolerant species are favored in timber stands. This soil has a site index of 75 for white oak and 85 for yellow poplar.

**Ch- Chagrin silt loam**, this is a nearly level, deep, and well-drained soil on bottomlands and frequently flooded. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 86 for northern red oak and 96 for yellow poplar.

### **Access**

To access the tract from Spencer Indiana, travel north on U.S. 231 to S.R. 42, travel west on S.R. 42 to S.R. 243, travel north on S.R. 243 to Co. Rd. 1250S, travel Co. Rd. 1250S east to the parking lot on the south side of the road The tract is accessible to the public via the parking lot on Co. Rd. 1250S. Management access as well as public recreational access to this tract is good.

### **Boundary**

This tract is a 118-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 560 acres contained in compartment 1 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Private property borders this tract along the east and south sides with approximate boundary lines having been located and marked with orange paint and flagging. The boundary lines have been marked in the past. The remainder of the tract boundaries border Owen-Putnam State Forest and Lieber SRA.

### **Wildlife**

With the presence of the upland and lowland forest area, which includes oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods, pine, and pockets of herbaceous plants, and an intermittent stream and ephemeral drainages, this tract contains habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Common species or sign observed include eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), North American raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers, toads, frogs and various small stream aquatic life.

Live trees in this tract provide for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate, bugging) food resource, with the oaks, hickories, walnuts and beech providing hard mast for deer, turkey and squirrel and the cherries providing soft mast for birds. The pine stands provide benefits such as cover, roosts and browse.

Live trees containing cavities provide nesting and denning opportunities for woodpeckers, songbirds and small mammals and potentially contribute to future snags (standing dead trees).

Snags provide essential habitat characteristics for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting, and are important contributors to the future pool of downed woody material.

Rotten logs, crater knolls, streams and drainages provide habitat for herptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species 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.

The proposed management activities for this tract should not significantly alter the relative proportion and availability of habitat/cover types or significantly disrupt travel/dispersal corridors or create isolated habitat units separated from larger units of similar habitat. Nor should the proposed management activities increase the likelihood that specialist interior forest species would be affected by generalist species using forest edge habitats. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to conserve soil and water resources and related forest wildlife habitats, such as springs/seeps, ponds/wetlands and karst features.

### **Wildlife Habitat Features**

According to the data collected during the tract inventory (R. Duncan 2018) and represented in the following table, this tract is well represented with habitat in regards to the density, size and species of live and dead trees essential for consideration of various wildlife habitat needs including habitat specialists such as cavity nesters and species of conservation need like the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and their suggested habitat requirements.

Legacy trees, as defined by the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features are well represented above the suggested maintenance levels. White oak and shagbark hickory are two species having preferred characteristics for tree roosting bats. Both are relatively abundant in this tract and will be given consideration as habitat. Also, as the tract continues to mature, the number of legacy trees  $\geq 20$ " D.B.H. is expected to rise.

Standing dead or dying trees (snags) are well represented in this tract. Snags  $\geq 5$ " D.B.H. and  $\geq 9$ " D.B.H. in this tract are above the maintenance levels for both classes. However, snags in the  $\geq 19$ " D.B.H. class are below the maintenance level. The lack of large diameter snags is often attributable to the overall good health of the forest and the short retention of large standing dead trees. Snags can have short standing times and often become wind thrown.

Legacy trees, snags and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana bat and other wildlife as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property and the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features. In addition, the girdling of select cull trees can be performed through post harvest timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) to address large diameter snag limitations. It should be noted these are compartment level guidelines and the target snag levels may well be present on the landscape.

## Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary

	Maintenance Level	Inventory	Available Above Maintenance
<b>Legacy Trees *</b>			
11"+ DBH	1062	2184	1122
20"+ DBH	354	465	111
<b>Snags (all species)</b>			
5"+ DBH	472	657	185
9"+ DBH	354	537	183
19"+ DBH	59	29	-30

\* **Species Include:** AME, BIH, BLL, COT, GRA, REO, POO, REE, SHH, ZSH, SIM, SUM, WHA, WHO

### Communities

Most of this tract is of the dry-mesic upland forest community type, with some isolated more mesic sites located along lower slopes, and some floodplain along drainages. The dry-mesic upland forest community has moderate soil moisture with trees growing well, however the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests. It is one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. It occurs on slopes throughout the state. The dominant plants in this community are the white oak (*Quercus alba*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Characteristic plants in this community are the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Characteristic animals in this community are the broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*).

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 communities.

Exotic/invasive species multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) are present in and around this tract in patches of light to moderate densities. These species are commonly occurring throughout the county. Control measures can be undertaken during post-harvest timber stand improvement, to treat problem occurrences before their populations expand.

### Recreation

While there are no recreation trails on this multiple use tract, it has good public access via the parking lot and access trail located on Co. Rd. 1250S. Hunting and gathering are considered the primary recreational uses of this tract.



## **Cultural**

This tract is reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory and planning process. Cultural resources may be present but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources noted will be avoided during management or construction activities.

## **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription**

In 1975 the tract was harvested (Kenneth Welty) of ~93,530 Bd. Ft. in 478 trees on 85 acres (1100 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 1988 a property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) was conducted, including Compartment 1 tract 1. The data estimated the tract to be 79% stocked with 89 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 189 trees per acre, with approximately 3572 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2003 a routine timber inventory was conducted (B. Gallogly). The data estimated the tract to contain 93 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 125 trees per acre with approximately 6049 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2006 the tract was harvested (John M. Wooley Lumber Co.) of ~181,200 Bd. Ft. in 683 trees on 100 acres (1812 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 2018 a routine timber inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 92% stocked with 110 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 155 trees per acre containing approximately 6944 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an average tree diameter of 11.5 inches.

Timber in compartment 1 tract 1 is predominantly closed canopy mixed hardwoods, with some pockets of oak-hickory, and small pine stands. The over-story consists mostly of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, oak, hickory, beech, maple and ash; with eastern white pine, red pine, Virginia pine and jack pine comprising approximately 34 acres spread throughout the north and central areas of the tract. The quality of merchantable timber is good with the ridge tops and upper slopes containing more of the mixed hardwoods, and the mid to lower slopes containing more of the oak-hickory. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, sassafras and poplar; with white pine and jack pine representing some of the pole sized understory in the pine stand. Advanced regeneration is represented mostly by beech, maple, sassafras and poplar.

The current inventory and stocking level indicates the tract is fully stocked. Some areas of the tract are sufficiently mature and crowded that resource competition is taking place and thinning may be beneficial. Often, there is little groundcover or early successional regeneration in these areas due to low light levels and browse. In the remaining areas, the tract is still maturing but could benefit from the selective removal of less desirable species and low quality individuals in an effort to improve the overall tract quality and composition.

The recommendation is to perform an intermediate harvest in the form of a thinning and improvement cut, utilizing the single tree and group selection methods within the un-even aged management system.

A thinning should be done to reduce competition and mortality amongst the overcrowded timber. An improvement cut should be incorporated to improve the overall species composition and quality of the tract by select harvesting the low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as thinning of less desirable species, especially the declining yellow-poplar that are competing with the oak and other quality trees such as the hickory and cherry. In addition, ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be selected for harvest to utilize their product before they become populated with the insect and decline. However, live, healthy Ash which survive or escape the EAB killing wave will be retained and their growth encouraged through applied management. The two-fold objective is to recruit ash regeneration before EAB induce mortality and then promote the development of EAB survivors.

In some areas, a shelterwood-type situation may be created as trees are removed from the intermediate and understory layers while larger dominant and co-dominant trees (especially where oak is a strong component) are left standing. This will allow more diffuse sunlight to reach the ground and improve the establishment and survival of seedlings.

Hardwood group selection openings over less than 10% of the tract may also be created to remove groups of undesirable species or poor quality individuals and to promote regeneration and early successional habitat.

In combination, these silvicultural methods will reduce stand density; improve overall growing conditions and timber quality, while encouraging tree species diversity and regeneration of native mixed hardwood species.

The long term objective with the pine stands is a transitioning over the next 2 cycles away from these non-native species and towards a native hardwood mix. This would utilize a combination of group and single tree selection systems as described above.

Management in the form of timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) is prescribed to release preferred, high quality crop trees through the culling of low volume, poorly formed trees and less desirable species, and to encourage regeneration through the creation of canopy gaps and a reduction in understory shade tolerant species. T.S.I. would also look at problem occurrences of multi-flora rose and autumn olive.

Standing dead trees (snags) and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for wildlife. Legacy trees, as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property, will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana Bat. In addition, the girdling of select, larger diameter cull trees could be performed through T.S.I. to address the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features.

The overall goal of this prescription is to improve timber species composition, provide resources for future crop trees through the removal of over-mature and declining trees, and provide forest

wildlife habitat. The overall prescribed harvest would remove approximately 25-33% of the standing volume, with an estimated volume: 200,000-250,000 board feet.

The tract is projected to remain in the fully stocked category after the prescribed elective harvest.

The existing haul road, log yard, and skid trail system will be utilized for management activities eliminating the need for any new construction. As with all forest management activities, Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to protect soil and water resources.

**Inventory Summary – C1T1**

**Total Number Trees/Acre: 155**    **Average Tree Diameter: 11.5”**  
**Average Site Index: 90 YEP**    **Stocking Level: 92%**  
**Estimated Harvest Volume: 200,000-250,000 bd ft**

	Acres		Sq.Ft./Acre
<b>Hardwood Commercial Forest:</b>	84	<b>Basal Area Sawtimber.</b>	79.7
<b>Pine Commercial Forest:</b>	34	<b>Basal Area Poles:</b>	27.3
<b>Noncommercial Forest:</b>	0	<b>Basal Area Culls:</b>	1.1
<b>Permanent Openings:</b>	0	<b>Sub Merch.</b>	2.6
<b>Other Use:</b>			
<b>Total:</b>	118	<b>Total Basal Area:</b>	110.7

**Estimated Tract Volumes for Commercial Forest Area – Bd.Ft. Doyle Rule**

Tree Species	Total Volume Per Acre
<b>Yellow-Poplar</b>	2036
<b>Red Oak</b>	751
<b>White Oak</b>	750
<b>Sugar Maple</b>	498
<b>American Beech</b>	445
<b>Bitternut Hickory</b>	323
<b>Red Maple</b>	285
<b>White Pine</b>	269
<b>Sassafras</b>	267
<b>White Ash</b>	259
<b>Shagbark Hickory</b>	245

<b>Pignut Hickory</b>	165
<b>Largetooth Aspen</b>	118
<b>Virginia Pine</b>	108
<b>Chinkapin Oak</b>	78
<b>Black Cherry</b>	66
<b>Basswood</b>	60
<b>Black Oak</b>	58
<b>Red Elm</b>	58
<b>Jack Pine</b>	33
<b>Red Pine</b>	31
<b>Black Walnut</b>	23
<b>American Elm</b>	10
<b>American Sycamore</b>	8
<b>Total/Acre</b>	6,944
<b>Tract Total</b>	819,392

