

Annual Work Plan for State Forests

2024-2025

Reviewed and Approved By:

State Forester

Date: XX/XX/2024

OUR MISSION:

To promote and apply management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands.

OUR VISION:

The Ohio Division of Forestry envisions healthy, diverse forests valued for the lifesustaining benefits they provide to all Ohioans now and forever.

Introduction

The "Annual Work Plan" is the document that describes activities that are proposed to implement the goals and objectives of DOF's ten-year (2021-2031) forest management plan.

This Annual Work Plan for 2024-2025 will be publicly available via our website and will complement our annual open houses which will be held in early September of 2024. Annual work plans are intended to be read and commented on by stakeholders, experts, and interested citizens.

The Division of Forestry uses these comments to evaluate the social and environmental impact of forest management. All feedback received from our annual work plan will be considered by DOF management. The Chief of the Division of Forestry gives final approval to the annual work plan after consideration of all comments and issues.

This document represents a transparent effort to share a summary of planned activities on Ohio's state forests for 2024-25 and obtain public input regarding these activities.

Open houses will occur on the below dates and times. Comments will be accepted until October 7, 2024 to be considered for the final work plan:

Southeastern District, Athens Headquarters Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. 360 E. State St., Athens 45701

Southern District, Chillicothe Headquarters Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. 345 Allen Ave., Chillicothe 45601

Northern District, Findlay Headquarters Thursday, September 12, 2024, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. 952 Lima Ave., Findlay, OH 45840

2024-2025 Planned Activities

1. Land Management

This table contains a list of timber harvests that have been inventoried, assessed, and prescribed for treatment. Their objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of the 10-year forest management plan. Maps for each harvest are attached in Appendix A.

	Sales to be marked FY 25, not previously reviewed								
State Forest	Compartment(s)	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Total Ac.	Singletree or Group Selection	Clearcuts / Openings	Shelterwood	Deferment	Thinning / Improvement	County/Twp
Blue Rock	A-19	488,286	48		9		39		Muskingum/Blue Rock, Salt Creek
Brush Creek	A-9	899,928	108				36	72	Adams/Franklin
Brush Creek	A-39/40/42	250,498	95					95	Adams/Franklin & Scioto/Rarden
Dean	A-4	24,000	2		2				Decatur/Lawrence
Mohican	B-3	750,000	55					55	Ashland/Hanover
Pike	A-18	624,080	174					174	Pike/Benton
Pike	B-8/9	573,834	103				30	73	Pike/Benton
Scioto Trail	B-1/2	74,000	24					24	Ross/Franklin
Scioto Trail	C-4	311,761	77					77	Ross/Franklin
Shade River	A-3	71,373	16		3		13		Meigs/Olive
Shawnee	A-7/8/9	348,100	102	38				64	Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	A-11	160,200	18		18				Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	C-2/3	391,820	94		21			73	Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	D-30/32	444,325	135	48			30	57	Adams/Green
Shawnee	E-5/8/9	637,716	95	24	58			13	Adams/Green & Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	E-10	100,000	42	42					Scioto/Union
Shawnee	G-18	385,000	52		13	39			Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	G-19	340,000	42					42	Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	G- 23/24/25	251,017	54	8	10	25		11	Scioto/Nile
Tar Hollow	B-11	596,550	77	47			30		Ross/Harrison & Vinton/Eagle
Tar Hollow	C-8	70,000	10			10			Ross/Harrison
Zaleski	A-17	89,500	27					27	Vinton/Brown
Zaleski	C-29	576,638	48				48		Vinton/Brown
Zaleski	D-22	723,250	55				55		Vinton/Brown

This table contains a list of precommercial projects that have been identified and proposed for treatment. Their objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of the 10-year forest management plan. Maps for each treatment are show in Appendix D.

