



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
N.C. Forest Service



Scott Bisette
Assistant Commissioner

April 19, 2022
221 Airport Rd.
Fayetteville, NC 28306

D-6-FM – 12ac
Parcel ID #: 120546 0060 12
PIN #: 0546-84-3781
Project #: 41528
4220 Tract #: 043-1728A
Projects – Harnett County
Sylvestri, John

Mr. Mr. John Sylvestri
12303 Hummingbird CV
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Dear Mr. Sylvestri,

Harnett Asst. County Ranger Preston Keyes and I recently examined your woodland property located south of Lillington, west of Bunn Level, and between US 401 Hwy and US 210 Hwy. I understood that your goal for this property is to manage the woodland for future timber income but that you are also interested in wildlife, recreation, hunting, camping, and other non-timber uses of the property. I also understand that you have done some burning in the past.

This letter, the enclosed woodland management outline, and enclosed map summarize the findings and recommendations that we made during our walk over the tract. Acreage figures have been determined from an aerial photograph and are only approximations.

QUICK SUMMARY OF NEEDED ACTION

- Stop mowing and pruning in Areas 1, 2, and 3 – 2022
- Contact the NCFS about burning and cost-share money for burning in ALL areas – 2022
- Order longleaf pine seedlings for Area 1 – July 2022
- Plant longleaf pine seedlings in Area 1 – Fall 2022
- Install firelines for areas to be burned – Winter 2022 after all leaf fall
- Burn Areas 2, 3, and 3A – Winter 2022-23
- Burn 1/2 - 1/3 of tract each year – Winter 2024 and into the future
- Have the NCFS examine all areas for possible harvest - 2052

Tree Planting – Area 1

Stocking is low in Area 1. I recommend that you plant about one box (334 trees) of containerized longleaf pine seedlings in the fall of 2022. These would not be planted on an even spacing across the tract, but where there are larger gaps, keeping newly planted pines and existing pines about 10' apart. The goal is to plant more seedlings where there are few existing trees and to fill the larger gaps between existing trees.

Seedlings will need to be ordered in July 2022 to reserve them for the fall. You can order trees at: <http://www.buynctrees.com/>

Tree Planting – October 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023

Species:	Longleaf Pine Piedmont Improved (Item# 940)
Seed Source:	Improved - NC Piedmont
Treatment:	Pales Weevil & Deer Browse
Spacing:	10 feet between newly planted or existing trees
Planting Method:	Hand planting w/ KBC dibble bar
Season/Timing:	10/1/22 through 1/1/23
Who?	Landowner or Private Planting Contractor(list enclosed)
Cost:	\$70 for one box (334 trees) of containerized longleaf seedlings PLUS any labor
Cost-Share:	none

Prescribed Burning

Most of your management objectives can be achieved by an ongoing burning program. If you will burn 1/2 to 1/3 of the property (all areas) each year, you can improve wildlife habitat, control understory growth, and keep the tract open for hunting and other recreational uses. I do recommend that you not burn Area 1 after planting seedlings but wait a few years for them to gain diameter and height.

I understand that you have done some prescribed burning in the past. That's quite impressive considering the smoke management issues on this site (houses downwind from a prevailing SW wind). You can keep burning the property yourself or contract burning with the NCFS or other burning contractor.

The NCFS charges \$30/ac, including firelines, with a \$350 minimum contract charge.

There are a number of cost-share program that will pay some or all of the cost of prescribed burning. Most of these programs will pay approved funds even if you do the burning yourself. They are:

Program	Admin. Agency	Contact	Pays	Notes
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Harnett County NRCS (910) 893-5101 ext 2	\$47/ac	Plan ahead. Can take a year to be approved for EQIP
Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program (SPBPP)	NC Forest Service	Harnett County Ranger 910-893-4391	\$15/ac first burn \$20/ac following burns	May be hard to qualify for this one.
NC Prescribed Burning Program	NC Forest Service	Harnett County Ranger 910-893-4391	50% up to \$30/ac if a NCFS Burn or up to \$50/ac for a contractor burn	

If you decide to talk to the NRCS about the EQIP program, also ask about the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). There is a lot of money in CSP for the right landowner. Someone managing longleaf pine for wildlife habitat may well be the right landowner.

Future Timber Harvest

With only 12 acres, you need to plan to harvest this whole site at the same time. Harvesting a single area is not practical, and timber prices are very low for small harvest areas. I recommend allowing all your trees to grow until the trees in Area 1 and Area 2 are ready for harvest.