**Proposed Management Activities**

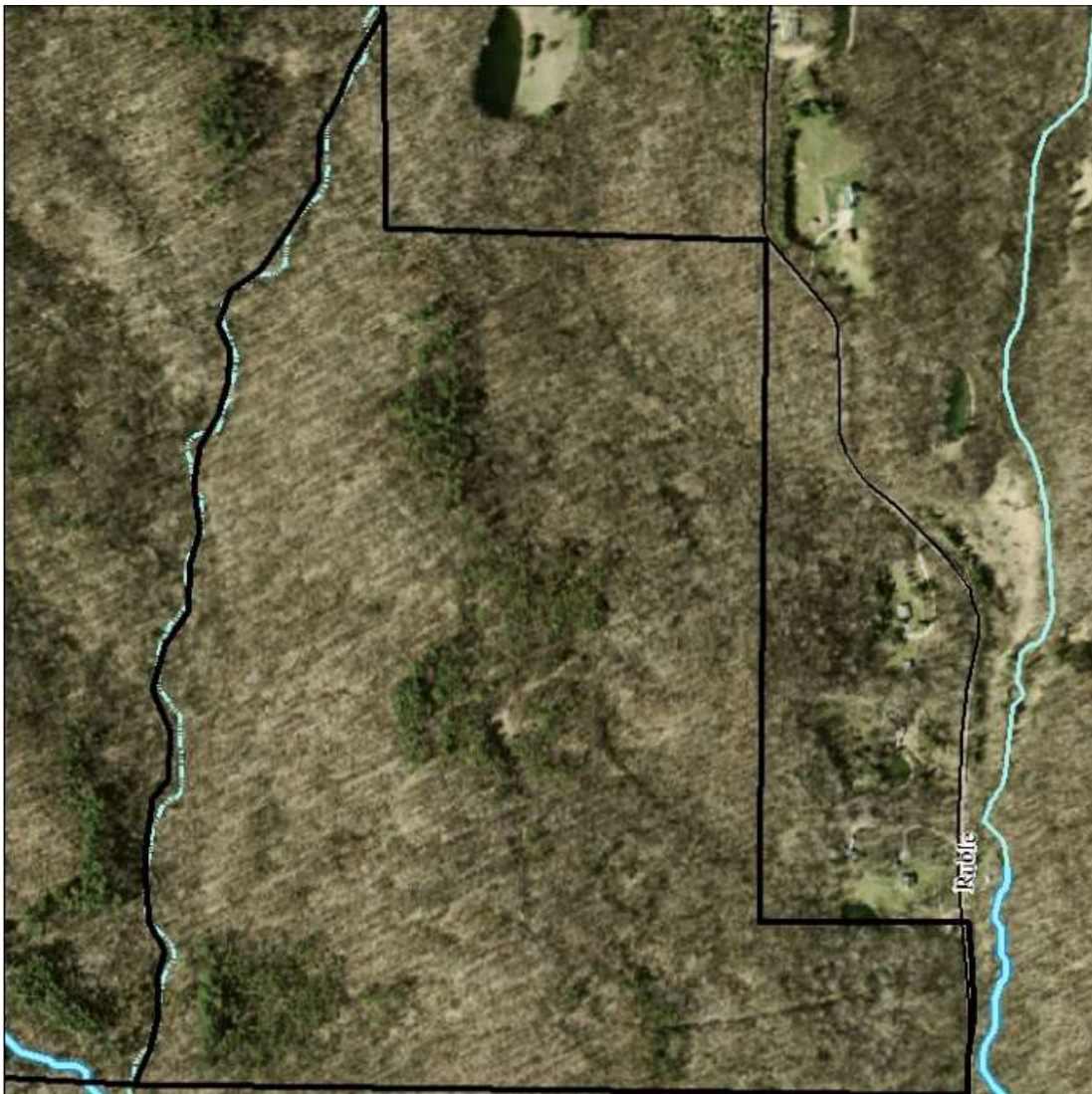
- 2018 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2018 ----- DHPA Archaeological Clearance Application
- 2019 ----- Resource Management Guide
- 2019-20 ----- Timber Marking and Sale Layout
- 2019-21 ----- Timber Sale/Harvest
- 2019-21 ----- Post-Harvest TSI and Exotic/Invasive Control
- 2033 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2033 ----- Resource Management Guide

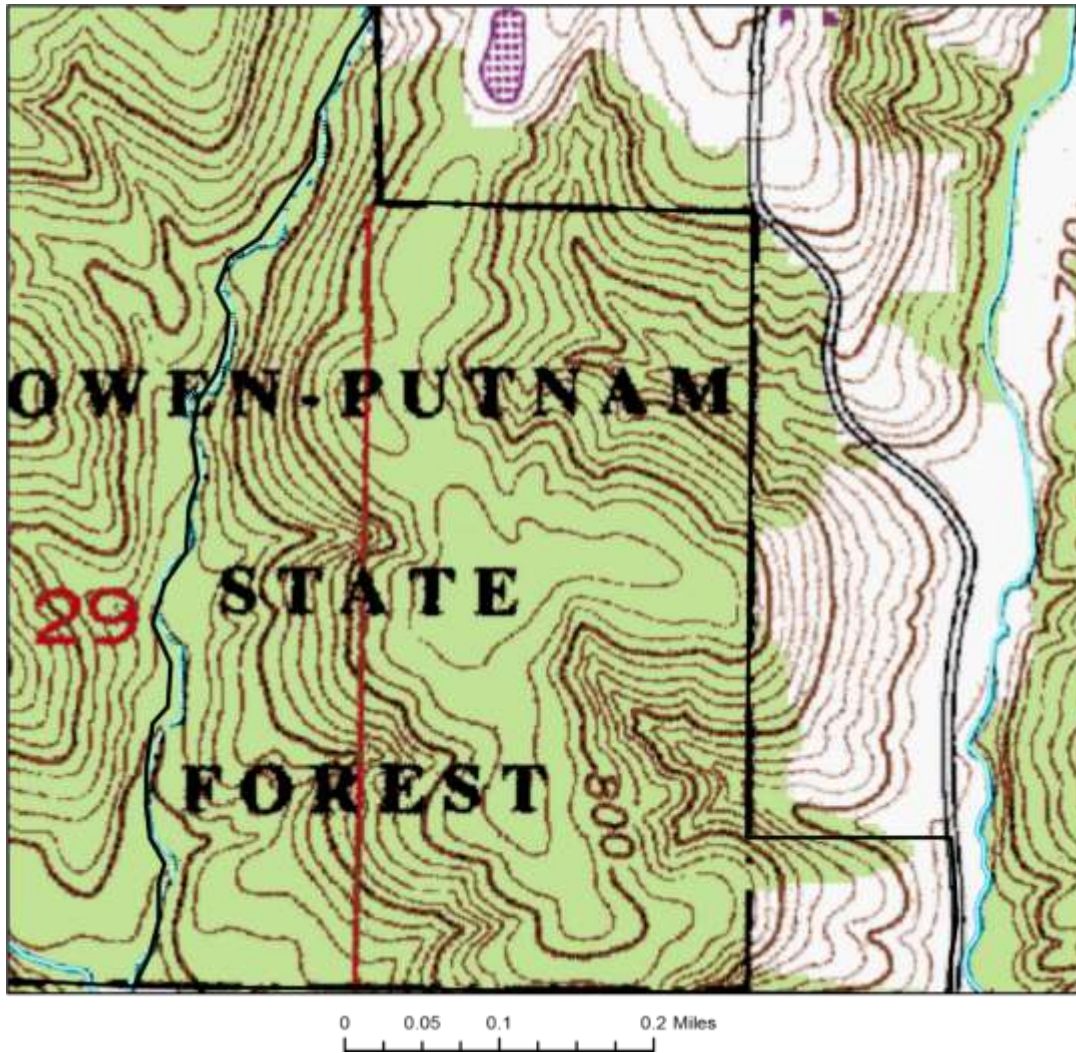
**State Forest:** Owen-Putnam  
**Forester:** R. Duncan  
**Management Cycle End Year:** 2033

**Compartment: 6** **Tract: 9**  
**Date:** October 2018  
**Management Cycle Length:** 15 Years

### Location

Compartment 6, tract 9 is located along Lenox road, primarily in the east half of section 29 and the west half of section 28, township 11N, range 4W, Morgan Township, Owen County. It is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the forest office.





### General Description

This tract is a 122-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 701 acres comprising compartment 6 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Timber types vary from mixed upland hardwoods, to oak-hickory, to bottomland species including Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). There are several small pine stands located along the ridge top near drainages that were planted approximately 60 years ago to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion from previous disturbances most likely from poor farming practices prior to state ownership. White pines (*Pinus strobus*) make up the larger, more dominant pine species with groups of medium sized red pine (*Pinus Resinosa*) and scattered Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*). The over-story consists of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, maple, oak, hickory and ash. The quality of merchantable timber is good. However, there is some decline in the poplar due to drought and insect stress. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, hickory and poplar. This area exhibits good opportunities for multiple use management, including timber management, wildlife management, soil and water

conservation and public recreational activities, such as, hunting, hiking, gathering, viewing and interpretation.

## **History**

Owen-Putnam State Forest was established in 1948 with most of its landholdings purchased as smaller non-contiguous tracts in the 50's and 60's. Prior to state ownership, many of the ridge tops in the area were farmed through the 1930's. Sometime in the 1960's many of the severely eroded ridge tops were planted to pine to stabilize the soil. Compartment 6 tract 9 has been managed for many years.

- Timber inventory in 1984
- Boundary lines marked in 1985
- Timber harvest in 1985
- Property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) in 1988
- Timber stand improvement in 1988
- Timber inventory in 2006
- Timber harvest in 2007
- Timber stand improvement in 2007-2008
- Timber inventory in 2018

## **Landscape Context**

Compartment 6 tract 9 is located in a rural area. Generally the area is forested hills and ravines. The private property adjacent to this compartment and tract are primarily closed canopy, deciduous, mixed hardwood forests with no industry, little agriculture, and some residences with small fields/pastures and small ponds located primarily along secondary county roads beyond the state forest. There is a large private lake about a half-mile to the west of the tract.

## **Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

This part of Owen-Putnam State Forest falls in the Shawnee Hills Natural Region, Crawford Upland Section. This section is most distinct by its rugged hills with sandstone cliffs and rockhouses. Characteristic soils are the well-drained acidic silt loams of the Wellston-Zanesville-Berks Association. The upper slopes consist of an oak-hickory assortment, with a more mesic component in the coves resembling the mixed mesophytic forest community.

The topography of the area varies from moderate slopes and rolling ridges in the southwestern portion of the tract to steeper slopes along the northern, western and eastern portions of the tract with nearly level ground on the ridge top along the central ridge summit and in the bottoms along the extreme western portion of the tract.