Given the importance of treating forest health threats, new projects not listed here may be identified and treated throughout the year as they are discovered

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State Forest	Compartment(s)	Total Ac.	Invasive Spp.	Midstory Removal	Crop Tree Release	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	Grapevine Removal	County/Twp
Hocking	A-3	240				240		Hocking/Good Hope, Laurel
Hocking	C-5/10	342				342		Hocking/Benton, Laurel
Hocking	C-12	9	9					Hocking/Benton
Hocking	D-1	252				252		Hocking/Benton
Perry	A-4	21	21					Perry/Clayton
Pike	A-28	47	47					Pike/Benton
Pike	B-15	107	107					Pike/Benton
Scioto Trail	B-1/2/3	743	743					Ross/Franklin
Scioto Trail	B-9/10	11	11					Ross/Franklin
Scioto Trail	D-6/E-3	136	136					Ross/Franklin
Shade River	A-11	106					106	Meigs/Olive
Shawnee	A-26, B-16	62	62					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	B-1	31	31					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	B-6/7	98	98					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	C-6	27	27					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	C-8	52	52					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	C-30	63	63					Scioto/Nile
Shawnee	G-8/10/11/17	160	160					Scioto/Nile
Tar Hollow	A-9	146	146					Vinton/Eagle
Tar Hollow	C-3	55	55					Ross/Harrison
Tar Hollow	E-2/3	120	120					Ross/Colerain
Tar Hollow	G-3	34	34					Ross/Harrison
Zaleski	A-8	25			25			Vinton/Brown
Zaleski	B-11/13/14	203	137	37	29			Vinton/Brown
Zaleski	C-6/8/10	606	257	349				Athens/Waterloo, Vinton/Brown
Zaleski	C-13	80		80				Vinton/Brown

This table contains a list of forest areas that will be zoned according to our management zoning policy. These new land acquisitions by be funded in whole or in part by grants, donations, or state funds. The proposed zoning is based on the attributes of the forest. Maps for each area are attached in Appendix B.

State Forest	Acres	Proposed Zone	Comments
Maumee	50	3C	Thomas Tract. Acquisition funded by
			H2Ohio and USEPA GLRI
Shawnee	248	A, 3B, & 3C	Funded through H2Ohio program
Shawnee	10	3C	Partially funded through National Wild
			Turkey Federation grant

2. Fire Management

This table contains a list of planned prescribed fires for the upcoming year. The objectives of these prescribed fires meet the objectives of our 10-year management plan to promote oak/hickory regeneration. Maps for each prescribed fire are attached in Appendix C.

State Forest	Activity	Type	Acres	Name
Brush Creek	RX Fire	Oak Regeneration	217	Straight Fork
Dean	RX Fire	Site Prep	154	Post
Dean	RX Fire	Site Prep	186	Tarkiln Run
Pike	RX Fire	Regeneration	110	Little Sunfish
Scioto Trail	RX Fire	Regeneration	92	George Hollow
Scioto Trail	RX Fire	Site Prep	74	Hatfield Switchback
Scioto Trail	RX Fire	Site Prep	149	Three Points
Shawnee	RX Fire	Site Prep	9	Big Spruce Pine
Tar Hollow	RX Fire	Site Prep	242	Tri-County
Vinton Furnace	RX Fire	Research	187	Axle Ridge
Vinton Furnace	RX Fire	Research	211	Flat Run
Vinton Furnace	RX Fire	Grass Maintenance	1.5	Weather Station
Vinton Furnace	RX Fire	Research	166	Wolf Oak Rd.
Vinton Furnace	RX Fire	Research	76	Yellow Jacket
Zaleski	RX Fire	Site Prep	242	Sandy Run

3. Recreation Management

The list below contains proposed recreation expansions, major changes, or new policies. This list does not include normal maintenance activities such as trail maintenance, trail inspections, signage, drainage, or hazard tree removals, which are considered routine management duties.