In 30+ years, the NCFS will provide you with a list of timber buyers. Contact as many as possible before selling. Generally, a lump-sum, sealed bid sale gives the landowner the best results. For your own protection, as well as the logger's, a written contract should always be used. I have enclosed a sheet titled, "What's a Timber Sale Contract? What Landowners Need to Know".

Water Quality Laws

There is a perennial stream on the south end of your property that will need to be protected during any timber harvest. Be sure to hold the timber buyer responsible for all water quality laws, including the Forest Practices Guidelines (FPG's). The logger will need to leave an appropriate buffer along the creek, and no equipment should ever be within 30' of the creek channel. The law holds you equally responsible for compliance with these regulations. You need to use your timber contract to put the responsibility back on the logger and timber buyer.

Timber "Basis"

You will owe federal and state tax on any net timber sale income (your "gain"). Your taxable income is the gross dollar value of the sale, less any costs of selling the timber (consultant fees, temporary road improvements, etc.), AND less your adjusted timber "basis". Your original basis is usually:

- 1) the purchase price of your timber on the day that you purchased that timber or;
- 2) the fair market value at date of death in the case of inheritance (assuming the estate was valued at full fair market value, including the timber) or;
- 3) the donor's basis if the timber is received by gift or;
- 4) all capitalized reforestation expenditures (If you planted the trees and did not expense the reforestation costs, then your basis will be the cost of reforestation).

The adjusted basis will be the original basis plus any capitalized annual management expenses or less any depletion, casualty loss, amortization or other tax write-off of basis dollars. It is very important to establish your basis before the timber sale in order to reduce the amount of your federal taxes. This basis should be established by a registered forester and should be assigned BEFORE the timber is cut.

Taxation of Timber Sale Income

Timber is real property and is therefore a capital asset (like land or houses). When you sell timber, the money you make (minus the costs of selling timber and minus your timber basis) is a "long-term capital gain", assuming that you have owned the timber for more than one year. The Federal Government taxes "long-term capital gains" at a lower rate than regular income (wages or farm income). The top "capital gains" rate is currently set at 20% (15% for most tax brackets) while tax rates on regular income can be as high as 37%. Additionally, "capital gains" are not subject to self-employment taxation (currently 15%) as is farm income. As you can see, reporting timber sale income as a "capital gain" can greatly reduce your tax burden.

You may want to enlist the services of a tax accountant who is familiar with the minutia of forestry taxation.

See: <https://www.timbertax.org/>

BENEFITS OF HIRING A CONSULTING FORESTER

I recommend you hire a consulting forester. The NC Forest Service is available to assist you with managing your forestland, but with limitations. A consulting forester can offer what the NC Forest Service offers and beyond. A consulting forester does charge a fee for his/her services, but the benefits greatly outweigh the cost. You can contact the NC Forest Service for a list of consulting foresters, or visit our website:

http://www.ncforestservice.gov/Managing_your_forest/consulting_foresters.htm

Services Provided by Most Consulting Foresters – forest management plan writing, volume estimation and timber appraisal, marketing and selling timber, marking property boundaries, planning and overseeing logging operations, planning and overseeing site prep and tree planting, estate planning and tax advice, assessing forest health, and many more...

PRESENT USE TAX VALUATION

You may want to check with the Tax Office in Lillington to see if your property qualifies for the present use tax valuation. This valuation is used on tracts of timber, over 20 acres, that are being managed in a responsible manner. This classification could greatly reduce your tax burden. YOU are responsible for taking this plan to the tax office. As you do not have 20 acres on this tract, you would have to have 20+ acres somewhere else and then this tract could “ride on” the other tract.

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM – WOODLAND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

The North Carolina Forest Service received funding through a 2021 North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services - Agricultural Disaster Recovery Program Block Grant through the USDA Farm Services Agency. A portion of this grant is designated for Woodland Recovery Assistance and will provide time-limited cost-share funding to assist N.C. forest landowners with the development of comprehensive management plans (Forest Stewardship, N.C. Tree Farm, and Forest Management Plans). These funds are intended to expand existing North Carolina Forest Service capacity to reach more landowners to provide technical assistance. The cost of this forest management plan is covered by the Agriculture Disaster Recovery Program.