From the north-south oriented summit in the center of the tract water sheds, west through ephemeral drainages into a north-to-south flowing mapped intermittent stream along the west side of the tract, and east through ephemeral drainages into a north-to-south flowing mapped

intermittent stream just beyond the east side of the tract. Generally the soils are composed of moderately deep to very deep, frequently flooded to well drained soils on low to moderately steep slopes underlain with sandstone, siltstone and shale. These soils occur throughout the Illinoian glaciated areas of the county.

## **Soils**

The soils of this tract are comprised of a variety of types. The dominant soils are of the Zanesville, Tulip, Hickory, and Solsberry series. In the event of a harvest, the existing trail system and log yards will be utilized, eliminating the need for new trail construction and minimizing soil disturbance. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to preserve soil and water quality.

Specifically, this tract is composed of the following soils: (USDA, NRCS – Soil Survey, Owen County, IN 2005).

**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.

**ZamC3- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum**, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely 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 and has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**ZamD2- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum**, 12 to 18 percent slopes, 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. 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.

**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. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main concerns that should be considered when planning management activities. It has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**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.



Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, windthrow hazards, and seedling mortality are management concerns that should be considered when planning sale layout and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. 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.

**TtaG- Tulip-Tipsaw complex**, 25 to 60 percent slopes, this moderately and very steep, moderately deep to deep, well drained complex is found on sideslopes in the uplands. It is suited to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and seedling mortality are management concerns that should be considered when planning sale layout and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Tulip has a site index of 80 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar and Tipsaw has a site index of 70 for northern red and black oak.

**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, Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main management concerns due to slopes. Consideration should be given during sale planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

**HepG- Hickory-Adyeville complex**, 35 to 60 percent slopes, 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. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main management concerns due to slopes. Consideration should be given during sale planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

**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.

**SneD2- Solsberry silt loam**, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded, 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.

**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. 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.

**AloB2- Ava silt loam**, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded, this gently sloping, deep, moderately well drained is on knolls and narrow ridgetops and on sideslopes along drainage ways in the uplands. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 75 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**PlcAV- Piankeshaw silt loam**, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, very brief duration, this nearly level, deep, well-drained soil is on bottomland. It is flooded for very brief periods, mainly in spring and early summer. It is well suited to trees and has a site index of 95 for yellow poplar and 105 for eastern cottonwood.

### **Access**

To access the tract from Spencer Indiana, travel west on State Road 46 approximately 2.5 miles to Fishcreek road, travel north on Fishcreek road approximately 2.5 miles to Lenox road, travel west on Lenox road approximately 0.75 miles to the forest parking lot and access trail on the west side of Lenox road. The tract is accessible to the public via the parking lot on Lenox road. Management access as well as public recreational access to this tract is good.

### **Boundary**

This tract is a 122-acre stand-alone parcel of the 701 acres composing compartment 6 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Private property borders this tract on all sides, with approximate boundary lines having been located and marked with orange paint and flagging. The boundary lines have been marked in years past using old tree line, old fence, survey pipe, rebar posts, and stones as evidence.

### **Wildlife**

With the presence of the upland and lowland forest area, which includes oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods, pine, and pockets of herbaceous plants, and an intermittent stream and ephemeral drainages, this tract contains habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Common species or sign observed include eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), North American raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers, toads, frogs and various small stream aquatic life.

Live trees in this tract provide for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate, bugging) food resource, with the oaks, hickories, walnuts and beech providing hard mast for deer, turkey and squirrel and the cherries providing soft mast for birds. The pine stands provide benefits such as cover, roosts and browse.

Live trees containing cavities provide nesting and denning opportunities for woodpeckers, songbirds and small mammals and potentially contribute to future snags (standing dead trees).

Snags provide essential habitat characteristics for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting, and are important contributors to the future pool of downed woody material.

Rotten logs, crater knolls, streams and drainages provide habitat for herptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species 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.

The proposed management activities for this tract should not significantly alter the relative proportion and availability of habitat/cover types or significantly disrupt travel/dispersal corridors or create isolated habitat units separated from larger units of similar habitat. Nor should the proposed management activities increase the likelihood that specialist interior forest species would be affected by generalist species using forest edge habitats. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to conserve soil and water resources and related forest wildlife habitats, such as springs/seeps, ponds/wetlands and karst features.

### **Wildlife Habitat Features**

According to the data collected during the tract inventory (R. Duncan 2018) and represented in the following table, this tract is well represented with habitat in regards to the density, size and species of live and dead trees essential for consideration of various wildlife habitat needs including habitat specialists such as cavity nesters and species of conservation need like the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and their suggested habitat requirements.

Legacy trees, as defined by the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features are well represented above the suggested maintenance levels. White oak and shagbark hickory are two species having preferred characteristics for tree roosting bats. Both are relatively abundant in this tract and will be given consideration as habitat. Also, as the tract continues to mature, the number of legacy trees  $\geq 20''$  D.B.H. is expected to rise.

Standing dead or dying trees (snags) are well represented in all size classes for this tract.

Legacy trees, snags and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana bat and other wildlife as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property and the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features. In addition, the girdling of select cull trees can be performed through post harvest timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) to address large diameter snag limitations. It should be noted these are compartment level guidelines and the target snag levels may well be present on the landscape.

## Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary

	Maintenance Level	Inventory	Available Above Maintenance
<b>Legacy Trees *</b>			
<b>11"+ DBH</b>	1098	2393	1295
<b>20"+ DBH</b>	366	581	215
<b>Snags (all species)</b>			
<b>5"+ DBH</b>	488	1661	1173
<b>9"+ DBH</b>	366	961	595
<b>19"+ DBH</b>	61	81	20

\* **Species Include:** AME, BIH, BLL, COT, GRA, REO, POO, REE, SHH, ZSH, SIM, SUM, WHA, WHO

## Communities

Most of this tract is of the dry-mesic upland forest community type, with some isolated more mesic sites located along lower slopes, and some floodplain along drainages. The dry-mesic upland forest community has moderate soil moisture with trees growing well, however the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests. It is one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. It occurs on slopes throughout the state. The dominant plants in this community are the white oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Characteristic plants in this community are the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Characteristic animals in this community are the broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*).

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 communities.

Exotic/invasive species, Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) are present in and around this tract in patches of light to moderate densities. These species are commonly occurring throughout the county. Control measures can be undertaken during post-harvest T.S.I., to treat problem occurrences before their populations expand.

## Recreation

While there are no recreation trails on this multiple use tract, it has good public access via the parking lot and access trail located on Lenox Road. Hunting and gathering are considered the primary recreational uses of this tract.

## **Cultural**

This tract is reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory and planning process. Cultural resources may be present but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources noted will be avoided during management or construction activities.

## **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription**

In 1985 the tract was harvested (Indiana Lumber Company) of ~173,229 Bd. Ft. in 1238 trees on 160 acres (1082 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 1988 a property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) was conducted, including Compartment 6 tract 9. The data estimated the tract to be 52% stocked with 60 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 111 trees per acre, containing approximately 2805 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2006 a routine timber inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 82% stocked with 100 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 128 trees per acre with approximately 5612 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2007/2008 timber stand improvement was performed in compartment 6 tract 9. TSI consisted of vine control, crop tree release and regeneration opening maintenance.

In 2007 the tract was harvested (Fleetwood Logging, Inc.) of ~127,900 Bd. Ft. in 818 trees on 116 acres (1102 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 2018 a routine timber inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 93% stocked with 107 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 223 trees per acre containing approximately 6,404 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an average tree diameter of 9.3 inches.

Timber in compartment 6 tract 9 is predominantly closed canopy mixed hardwoods, with some pockets of oak-hickory, and small pine stands. The over-story consists mostly of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, oak, hickory, beech, maple and ash; with eastern white pine, red pine and Virginia pine comprising approximately 12 acres of pine stands along the ridge tops through the center of the tract. The quality of merchantable timber is good with the ridge tops and upper slopes containing more of the mixed hardwoods, and the mid to lower slopes containing more of the oak-hickory. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, sassafras and poplar; with white pine Virginia pine representing some of the pole sized understory in the pine stand. Advanced regeneration is represented mostly by beech, maple, sassafras and poplar.

The current inventory and stocking level indicates the tract is fully stocked. Some areas of the tract are sufficiently mature and overcrowded that resource competition is taking place and thinning will be beneficial. Often, there is little groundcover or early successional regeneration in these areas due to low light levels and browse. In the remaining areas, the tract is still maturing but could benefit from the selective removal of less desirable species and low quality individuals in an effort to improve the overall tract quality and composition.

The recommendation is to perform an intermediate cutting in the form of a thinning and improvement cut, utilizing the single tree and group selection methods within the un-even aged management system. A thinning should be done to reduce competition and mortality amongst the overcrowded timber. An improvement cut should be incorporated to improve the overall species composition and quality of the tract by select harvesting the low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as thinning of less desirable species, especially the declining yellow-poplar that are competing with the oak and other quality trees such as the hickory and cherry. In addition, ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be selected for harvest to utilize their product before they become populated with the insect and decline. However, live, healthy Ash which survive or escape the EAB killing wave will be retained and their growth encouraged through applied management. The two-fold objective is to recruit ash regeneration before EAB induce mortality and then promote the development of EAB survivors.

Hardwood group selection openings, on less than 5% of the tract may also be created to remove groups of undesirable species or poor quality individuals and to promote regeneration.

In combination, these silvicultural methods will reduce stand density; improve overall growing conditions and timber quality, while encouraging tree species diversity and regeneration of native mixed hardwood species.

The long term objective with the pine stands is a transitioning over the next 2 cycles away from these non-native species and towards a native hardwood mix. This would utilize a combination of group and single tree selection systems as described above.

Management in the form of timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) is prescribed to release preferred, high quality crop trees through the culling of low volume, poorly formed trees and less desirable species, and to encourage regeneration through the creation of canopy gaps and a reduction in understory shade tolerant species. T.S.I. would also look at problem occurrences of multi-flora rose, autumn olive and stilt grass.

Standing dead trees (snags) and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for wildlife. Legacy trees, as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property, will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana Bat. In addition, the girdling of select, larger diameter cull trees could be performed through T.S.I. to address the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features.

The overall goal of this prescription is to improve timber species composition, provide resources for future crop trees through the removal of over-mature and declining trees, and provide forest

wildlife habitat. The overall prescribed harvest would remove approximately 25-33% of the standing volume, with an estimated volume: 200,000-250,000 board feet.

The tract is projected to remain in the fully stocked category after the prescribed elective harvest.

The existing haul road, log yard, and skid trail system will be utilized for management activities eliminating the need for any new construction. As with all forest management activities, Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to protect soil and water resources.