State Forest	Type	Activity	Description
All state forests	Bridle Trails	Seasonal	Seasonal closure of bridle trails for
except Maumee		Closure	maintenance and sustainability

			beginning December 2, 2024 to March 30, 2025.
Maumee, Perry,	Existing	Allowing	Align with Division of Parks and
Richland Furnace,	mountain	Class 1	Watercraft in allowing Class 1 electric
Pike, Mohican,	bike trails,	Electric	bicycles on trails that currently permit
Scioto Trail	APV trails	Bicycles	mountain bikes. This includes existing
			mountain bike trails at Mohican and
			Scioto Trail State Forests as well as the
			APV Area trails at Maumee, Perry,
			Richland Furnace, and Pike State
			Forests.
Shawnee	Hiking Trail-	Reroute	Two reroutes to relocate trail onto state
	Buckeye		forest and off roadways. The first
	Trail		reroute is to move the trail from Big
			Spruce Little Bear Road and locate it in
			a section of state forest south of the
			road. The second reroute will be to
			remove the trail from a significant
			section of Sunshine Ridge Road and
			relocate it along Buckhorn Ridge,
			through Vastine Hollow and then
			proceed along Blackburn Ridge. Both
			reroutes will require new trail
			construction as well as utilizing existing
			paths such as old access roads.

4. Forest Operations

The list below contains notable capital improvements, new facilities, or closures of existing facilities. This list does not contain routine facility maintenance.

State Forest	Type	Description	Status	
Fernwood	Building	New storage building	plan	

5. Monitoring

Monitoring Type	Location	Acres	Description
Annual Certification	Various State Forests	200,000	Annual surveillance audit of state
Audit			forest management will occur in
			October 2024 to verify
			conformance to the Forest
			Stewardship Council® and the
			Sustainable Forestry Initiative®
			standards.
Forest Inventory	Various state forests	6,724	31 cruise projects are scheduled on
			14 state forests. These cruise

			projects will inventory forest stands with the intent to monitor and evaluate forest conditions and generate forest management prescriptions as appropriate. For more information on forest inventory and prescriptions, see the Division's 10-year Forest Management Plan.
High Conservation	Hocking, Shawnee,	12,234	HCVF monitoring will be
Value Forest	Mohican-Memorial		completed on 18 areas in 3 state
			forests.
Post-Rx Fire	Various	TBD	Post-prescribed fire monitoring
			will be conducted to assess
			adequate regeneration and fire
			response.

6. Other Notable Projects

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation – Funding has become available through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) to reclaim abandoned mine lands in the state. These lands, which were mined prior to the 1972 reclamation laws, pose many safety concerns and produce acid mine drainage that often enters local waterways. The ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management (MRM) holds the responsibility within the state for identifying and overseeing reclamation projects. MRM along with the Division of Forestry are exploring opportunities to reclaim parts of Perry and West Blue Rock State Forests affected by past mining operations. Field work and data collection is being worked on by MRM. Public meetings are being held to involve input from partners in these early stages of the process.

Buckeye State Tree Nursery – The Division of Forestry received funding to start the nursery in February 2024. Buckeye State Tree Nursery is north of Zanesville. The operation is growing seedlings in greenhouses and containers. Seedlings grown will focus on heavy mast species that benefit wildlife, water quality, forest products, and aesthetics. The nursery species list of seedlings grown will change according to demand and programs it is working with. The first several years, the nursery is growing seedlings for programs that are within ODNR. This will include projects for wind breaks, mine lane reclamation, and riparian zone protection. Seed grown at the nursery is collected locally so it to be best suited for the ecoregion. Over 10,000 seeds from multiple tree species have been planted in different growing containers depending on individual root systems. Building work has begun on site. The planting head house is under construction along with the pad for the gutter connect style greenhouse and 10 hoop houses. DOF is working with multiple partners to develop the nursery and collect seeds. Four full time employees have been hired to work at the nursery.