While on site I did not observe any substantial damage to your timberland from previous storms. Implementing sound forest management practices will decrease the chances of acquiring damage to your trees from any future storms.

Thank you for your interest in responsible forest management. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 919-553-6178, or contact Harnett County Ranger Buren Fulmer at 910-893-4391.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lipford

Robert W. Lipford
Staff Forester - FM
Registered Forester #925

CC: Harnett County Ranger





NC Forest Service Management Outline

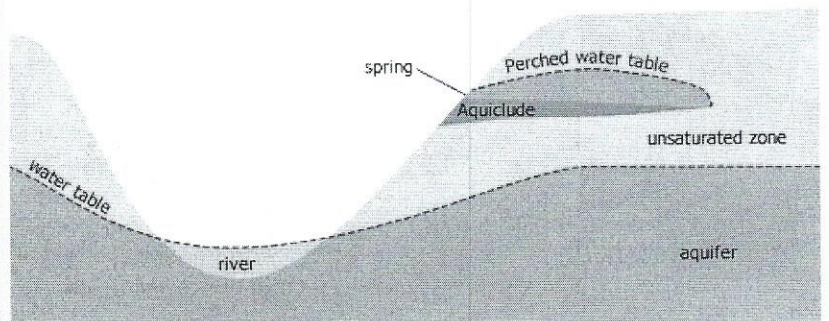
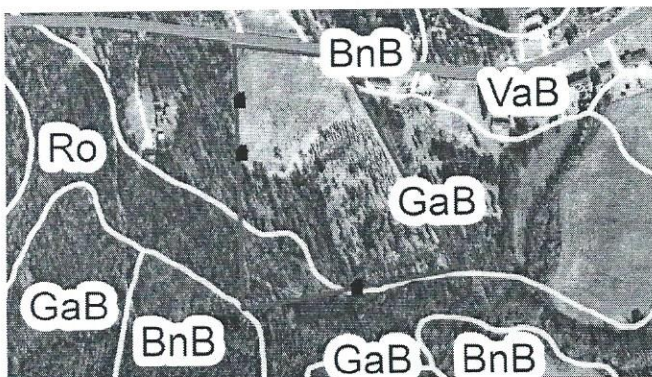
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Area 1

Area #	Area Size	Stand Description	Recommendations	When and Who
Area 1	3.6 Acres	Planted longleaf pine, about 6 years old.	1) Plant about 1 box (334 seedlings) of containerized longleaf pine in the areas of lowest stocking. The goal would be to improve longleaf pine stocking on the northern end of Area 1	By landowner in the fall of 2022. You will need to order seedlings around July 1.
		This area was in forestland about 10 years ago, but was harvested and cleared sometime between 2010 and 2013. It was hand planted around 2016.	2) Allow trees to grow for about 3-5 years.	N/A
		Some burning followed and a number of longleaf pine seedlings died. Typically, longleaf pine can take a lot of fire, but if caught at just the wrong time they can be vulnerable.	3) After your smallest longleaf pines have come out of the grass stage and are tall enough for some light fire, contact the NCFS about putting this area in a burning rotation with the rest of your property.	2025-27 by landowner and NCFS Note: smoke management will be an issue here, requiring very specific winds. Burning may only be possible in some years.
		Pines are 2' to 12' in height with groundline diameters of 2-4".	4) Continue to burn this area every 3 years for wildlife habitat.	Ongoing
		Stocking is highly variable with about 250 trees/ac in the south, decreasing to about 50 trees/ac in the north.	5) Final harvest will be possible in about 40 years.	Around 2062

Very open understory with some wiregrass.

There is a small shipping container and bee hive on the western edge of Area 1. These will need to be protected during any burning or other forestry operation.

This is a rolling site with Gilead series sandy soils and a perched water table . . . putting ground water closer to the surface than the soil textures might indicate. You can see this in the drain between Area 1 and Area 2 . . . and in the wet spots in Area 3. Consequently, this site is only moderately well-drained. Slopes are 2-8%.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Area 2