### Inventory Summary – C6T9

**Total Number Trees/Acre: 223**

**Average Tree Diameter: 9.3”**

**Average Site Index: 90 YEP**

**Stocking Level: 93%**

**Estimated Harvest Volume: 200,000-250,000 bd ft**

	Acres		Sq.Ft./Acre
<b>Hardwood Commercial Forest:</b>	110	<b>Basal Area Sawtimber.</b>	78.2
<b>Pine Commercial Forest:</b>	12	<b>Basal Area Poles:</b>	21.8
<b>Noncommercial Forest:</b>	0	<b>Basal Area Culls:</b>	3.2
<b>Permanent Openings:</b>	0	<b>Sub Merch.</b>	4.7
<b>Other Use:</b>			
<b>Total:</b>	122	<b>Total Basal Area:</b>	107.9

### Estimated Tract Volumes for Commercial Forest Area – Bd.Ft. Doyle Rule

Species	Total Volume
<b>Yellow Poplar</b>	2445
<b>Bitternut Hickory</b>	479
<b>White Oak</b>	455
<b>Red Oak</b>	340
<b>White Pine</b>	334
<b>Sugar Maple</b>	322
<b>Sycamore</b>	294
<b>Red Maple</b>	248
<b>Shagbark Hickory</b>	229
<b>Sassafras</b>	196
<b>American Beech</b>	176
<b>White Ash</b>	168
<b>Black Oak</b>	155
<b>Largetooth Aspen</b>	140

<b>Pignut Hickory</b>	139
<b>Red Pine</b>	132
<b>Black Walnut</b>	64
<b>Sweetgum</b>	30
<b>Red Elm</b>	29
<b>Chinkapin Oak</b>	14
<b>Virginia Pine</b>	13
<b>Per Acre Total</b>	6402
<b>Tract Total</b>	781,044

**Proposed Management Activities**

- 2018 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2018 ----- DHPA Archaeological Clearance Application
- 2019 ----- Resource Management Guide
- 2020-2022 ----- Timber Marking and Sale Layout
- 2022-2023 ----- Timber Sale/Harvest
- 2023-2024 ----- Post-Harvest TSI and Exotic/Invasive Control
- 2033 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2033 ----- Resource Management Guide

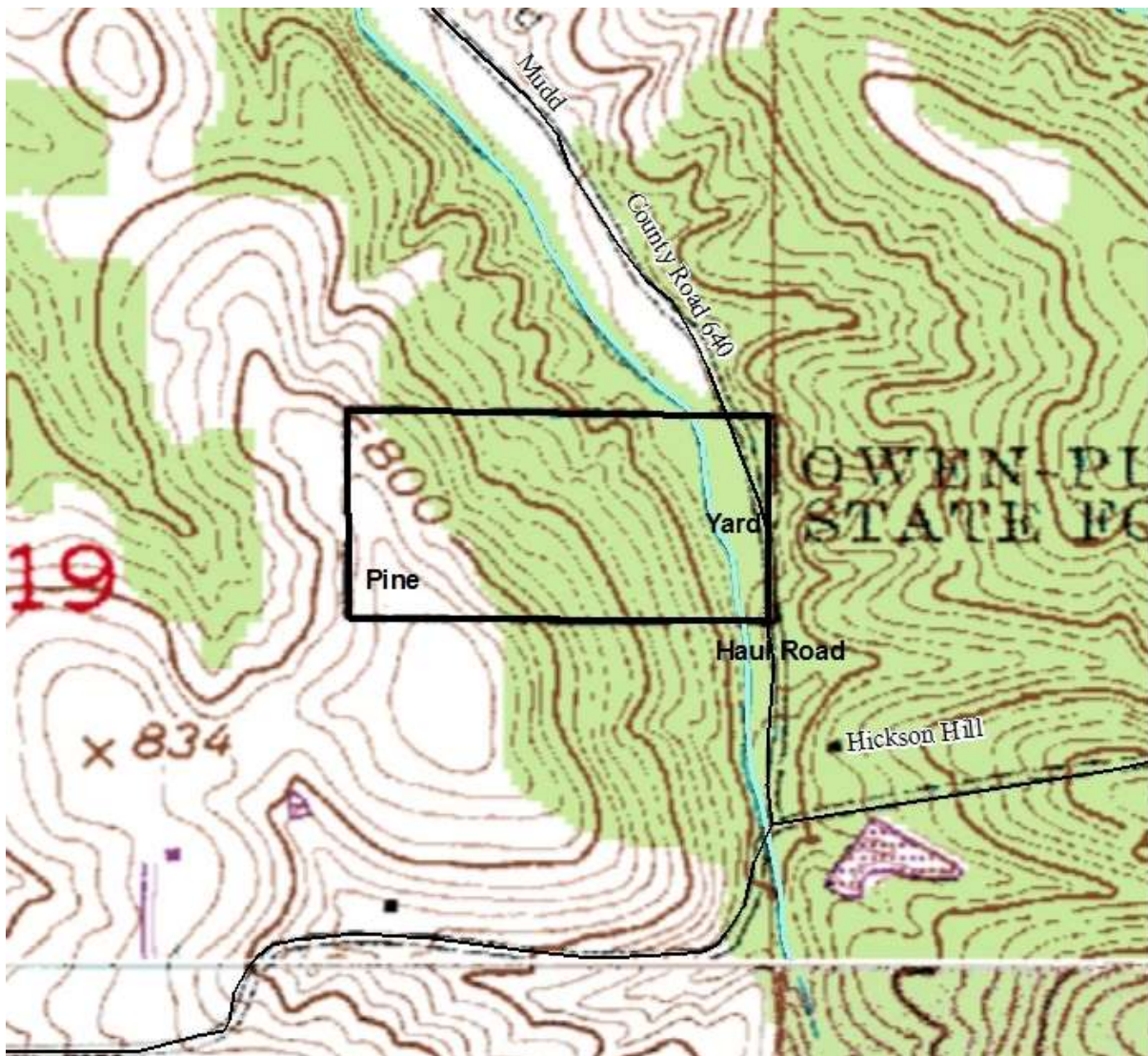


State Forest: Owen-Putnam  
Forester: R. Duncan  
Management Cycle End Year: 2032

**Compartment: 6**   **Tract: 11**  
Date: September 2017  
Management Cycle Length: 15 Years

### Location

Compartment 6, tract 11 is located along Mudd road, primarily in the northeast quarter of section 19, township 11N, range 4W, Morgan township, Owen county. It is not adjacent to other state forest property. It is approximately 5 miles northwest of the forest office.





**March 2005 Aerial showing Pine stands (boundary approximated)**

### **General Description**

This tract is a somewhat isolated, stand-alone 20-acre multiple use parcel, being part of the 701 acres comprising compartment 6 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Timber types include primarily closed canopy mixed hardwoods with some oak-hickory, beech-maple and pine. Pine was planted along the ridge top to control erosion from past disturbance prior to state ownership. The over-story consists of medium to large sawlog sized yellow-poplar, oak, hickory, maple and beech with white pine comprising the pine stands. The quality of merchantable timber is good. However, there is some decline in the yellow poplar due to drought and insect stress. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of maple, sassafras, oak, hickory and beech with white pine representing some of the pole sized understory in the pine stand. This area exhibits good opportunities for multiple use management, including timber management, wildlife management, soil and water conservation and public recreational activities, such as, hunting, gathering, viewing and interpretation.

## History

Owen-Putnam State Forest was established in 1948 with most of its landholdings purchased as smaller non-contiguous tracts in the 50's and 60's. Sometime in the 1960's many of the severely eroded ridge tops were planted to pine to stabilize the soil. Compartment 6 tract 11 has been managed for many years.

- Timber inventory in 1984
- Property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) in 1989
- Timber inventory in 2003
- Timber harvest in 2004
- Timber stand improvement, vine control and crop tree release in 2008
- Timber inventory in 2017

## Landscape Context

Compartment 6 tract 11 is located in a rural area. Generally the area is forested hills and ravines. The private property adjacent to this compartment and tract are primarily closed canopy, deciduous, mixed hardwood forests with no industry, little agriculture, and some residences with small fields/pastures and small ponds located primarily along secondary county roads beyond the state forest.

## Topography, Geology and Hydrology

This part of Owen-Putnam State Forest falls in the Shawnee Hills Natural Region, Crawford Upland Section. This section is most distinct by its rugged hills with sandstone cliffs and rockhouses. Characteristic soils are the well-drained acidic silt loams of the Wellston-Zanesville-Berks Association. The upper slopes consist of an oak-hickory assortment, with a more mesic component in the coves resembling the mixed mesophytic forest community.

The topography of the area varies from nearly level ground along the ridge top in the west part of the tract to moderately steep east facing slopes. Water sheds primarily east into a perennial stream flowing from north to south along the east edge of the tract. The area is generally comprised of shallow to moderately deep, well-drained soils often containing fragipans, on nearly level to steep slopes. These soils occur throughout the Illinoian glaciated areas of the county. In the event of a harvest, the existing haul road and log yards can be utilized. Care must be taken during the planning and execution of skid trails due to the erosive nature of some soils. Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to preserve soil and water quality.

## Soils

This tract is composed of the following soils: (USDA, NRCS – Soil Survey, Owen County, IN 2005).

**TtaG- Tulip-Tipsaw complex**, 25 to 60 percent slopes, this moderately and very steep, moderately deep to deep, well drained complex is found on side slopes in the uplands. It is suited

to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and seedling mortality are management concerns that should be considered when planning sale layout and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Tulip has a site index of 80 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar and Tipsaw has a site index of 70 for northern red and black oak.

**ZamC3- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum**, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely 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 and has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

**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.

**NbhAH- Newark silt loam**, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, brief duration. This nearly level, deep, somewhat poorly drained soil is found on steps of floodplains. It is well suited to trees. Equipment limitations, seedling mortality, and windthrow hazards are management concerns that should be considered during sale planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This soil has a site index of 96 for pin oak and 89 for eastern cottonwood.

### **Access**

To access the tract from Spencer Indiana, travel west on State Road 46 approximately 2-miles to Fishcreek road, then travel north on Fishcreek road approximately 4-miles to Atkinsonville road, then travel west on Atkinsonville road 1.5 miles to Mudd road, then travel north on Mudd road about a quarter mile to the log yard on the right side of the road. The tract is accessible to the public via the parking lot along Mudd road. Management access as well as public recreational access to this tract is good.

### **Boundary**

This tract is a 20-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 701 acres comprising compartment 6 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Private property borders this tract on all sides with approximate boundary lines having been located and marked with orange paint and flagging. The boundary lines have been marked and documented in the past.

### **Wildlife**

With the presence of the upland and lowland forest area, which includes oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods, pine, pockets of seasonal grasses and sedges, and ephemeral drainages, and a perennial stream, this tract contains habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Common species or sign observed include Eastern grey squirrel, Eastern fox squirrel, Eastern chipmunks, white-tailed deer, Wild Turkey, Virginia opossum, North American raccoon, Eastern box turtle, raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers, toads, frogs and various small stream aquatic life.

Live trees in this tract provide for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate, bugging) food resource, with the oaks, hickories, walnuts and beech providing hard mast for deer, turkey and squirrel and the cherries providing soft mast for birds. The pine stands provide benefits such as cover, roosts and browse.

Live trees containing cavities in this tract provide nesting and denning opportunities for woodpeckers, songbirds and small mammals and potentially contribute to future snags (standing dead trees).

Snags in this tract provide essential habitat characteristics for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting, and are important contributors to the future pool of downed woody material.

Rotten logs, crater knolls, ephemeral streams and the perennial stream provide habitat for herptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species 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.

The proposed management activities for this tract should not significantly alter the relative proportion and availability of habitat/cover types or significantly disrupt travel/dispersal corridors or create isolated habitat units separated from larger units of similar habitat. Nor should the proposed management activities increase the likelihood that specialist interior forest species would be affected by generalist species using forest edge habitats. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to conserve soil and water resources and related forest wildlife habitats, such as springs/seeps, ponds/wetlands and karst features.

### **Wildlife Habitat Features**

According to the data collected during the tract inventory (R. Duncan 2017) and represented in the following table, this tract is well represented with habitat in regards to the density, size and species of live and dead trees essential for consideration of various wildlife habitat needs including habitat specialists such as cavity nesters and species of conservation need like the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and their suggested habitat requirements.

Legacy trees, as defined by the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features are well represented above the suggested maintenance levels. White oak and shagbark hickory are two species having preferred characteristics for tree roosting bats. Both are relatively abundant in this tract and will be given consideration as habitat. Also, as the tract continues to mature, the number of legacy trees  $\geq 20''$  D.B.H. is expected to rise.

Standing dead or dying trees (snags) are well represented in this tract. Snags in this tract are above the maintenance levels in all size classes, except the 19''+ diameter class where presence is slightly below target levels.

Legacy trees, snags and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana bat and other wildlife as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property and the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features. In addition, the girdling of select cull trees could be performed through post harvest timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) to address large diameter snag limitations. It should be noted these are compartment level guidelines and the target snag levels may well be present on the landscape.

### Wildlife Habitat Feature, Tract Summary

	Maintenance Level	Inventory	Available Above Maintenance
<b>Legacy Trees *</b>			
<b>11"+ DBH</b>	180	394	214
<b>20"+ DBH</b>	60	66	6
<b>Snags (all species)</b>			
<b>5"+ DBH</b>	80	155	75
<b>9"+ DBH</b>	60	155	95
<b>19"+ DBH</b>	10	9	-1

\* **Species Include:** AME, BIH, BLL, COT, GRA, REO, POO, REE, SHH, ZSH, SIM, SUM, WHA, WHO

### Communities

Most of this tract is of the dry-mesic upland forest community type, with some isolated more mesic sites located along lower slopes, and some floodplain along drainages and streams. The dry-mesic upland forest community has moderate soil moisture with trees growing well, however the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests. It is one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. It occurs on slopes throughout the state. The dominant plants in this community are the white oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Characteristic plants in this community are the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Characteristic animals in this community are the broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*).

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 communities.

An exotic/invasive species, multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), is present in and around this tract in patches of light to moderate densities. It is also common throughout the county. Control measures can be undertaken during post-harvest T.S.I., to treat problem occurrences before their populations expand.

## **Recreation**

While there are no recreation trails on this multiple use tract, it has good public access via the parking lot and fire trail located on Mudd road. Management access to this tract is also good. Hunting and gathering are the primary recreational uses of the tract.

## **Cultural**

This tract is reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory and planning process. Cultural resources may be present but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources noted will be avoided during management or construction activities.

## **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription**

In 1984 a routine timber inventory was conducted (B. Hahn). The data estimated the tract to contain approximately 3088 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 1516 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

In 1988 a property wide inventory (TIMPIS) was conducted, including Compartment 6 tract 11. The data estimated the tract to be 88% stocked with 103 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 186 trees per acre, containing approximately 4081 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 920 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

In 2004 the tract was harvested (Timberland Resources, Inc.) of 26,400 Bd. Ft. in 105 trees on 18 acres (1466 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 2004, due to high winds, the tract had a salvage sale of 2,900 Bd. Ft. in 21 trees (Timberland Resources, Inc.).

In 2006 a timber stand improvement (T.S.I) project was performed to release crop trees across the tract by girdling select trees and cutting grapevines.

In 2017 a routine inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 94% stocked with 113 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 157 trees per acre and an average tree diameter of 12.5 inches, containing approximately 6437 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 1825 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

Timber in compartment 6 tract 11 is predominantly closed canopy mixed hardwoods, with some pockets of oak-hickory, and small pine stands. The over-story consists mostly of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, oak, hickory, beech, maple and ash; with white pine comprising approximately 1-acre along the west side of the tract. The quality of merchantable timber is good, except for the declining yellow poplar, with the ridge tops and upper slopes containing more of the mixed hardwoods, and the mid to lower slopes containing more of the oak-hickory. The under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, sassafras, poplar, oak and hickory. Advanced regeneration is represented mostly by beech, maple, ash, sassafras, hickory, cherry, and oak.

The current inventory and stocking level indicates the tract is fully stocked. Some areas of the tract are sufficiently mature and crowded that significant resource stress and competition is taking place and thinning may be beneficial. Often, there is little groundcover or desired advanced regeneration in these areas due to low light levels and browse. The remaining less stressed and maturing areas would likewise benefit from the selective removal of less desirable species and low quality individuals in an effort to improve the overall tract quality and composition.

The recommendation is to perform an intermediate cutting in the form of a thinning and improvement cut, utilizing the single tree and group selection methods within the un-even aged management system. A thinning should be done to reduce competition and mortality amongst the overcrowded timber. An improvement cut should be incorporated to improve the overall species composition and quality of the tract by select harvesting the low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as thinning of less desirable species, especially the declining yellow-poplar that are competing with the oak and other quality trees such as the hickory and cherry. In addition, ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be selected for harvest to utilize their product before they become populated with the insect and decline. However, live, healthy Ash which survive or escape the EAB killing wave will be retained and their growth encouraged through applied management. The two-fold objective is to recruit ash regeneration before EAB induce mortality and then promote the development of EAB survivors.

In some areas, a shelterwood-type situation may be created as trees are removed from the intermediate and understory layers while larger dominant and co-dominant trees (especially where oak is a strong component) are left standing. This will allow more diffuse sunlight to reach the ground and improve the establishment and survival of seedlings.

Hardwood group selection openings over less than 10% of the tract may also be created to remove groups of undesirable species or poor quality individuals and to promote regeneration and early successional habitat.

In combination, these silvicultural methods will reduce stand density; improve overall growing conditions and timber quality, while encouraging tree species diversity and regeneration of native mixed hardwood species.

The long term objective with the pine stands is a transitioning over the next 2 cycles away from these non-native species and towards a native hardwood mix. This would utilize a combination of group, shelterwood and single tree selection systems as described above.





<b>BIH</b>	468
<b>ZCO</b>	426
<b>SYC</b>	415
<b>WHA</b>	410
<b>PIH</b>	322
<b>SHH</b>	220
<b>SUM</b>	185
<b>WHO</b>	166
<b>BLC</b>	144
<b>BLO</b>	126
<b>AMB</b>	120
<b>REM</b>	85
<b>HAC</b>	83
<b>BLW</b>	80
<b>WHP</b>	61
<b>PIO</b>	54
<b>REE</b>	48
<b>AME</b>	20
<b>Per Acre Total</b>	6437
<b>Tract Total</b>	128,740

**Proposed Management Activities**

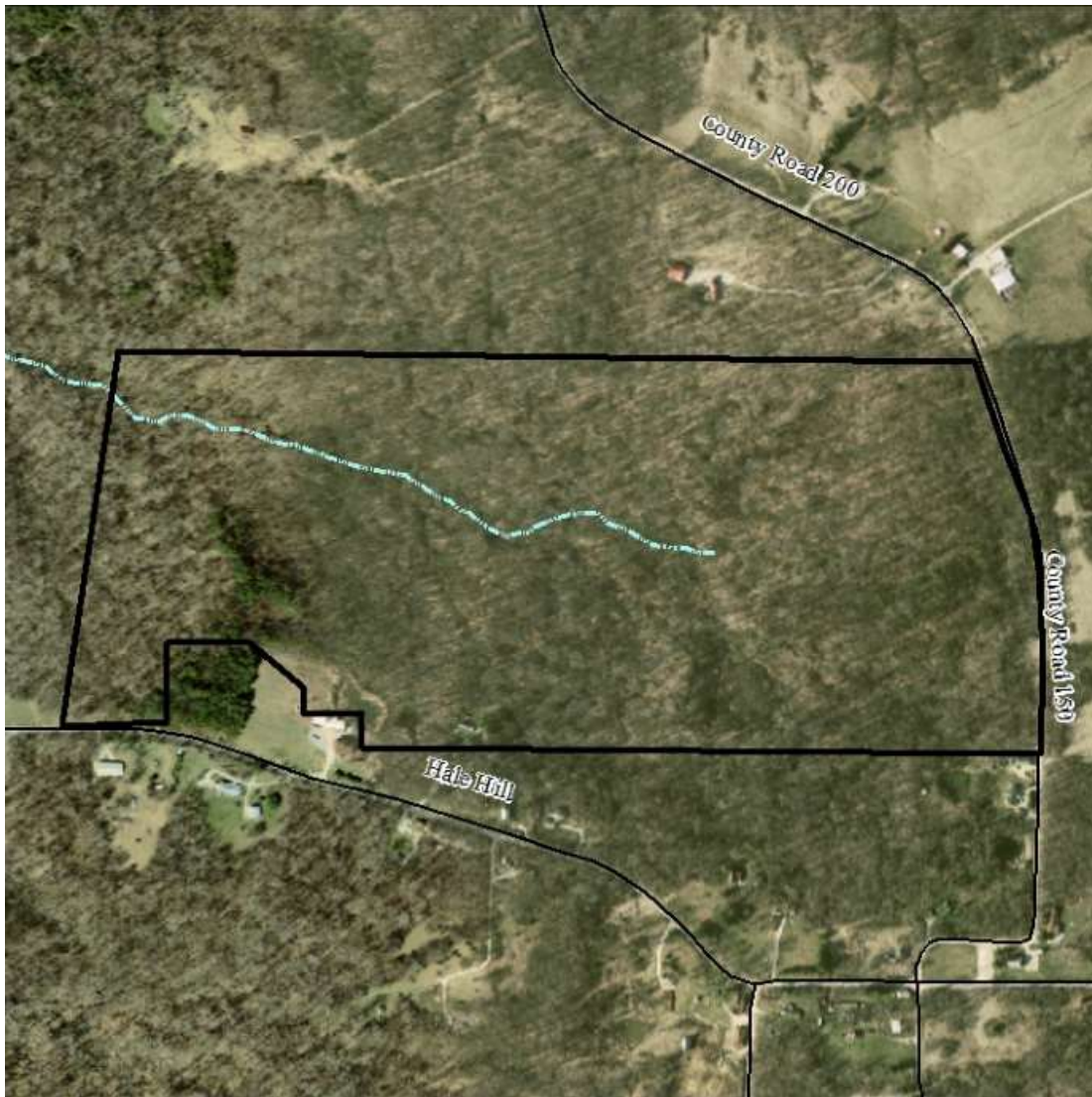
- 2017 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2017 ----- DHPA Archaeological Clearance Application
- 2017-19 ----- Resource Management Guide
- 2019-20 ----- Timber Marking and Sale Layout
- 2019-20 ----- Timber Sale/Harvest
- 2019-21 ----- Post-Harvest TSI and Exotic/Invasive Control
- 2032 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2032 ----- Resource Management Guide