Area #	Area Size	Stand Description	Recommendations	When and Who
Area 2	1.6 Acres	<p>Planted loblolly pine, about 6 years old.</p> <p>This area was in forestland about 10 years ago, but was harvested and cleared sometime between 2010 and 2013. It was hand planted around 2016. Some of these planted loblolly extend into Area 3 . . . blurring the line between the two stands.</p> <p>Pines are 10' to 15' in height with diameters of 2-4" (breast height).</p> <p>Stocking is around 300 trees/ac. This is nearly ideal.</p> <p>Fusiform Rust infection is high at around 20%.</p> <p>Very open understory with some wiregrass.</p> <p>It appears that someone has been mowing this site. It also appears that someone has pruned off the lower branches. This pruning has made the stand superficially attractive but may have spread fusiform rust to more trees.</p> <p>This is a rolling site with Gilead series sandy soils and a perched water table . . . putting ground water closer to the surface than the soil textures might indicate. You can see this in the drain between Area 1 and Area 2 . . . and in the wet spots in Area 3. Consequently, this site is only moderately well-drained. Slopes are 2-8%.</p>	1) Stop mowing and pruning. These can be good practices, but do not seem to be helping this stand.	N/A
			2) Contact the NCFS about putting this area in a burning rotation with the rest of your property.	2022 by landowner and NCFS
			3) Continue to burn this area every 3 years for wildlife habitat.	Ongoing
			4) Final harvest will be possible in 30-40 years.	2052-2062
			Because this is such a small area, you will have to harvest it with other timber in other areas.	

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Area 3 & 3A

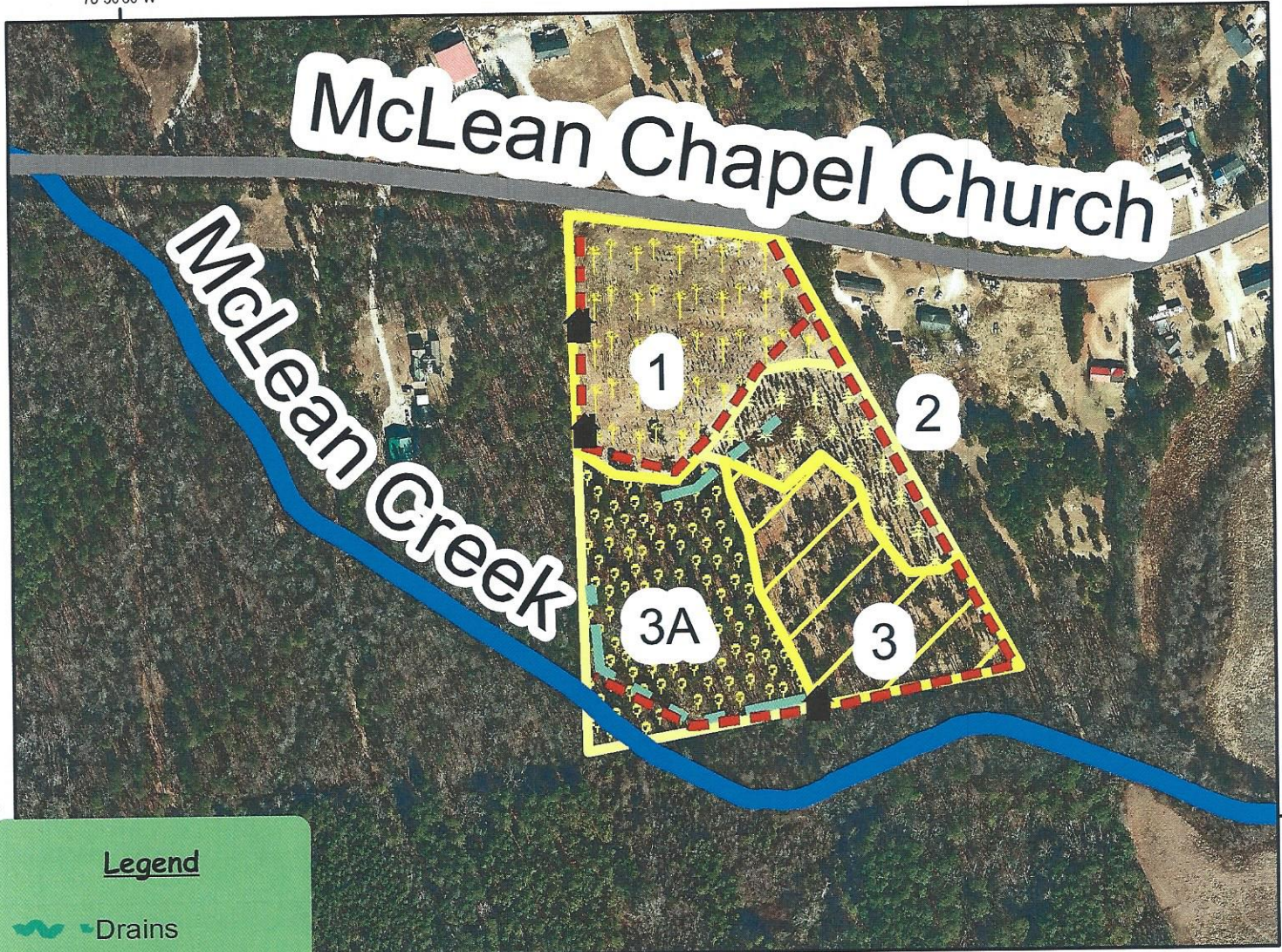
Area #	Area Size	Stand Description	Recommendations	When and Who
Area 3	3 Acres	<p>Natural mixed pine stand; about 42 years old. Species include loblolly pine and longleaf pine. There is also some sweetgum in the low spots.</p> <p>This area has been heavily thinned and current stocking is quite low (50sqft/ac basal area). This thinning may not have been commercial and may have been a part of the land clearing in Area 1 and Area 2.</p> <p>Pines are around 60' in height with diameters of 6-18" (breast height).</p> <p>Fusiform Rust infection is high at around 20%.</p> <p>Very open understory with some wiregrass, blackjack oak, gallberry, and ferns in the wetter spots.</p> <p>It appears that someone has been mowing this site. There are many trees skinned from mechanized equipment.</p> <p>There is an old outhouse on the boarder of Area 3 and Area 3A that would need to be protected during any proscribed burning.</p> <p>This is a rolling site with Gilead series sandy soils and a perched water table . . . putting ground water closer to the surface than the soil textures might indicate. You can see this in the drain between Area 1 and Area 2 . . . and in the wet spots in Area 3. Consequently, this site is only moderately well-drained. Slopes are 2-8%.</p>	1) Stop mowing and clearing in Area 3. Rely on fire to improve and maintain wildlife habitat.	N/A
			2) Contact the NCFS about putting BOTH areas in a burning rotation with the rest of your property.	2022 by landowner and NCFS
			Area 3A is only suitable for winter burns at this time. Fuel loads must be lowered before anyone introduces spring or summer burns.	Note: smoke management will be an issue here, requiring very specific winds. Burning may only be possible in some years.
			3) Continue to burn BOTH areas every 3 years for wildlife habitat.	Ongoing
Area 3A	3.5 Acres	<p>Very similar to area 3 with these differences.</p> <p>The site grades to a wetter Roanoke loam on the southwest corner. There is a ditch along the southern boarder that seems to have been intended to drain excess water from this area.</p> <p>There is more hardwood: post oak, hickory, white oak, and sweetgum, with grapevine and holly in the understory.</p> <p>There has been little clearing in this area.</p>	4) Final harvest will be possible in 30-40 years.	2052-2062