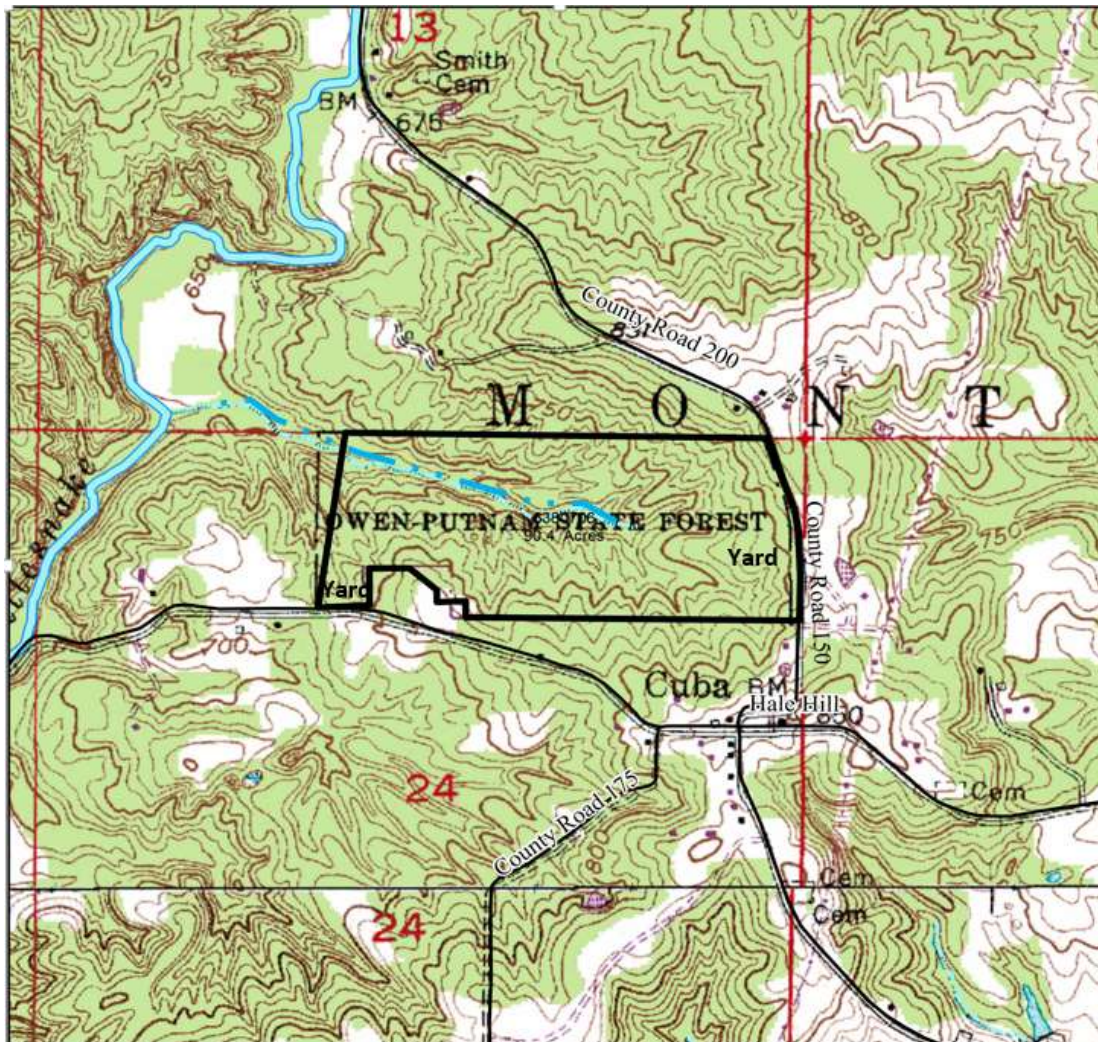
State Forest: Owen-Putnam  
Forester: R. Duncan  
Management Cycle End Year: 2033

**Compartment: 7** **Tract: 6**  
Date: October 2018  
Management Cycle Length: 15 Years

### Location

Compartment 7, tract 6 is located along Old Cuba road, primarily in the northeast quarter of section 24, township 11N, range 4W, Montgomery Township, Owen County. It is approximately 6.0 miles northeast of the forest office.





## General Description

This tract is a **91-acre**, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 551 acres comprising compartment 7 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Timber types vary from mixed upland hardwoods, to oak-hickory, to bottomland species including Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). There are pine along the eastern ridge with small patches of pine located along the ridge top on the western edge of the tract near steep drainages. The pine show some decline due to windthrow and overcrowding. The over-story consists of medium to large sawlog sized yellow-poplar, maple, oak, hickory and ash. The quality of merchantable timber is good. However, there is some decline in the poplar due to drought and insect stress. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, hickory and poplar. This area exhibits good opportunities for multiple use management, including timber management, wildlife management, soil and water conservation and public recreational activities, such as, hunting, hiking, gathering, viewing and interpretation.

## **History**

Owen-Putnam State Forest was established in 1948 with most of its landholdings purchased as smaller non-contiguous tracts in the 50's and 60's. Prior to state ownership, many of the ridge tops in the area were farmed through the 1930's. Sometime in the 1960's many of the severely eroded ridge tops were planted to White and Virginia pine to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion from previous disturbances such as poor farming practices prior to state ownership. Compartment 7 tract 6 has been managed for many years.

- Timber harvest 1974
- Boundary marking 1985
- Timber inventory 1987
- Timber harvest 1987
- Timber stand improvement, vine control and crop tree release in 1988
- Property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) in 1989
- Boundary marking 2005
- Timber inventory in 2005
- Timber harvest in 2007
- Timber stand improvement, regeneration opening and crop tree release 2008
- Timber inventory in 2018

## **Landscape Context**

Compartment 7 tract 6 is located in a rural area near the small unincorporated town of Cuba. Generally the area is forested hills and ravines. The private property adjacent to this tract is primarily closed canopy, deciduous, mixed hardwood forests with no industry, little agriculture, with some residences including small fields/pastures and small ponds located primarily along secondary county roads beyond the state forest.

## **Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

This part of Owen-Putnam State Forest falls in the Shawnee Hills Natural Region, Crawford Upland Section. This section is most distinct by its rugged hills with sandstone cliffs and rockhouses. Characteristic soils are the well-drained acidic silt loams of the Wellston-Zanesville-Berks Association. The upper slopes consist of an oak-hickory assortment, with a more mesic component in the coves resembling the mixed mesophytic forest community.

The topography of the area varies from nearly level ground on the ridge top along the eastern edge of the tract to rolling ridges of moderate to steep north and south facing slopes with a riparian zone extending from the northwest corner of the tract toward the west central portion of the tract. There are several open and closed sinkholes scattered throughout the southwest portion of the tract. Water sheds from the north and south through ephemeral drainages into a mapped intermittent stream flowing through the riparian management zone from the west central portion of the tract to the northwest corner of the tract. The soils of the area are generally composed of shallow to moderately deep, frequently flooded to well-drained soils often containing fragipans on nearly level to steep slopes underlain with sandstone, siltstone and shale. These soils occur throughout the Illinoian

glaciated areas of the county. In the event of a harvest, the existing haul road and log yards can be utilized. However, care must be taken during the planning and execution of skid trails due to the erosive nature of some soils and the presence of karst features. Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to preserve soil and water quality, including sink hole and riparian buffers where applicable.

## **Soils**

This tract is composed of the following soils: (USDA, NRCS – Soil Survey, Owen County, IN 2005).

### HeoE- Hickory silt loam, 18 to 25 percent slopes

This moderately steep, deep, well-drained soil is in the uplands on concave breaks in draws and on side slopes. It is fairly well suited to trees. Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main management concerns due to slopes. Consideration should be given during sale planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality. 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, Erosion hazards and equipment limitations are main management concerns due to slopes. Consideration should be given during sale planning and implementation of Best Management Practices for Water Quality This soil has a site index of 85 for white oak and 95 for yellow poplar.

### 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.

### ZamC3- Zanesville silt loam, soft bedrock substratum, 6 to 12 percent slopes, severely 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 and has a site index of 69 for white oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

### 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.

### StgD2- Stinesville-Ryker-Grayford silt loams, karst, hilly, eroded

This deep, well drained complex is found on the shoulder and backslopes of sinkholes within the dissected till plains over limestone. It is well suited to trees. Ryker has a site index of 90 for white oak and 98 for yellow poplar and stinesville has a site index of 105 for yellow poplar.

#### CkkB2- Cincinnati silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded

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.

#### **Access**

To access the tract from Spencer Indiana, travel west on State Road 46 approximately 1-mile to Rattlesnake road, travel north on Rattlesnake road approximately 6.0-miles to Old Cuba road, travel west on Old Cuba road approximately 1/4 mile to the forest parking lot and access road on the west side of the road. The tract is accessible to the public via the parking lot on Old Cuba road. Management access as well as public recreational access to this tract is good.

#### **Boundary**

This tract is a 91-acre stand-alone parcel of the 551 acres composing compartment 7 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Private property borders this tract on all sides, with approximate boundary lines having been located and marked with orange paint and flagging. The boundary lines have been marked in years past using various old fence, the county road, and a wood post as evidence.

#### **Wildlife**

With the presence of the upland and lowland forest area, which includes oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods, pine, and pockets of herbaceous plants, and an intermittent stream and ephemeral drainages, this tract contains habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Common species or sign observed include eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), North American raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers, toads, frogs and various small stream aquatic life.

Live trees in this tract provide for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate, bugging) food resource, with the oaks, hickories, walnuts and beech providing hard mast for deer, turkey and squirrel and the cherries providing soft mast for birds. The pine stands provide benefits such as cover, roosts and browse.

Live trees containing cavities in this tract provide nesting and denning opportunities for woodpeckers, songbirds and small mammals and potentially contribute to future snags (standing dead trees).

Snags in this tract provide essential habitat characteristics for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting, and are important contributors to the future pool of downed woody material.

Rotten logs, crater knolls, and ephemeral streams provide habitat for herptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species 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.

The proposed management activities for this tract should not significantly alter the relative proportion and availability of habitat/cover types or significantly disrupt travel/dispersal corridors or create isolated habitat units separated from larger units of similar habitat. Nor should the proposed management activities increase the likelihood that specialist interior forest species would be affected by generalist species using forest edge habitats. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to conserve soil and water resources and related forest wildlife habitats, such as springs/seeps, ponds/wetlands and karst features.

### **Wildlife Habitat Features**

According to the data collected during the tract inventory (R. Duncan 2018) and represented in the following table, this tract is well represented with habitat in regards to the density, size and species of live and dead trees essential for consideration of various wildlife habitat needs including habitat specialists such as cavity nesters and species of conservation need like the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and their suggested habitat requirements.

Legacy trees, as defined by the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features are well represented above the suggested maintenance levels. White oak and shagbark hickory are two species having preferred characteristics for tree roosting bats. Both are relatively abundant in this tract and will be given consideration as habitat. Also, as the tract continues to mature, the number of legacy trees  $\geq 20''$  D.B.H. is expected to rise.

Standing dead or dying trees (snags) are well represented in this tract. Snags  $\geq 5''$  D.B.H. and  $\geq 9''$  D.B.H. in this tract are above the maintenance levels for both classes. However, snags in the  $\geq 19''$  D.B.H. class are below the suggested maintenance level. The lack of large diameter snags is often attributable to the overall good health of the forest and the short retention of large standing dead trees. Snags can have short standing times and often become wind thrown.

Legacy trees, snags and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana bat and other wildlife as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property and the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features. In addition, the girdling of select cull trees could be performed through post harvest timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) to address large diameter snag limitations. It should be noted these are compartment level guidelines and the target snag levels may well be present on the landscape.

### **Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary**



	Maintenance Level	Inventory	Available Above Maintenance
<b>Legacy Trees *</b>			
11"+ DBH	819	2556	1737
20"+ DBH	273	337	64
<b>Snags (all species)</b>			
5"+ DBH	364	1932	1568
9"+ DBH	273	875	602
19"+ DBH	45.5	0	-46

\* Species Include: AME, BIH, BLL, COT, GRA, REO, POO, REE, SHH, ZSH, SIM, SUM, WHA, WHO

### Communities

Most of this tract is of the dry-mesic upland forest community type, with some isolated more mesic sites located along lower north slopes, and some floodplain along drainages. The dry-mesic upland forest community has moderate soil moisture with trees growing well, however the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests. It is one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. It occurs on slopes throughout the state. The dominant plants in this community are the white oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Characteristic plants in this community are the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Characteristic animals in this community are the broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*).

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.

An exotic/invasive species, multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), is present in and around this tract in patches of light to moderate densities. It is also common throughout the county. Control measures can be undertaken during post-harvest T.S.I., to treat problem occurrences before their populations expand.

### Recreation

Compartment 7 tract 6 is independent from the rest of compartment 7 and somewhat remote from the general landmass of the Owen-Putnam State Forest and while there are no developed recreation trails, it has good public access via the parking lot on Old Cuba road, and opportunity exists for multiple use including timber management, wildlife conservation and public activities such as hunting and gathering.

## **Cultural**

This tract is reviewed for cultural sites during the forest resource inventory and planning process. Cultural resources may be present but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources noted will be avoided during management or construction activities.

## **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription**

In 1974 the tract was harvested (Weston Paper & Manufacturing Co.) of ~24,920 Bd. Ft. on 25 acres (996 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 1987 a routine timber inventory was conducted (J. Gagnon). The data estimated the tract to contain 109 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 345 trees per acre with approximately 5020 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 1987 the tract was harvested (Kirkham Hardwoods, Inc.) of ~63,068 Bd. Ft. in 368 trees on 62 acres (1017 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 1988 a timber stand improvement (T.S.I) project was performed to release crop trees across the tract by girdling select trees and cutting grapevines.

In 1989 a property wide inventory (TIMPIS) was conducted, including Compartment 7 tract 6. The data estimated the tract to be 84% stocked with 91 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 239 trees per acre, containing approximately 4551 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2005 a routine timber inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 91% stocked with 107 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 185 trees per acre and an average tree diameter of 10 inches, containing approximately 7153 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

In 2007 the tract was harvested (R. Booe & Son Hardwoods, Inc.) of ~172,500 Bd. Ft. in 920 trees on 91 acres (1895 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 2008 a timber stand improvement (T.S.I) project was performed to release crop trees across the tract through selective girdling and the creation of a regeneration opening.

In 2018 a routine inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 109% stocked with 130 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 195 trees per acre and an average tree diameter of 11 inches, containing approximately 6977 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre.

Timber in compartment 7 tract 6 is predominantly closed canopy mixed hardwoods, with some pockets of oak-hickory, and small pine stands. The over-story consists mostly of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, oak, hickory, beech, maple and ash; with eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) comprising approximately 4 acres in the western area of the tract. The quality of merchantable timber is good, except for the declining yellow poplar, with the ridge tops and upper slopes containing more of the mixed hardwoods, and the mid to lower slopes containing more of the oak-hickory. The under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, sassafras, poplar, oak and hickory. Advanced regeneration is represented mostly by beech, maple, ash, sassafras, pawpaw, hickory, cherry, and oak.

The current inventory and stocking level indicates the tract is fully stocked. Some areas of the tract are sufficiently mature and crowded that significant resource stress and competition is taking place and thinning is recommended. Often, there is little groundcover or desired advanced regeneration in these areas due to low light levels and browse. The remaining less stressed and maturing areas would also benefit from the selective removal of less desirable species and low quality individuals in an effort to improve the overall tract quality and composition.

The recommendation is to perform an intermediate cutting in the form of a thinning and improvement cut, utilizing the single tree and group selection methods within the un-even aged management system. A thinning should be done to reduce competition and mortality amongst the overcrowded timber. An improvement cut should be incorporated to improve the overall species composition and quality of the tract by select harvesting the low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as thinning of less desirable species, especially the declining yellow-poplar that are competing with the oak and other quality trees such as the hickory and cherry. In addition, ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be selected for harvest to utilize their product before they become populated with the insect and decline. However, live, healthy Ash which survive or escape the EAB killing wave will be retained and their growth encouraged through applied management. The two-fold objective is to recruit ash regeneration before EAB induce mortality and then promote the development of EAB survivors.

In some areas, a shelterwood-type situation may be created as trees are removed from the intermediate and understory layers while larger dominant and co-dominant trees (especially where oak is a strong component) are left standing. This will allow more diffuse sunlight to reach the ground and improve the establishment and survival of seedlings.

Group selection openings over less than 10% of the tract may also be created to remove groups of undesirable species or poor quality individuals and to promote regeneration.

In combination, these silvicultural methods will reduce stand density; improve overall growing conditions and timber quality, while encouraging tree species diversity and regeneration of native mixed hardwood species.

The long term objective with the pine stands is a transitioning over the next 2 cycles away from these non-native species and towards a native hardwood mix. This would utilize a combination of group, shelterwood and single tree selection systems as described above.



<b>Sassafras</b>	321
<b>White Pine</b>	248
<b>Red Maple</b>	217
<b>American Beech</b>	208
<b>White Ash</b>	195
<b>Pignut Hickory</b>	169
<b>American Sycamore</b>	146
<b>Black Oak</b>	132
<b>Black Cherry</b>	118
<b>Largetooth Aspen</b>	71
<b>Basswood</b>	64
<b>Black Walnut</b>	45
<b>Shagbark Hickory</b>	44
<b>Virginia Pine</b>	35
<b>Blackgum</b>	32
<b>Per Acre Total</b>	6977
<b>Tract Total</b>	634,907

**Proposed Management Activities**

- 2018 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2018 ----- DHPA Archaeological Clearance Application
- 2018 ----- Resource Management Guide
- 2020-2022 ----- Timber Marking and Sale Layout
- 2022-2024 ----- Timber Sale/Harvest
- 2022-2025 ----- Post-Harvest TSI and Exotic/Invasive Control
- 2025-2028 ----- Regeneration check
- 2033 ----- Timber Inventory
- 2033 ----- Resource Management Guide

**State Forest:** Owen-Putnam  
**Forester:** R. Duncan  
**Management Cycle End Year:** 2032

**Compartment:** 9 **Tract:** 1  
**Date:** September 2017  
**Management Cycle Length:** 15 Years

### Location

Compartment 9, tract 1 is located off of Mangus road, primarily in the southeast quarter of section 32, township 10N, range 4W, Morgan Township, Owen County. It is approximately 2 miles northwest of the forest office.



## **General Description**

This tract is a 46-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 838 acres comprising compartment 9 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Timber types include closed canopy oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods and pine. Red pine was planted in small areas to control erosion from disturbances prior to state ownership. The over-story consists of medium to large sawlog sized yellow-poplar, maple, oak, beech, hickory and ash. The quality of merchantable timber is good. However, there is some decline in the poplar due to drought and insect stress. The pole-sized under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, hickory and poplar. This area exhibits good opportunities for multiple use management, including timber management, wildlife management, soil and water conservation and public recreational activities, such as, hunting, gathering, viewing and interpretation.

## **History**

Owen-Putnam State Forest was established in 1948 with most of its landholdings purchased as smaller non-contiguous tracts in the 50's and 60's. Prior to state ownership, many of the ridge tops in the area were farmed through the 1930's. Sometime in the 1960's many of the severely eroded ridge tops were planted to pine to stabilize the soil. Compartment 9 tract 3 has been managed for many years.

- Timber inventory in 1983
- Property wide timber inventory (TIMPIS) in 1989
- Timber inventory in 2002
- Timber harvest in 2004
- Timber stand improvement, vine control and crop tree release in 2006
- Timber inventory in 2017

## **Landscape Context**

Compartment 9 tract 1 is located in a rural area. Generally the area is forested hills and ravines. The private property adjacent to this compartment and tract are primarily closed canopy, deciduous, mixed hardwood forests with no industry, little agriculture, and some residences with small fields/pastures and small ponds located primarily along secondary county roads beyond the state forest.

## **Topography, Geology and Hydrology**

This part of Owen-Putnam State Forest falls in the Shawnee Hills Natural Region, Crawford Upland Section. This section is most distinct by its rugged hills with sandstone cliffs and rockhouses. Characteristic soils are the well-drained acidic silt loams of the Wellston-Zanesville-Berks Association. The upper slopes consist of an oak-hickory assortment, with a more mesic component in the coves resembling the mixed mesophytic forest community.

The topography of the area varies from nearly level ground along the stream in the west half of the tract to moderately steep south facing slopes. Water sheds primarily west into a mapped intermittent stream flowing from north to south along the west edge of the tract. The area is generally comprised of shallow to moderately deep, well-drained soils often containing fragipans, on nearly level to steep slopes. These soils occur throughout the Illinoian glaciated areas of the county. In the event of a harvest, the existing haul road and log yards can be utilized. Care must be taken during the planning and execution of skid trails due to the erosive nature of some soils. Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines will be followed to preserve soil and water quality.

## **Soils**

This tract is composed of the following soils: (USDA, NRCS – Soil Survey, Owen County, IN 2005).

**TtaG- Tulip-Tipsaw complex**, 25 to 60 percent slopes, this moderately and very steep, moderately deep to deep, well drained complex is found on side slopes in the uplands. It is suited to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and seedling mortality are management concerns that should be considered when planning sale layout and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Tulip has a site index of 80 for northern red oak and 95 for yellow poplar and Tipsaw has a site index of 70 for northern red and black oak.