North Carolina Forest Service Forest Management Map

Boundaries and Acres are Approximate

78°50'30"W



Legend

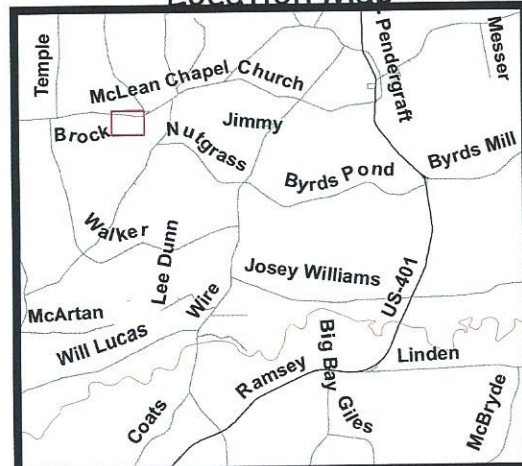
- Drains
- Small Streams
- Large Streams

Stands

Area_Num	Symbol
1	
2	
3	
3A	

1 inch = 300 feet

Location Map



Owner: John Sylvestri
 Lat: 35 18.11
 Long: -78 50.28
 County: Harnett
 Date: April 18, 2022
 Drawn By: Lipford
 Parcel ID #: 120546 0060 12
 PIN #: 0546-84-3781
 Project #: 41528
 4220 Tract #: 043-1728A

N.000°00'00"W

35°18'00"N