**TtcE- Tulip-Wellston-Adyeville silt loams**, 18 to 25 percent slopes, this strongly sloping to steep, deep, well drained complex is found on side slopes in the uplands. It is suited to trees. Erosion hazards, equipment limitations, windthrow hazards, and seedling mortality are management concerns that should be considered when planning sale layout and implementing Best Management Practices for Water Quality. 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.

**StaAV- Steff silt loam**, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, very brief duration. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**WhfD2- Wellston silt loam**, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded, this strongly sloping, well-drained soil is on narrow ridgetops and on side slopes of the uplands. It is well suited to trees. This soil has a site index of 71 for northern red oak and 90 for yellow poplar.

### **Access**

To access the tract from Spencer Indiana, travel west on State Road 46 approximately 4-miles to Mangus road, then travel north on Mangus road approximately 2.5-miles to the second 90 degree bend in the road with our access lane on the west side of the road. The tract is accessible to the public via the parking lot off of Mangus road. Management access as well as public recreational access to this tract is good.

### **Boundary**

This tract is a 46-acre, sustainably managed, multiple use parcel located within the 838 acres comprising compartment 9 of the Owen-Putnam State Forest. Private property borders this tract along the north, west and east sides with approximate boundary lines having been located and marked with orange paint and flagging. The boundary lines have been marked and documented in the past. The remainder of this tract's boundaries are internal and therefore adjacent to other state forest tracts. They primarily follow a power line ROW to the north and an intermittent stream to the south.

### **Wildlife**

With the presence of the upland and lowland forest area, which includes oak-hickory, beech-maple, mixed hardwoods, pine, pockets of seasonal grasses and sedges, and ephemeral drainages, and a mapped intermittent stream, this tract contains habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Common species or sign observed include Eastern grey squirrel, Eastern fox squirrel, Eastern chipmunks, white-tailed deer, Wild Turkey, Virginia opossum, North American raccoon, Eastern box turtle, raptors, songbirds, woodpeckers, toads, frogs and various small stream aquatic life.

Live trees in this tract provide for shelter, escape cover, roosting and as a direct (e.g. mast, foliage) or indirect (e.g. foraging substrate, bugging) food resource, with the oaks, hickories, walnuts and beech providing hard mast for deer, turkey and squirrel and the cherries providing soft mast for birds. The pine stands provide benefits such as cover, roosts and browse.

Live trees containing cavities in this tract provide nesting and denning opportunities for woodpeckers, songbirds and small mammals and potentially contribute to future snags (standing dead trees).

Snags in this tract provide essential habitat characteristics for foraging activity, nest/den sites, decomposers (e.g., fungi and invertebrates), bird perching and bat roosting, and are important contributors to the future pool of downed woody material.

Rotten logs, crater knolls, ephemeral streams and the mapped intermittent stream provide habitat for herptiles and aquatic vertebrates.

A Natural Heritage Database Review is part of the management planning process. If Rare, Threatened or Endangered species 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.

The proposed management activities for this tract should not significantly alter the relative proportion and availability of habitat/cover types or significantly disrupt travel/dispersal corridors or create isolated habitat units separated from larger units of similar habitat. Nor should the proposed management activities increase the likelihood that specialist interior forest species would be affected by generalist species using forest edge habitats. Indiana Logging and Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) will be followed to conserve soil and water resources and related forest wildlife habitats, such as springs/seeps, ponds/wetlands and karst features.

### **Wildlife Habitat Features**

According to the data collected during the tract inventory (R. Duncan 2017) and represented in the following table, this tract is well represented with habitat in regards to the density, size and species of live and dead trees essential for consideration of various wildlife habitat needs including habitat specialists such as cavity nesters and species of conservation need like the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and their suggested habitat requirements.

Legacy trees, as defined by the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features are well represented above the suggested maintenance levels. White oak and shagbark hickory are two species having preferred characteristics for tree roosting bats. Both are relatively abundant in this tract and will be given consideration as habitat.

Standing dead or dying trees (snags) are well represented in this tract. Snags in this tract are above the maintenance levels in all size classes.

Legacy trees, snags and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana bat and other wildlife as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property and the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features. In addition, the girdling of select cull trees could be performed through post harvest timber stand improvement (T.S.I.) to address the lack of large diameter snags.

### **Wildlife Habitat Feature Tract Summary**

	<b>Maintenance Level</b>	<b>Inventory</b>	<b>Available Above Maintenance</b>
<b>Legacy Trees *</b>			
<b>11"+ DBH</b>	729	1484	755
<b>20"+ DBH</b>	243	319	76

**Snags  
(all species)**

<b>5"+ DBH</b>	324	838	514
<b>9"+ DBH</b>	243	737	494
<b>19"+ DBH</b>	40.5	52	12

\* **Species Include:** AME, BIH, BLL, COT, GRA, REO, POO, REE, SHH, ZSH, SIM, SUM, WHA, WHO

**Communities**

Most of this tract is of the dry-mesic upland forest community type, with some isolated more mesic sites located along lower slopes, and some floodplain along drainages and streams. The dry-mesic upland forest community has moderate soil moisture with trees growing well, however the canopy is usually more open than in mesic forests. It is one of the most prevalent forest communities in Indiana. It occurs on slopes throughout the state. The dominant plants in this community are the white oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Characteristic plants in this community are the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*). Characteristic animals in this community are the broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*), white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*).

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 communities.

An exotic/invasive species, multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), is present in and around this tract in patches of light to moderate densities. It is also common throughout the county. Control measures can be undertaken during post-harvest T.S.I., to treat problem occurrences before their populations expand.

**Recreation**

This multiple use tract has good public access via the parking lot and fire trail located on Mangus road. While there are no designated recreation trails on the tract it offers opportunities for public recreational activities including hiking, gathering, viewing and interpretation. Because of its parking and walkable fire trail, it is easily accessible outdoor experience.

**Cultural**

Cultural resources may be present but their location(s) are protected. Adverse impacts to significant cultural resources noted will be avoided during management or construction activities.

## **Tract Description and Silvicultural Prescription**

In 1983 a routine timber inventory was conducted (B. Hahn). The data estimated the tract to contain approximately 2041 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 883 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

In 1988 a property wide inventory (TIMPIS) was conducted, including Compartment 9 tract 1. The data estimated the tract to be 84% stocked with 96 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 183 trees per acre, containing approximately 3552 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 476 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

In 2002 a routine timber inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to 130% stocked with 158 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 318 trees per acre and an average tree diameter of 8.5 inches, containing approximately 8186 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 3606 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per.

In 2004 the tract was harvested (Crites Logging, Inc.) of 54,100 Bd. Ft. in 294 trees on 44 acres (1229 Bd. Ft. /acre) as part of an intermediate harvest in the form of a selective thinning and improvement cut.

In 2006 a timber stand improvement (T.S.I) project was performed to release crop trees across the tract by girdling select trees and cutting grapevines.

In 2017 a routine inventory was conducted (R. Duncan). The data estimated the tract to be 93% stocked with 114 Sq. Ft. of total basal area per acre in 140 trees per acre, and an average tree diameter of 12.5 inches, containing approximately 7069 Bd. Ft. of total sawtimber per acre with an estimated 1629 Bd. Ft. of harvest sawtimber per acre.

Timber in compartment 9 tract 1 is predominantly closed canopy mixed hardwoods, with some pockets of oak-hickory, and small, scattered pine stands. The over-story consists mostly of medium to large sawlog sized poplar, oak, hickory, beech, maple and ash; with Red Pine and Virginia pine comprising the pine stands. The quality of merchantable timber is good, except for the declining yellow poplar, with the ridge tops and upper slopes containing more of the mixed hardwoods, and the mid to lower slopes containing more of the oak-hickory. The under-story consists mostly of beech, maple, sassafras, poplar, oak and hickory. Advanced regeneration is represented mostly by beech, maple, ash, sassafras, pawpaw, hickory, cherry, and oak.

The current inventory and stocking level indicates the tract is fully stocked. Some areas of the tract are sufficiently mature and crowded that significant resource stress and competition is taking place and thinning may be beneficial. Often, there is little groundcover or desired advance regeneration in these areas due to low light levels and browse. The remaining less stressed and maturing areas would benefit from the selective removal of less desirable species and low quality individuals in an effort to improve the overall tract quality and composition.

The recommendation is to perform an intermediate cutting in the form of a thinning and improvement cut, utilizing the single tree and group selection methods within the un-even aged

management system. A thinning should be done to reduce competition and mortality amongst the overcrowded timber. An improvement cut should be incorporated to improve the overall species composition and quality of the tract by select harvesting the low quality, damaged, diseased, dying and poorly formed trees as well as thinning of less desirable species, especially the declining yellow-poplar that are competing with the oak and other quality trees such as the hickory and cherry. In addition, ash trees susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer will be selected for harvest to utilize their product before they become populated with the insect and decline. However, live, healthy Ash which survive or escape the EAB killing wave will be retained and their growth encouraged through applied management. The two-fold objective is to recruit ash regeneration before EAB induce mortality and then promote the development of EAB survivors.

In some areas, a shelterwood-type situation may be created as trees are removed from the intermediate and understory layers while larger dominant and co-dominant trees (especially where oak is a strong component) are left standing. This will allow more diffuse sunlight to reach the ground and improve the establishment and survival of seedlings.

Group selection openings may also be created over less than 10% of the tract to remove groups of undesirable species or poor quality individuals and to promote regeneration and young forest growth.

In combination, these silvicultural methods will reduce stand density; improve overall growing conditions and timber quality, while encouraging tree species diversity and regeneration of native mixed hardwood species. The remnant pine component will continue its transitioning to native hardwoods over the management cycle.

Management in the form of post harvest Timber Stand Improvement (T.S.I.) is prescribed to release preferred, high quality crop trees through the culling of low volume, poorly formed trees and less desirable species, and to encourage regeneration through the creation of canopy gaps and a reduction in understory shade tolerant species. T.S.I. would also look at problem occurrences of multi-flora rose.

Standing dead trees (snags) and cavity trees will be given consideration for retention as habitat for wildlife. Legacy trees, as defined by the Resource Management Strategy for the Indiana Bat on State Forest Property, will be given consideration for retention as habitat for the Indiana Bat. In addition, the girdling of select, larger diameter cull trees could be performed through T.S.I. to address the Management Guidelines for Compartment-Level Wildlife Habitat Features.

The overall goal of this prescription is to improve timber species composition, provide resources for future crop trees through the removal of over-mature and declining trees, and provide a diversity of forest wildlife habitat and structure. The overall prescribed harvest would remove approximately 25-30% of the standing volume, with an estimated volume: 80,000-100,000 board feet.

The tract is projected to remain in the fully stocked category after the prescribed selective harvest.



## **Proposed Management Activities**

2017 -----	Timber Inventory
2017 -----	DHPA Archaeological Clearance Application
2017-19 -----	Resource Management Guide
2019-20 -----	Timber Marking and Sale Layout
2019-20 -----	Timber Sale /Harvest
2019-20 -----	Timber Harvest
2019-21 -----	Post-Harvest TSI and Exotic/Invasive Control
2032 -----	Timber Inventory
2032 -----	Resource Management Guide