Gifford State Forest Stream and Wetland Restoration Project – The Division of Forestry is working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to implement an In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Project (ILF Project) at Gifford State Forest. This project is a stream and wetland mitigation project that will restore Opossum Run and its degraded tributaries as well as restore forested floodplain wetlands and upland buffer. Some of this work will take place on an adjacent property to the east of Gifford State Forest. TNC intends to donate that 120-acre tract to the Division of Forestry at the end of the project.



Notable Accomplishments from 2023-2024

The following is a summary of land management accomplishments from the previous year. These completed silvicultural treatments are intended to further the goals of our 10-year management plan to promote oak/hickory and native hardwood regeneration.

7. Land Management

	Prescribed	Invasive Plant	Other	Thinning/	Clearcut	Clearcut		Shelterwood	Shelterwood	Group	Total
State Forest	Fire	Treatments	Precommercial	Selection	< 10 acres	> 10 acres	Deferment	First Removal	Final Removal	Openings	Acres
Beaver Creek											
Blue Rock											
Brush Creek				191			46	20			257
Dean											
Fernwood											
Gifford											
Harrison											
Hocking			55								55
Maumee		23									23
Mohican-Memorial				78	8	77					163
Perry											
Pike	159			28			19				206
Richland Furnace				24					48		72
Scioto Trail	137)					137
Shade River											
Shawnee				136	46		70			10	262
Sunfish Creek											
Tar Hollow				146			113	61	14		334
Vinton Furnace	4		239						57		300
Willow Grove											
Yellow Creek		1	2								3
Zaleski	759	427			109	18	18	10	94		1,435
Total Acres	1,059	451	296	603	163	95	266	91	213	10	3,246

8. Completed Tree Plantings – Spring 2024

State Forest	Species	Number	Acres
Tar Hollow	American Chestnut	250	1
Zaleski	American Chestnut	200	3
Hocking	American Chestnut	250	3
Blue Rock	American Chestnut	125	1
Maumee	Hardwood mix. Oak-dominated	18,000	35.7
Maumee	Hardwood mix. Oak-dominated	1,150	4
Willow Grove	Hardwood mix	10,500	15
Abraham Forest Green Springs	Hardwood mix. Oak-dominated	2,200	5

9. Recreation Management

State Forest	Type	Activity	Description
Blue Rock	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots	1 acre on 2 plots
Blue Rock	Bridle trails	Improvement	Black trail was re-graded and stone installed.
Harrison	Bridle Trails	Re-route	Blue trail re-route on west side of forest, stone and grass seed.
Hocking	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots	1 acre on 5 plots
Hocking	Bridle Trail	Re-route	Completed Crystal Falls trail re-route, ¼ mile.
Hocking	Hiking Trail	Repair	Cedar Falls Hiking Trail - installed box culvert with handrail, 36" culvert, and streamside stabilization.
Maumee	APV Trails	New Trail	Kids Loop Trail completed, 0.6 miles
Perry	APV trails	Repair	Trails were re-graded and erosion control was repaired. Trail hardening was done where material allowed.
Perry	Bridle Trails	Repair	Green trail work to reduce wet sections.
Pike	Bridle Trail	Repair	Rehabilitation on all trails as needed. Trail armoring at trail erosion between points 21 and 22.
Pike & Richland Furnace	APV Trails	Repair	All trails were re-graded and erosion control features were repaired as needed.
Scioto Trail	Bridle Trail	Repair	Rehabilitated and graded trail between old Stewart Lake and Hatfield Road. Water bars repaired.
Scioto Trail	Bridle Trail	Maintenance	Re-blazed all trails with new paint
Scioto Trail	Bridle Trail	Repair	Trail hardening on Long Branch

Shade River	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots	1.9 acres on 5 plots
Shawnee	Bridle Trail	Repair	All bridle trails on north side were rehabilitated by grading, water bar restoration, and other erosion control repairs.
Tar Hollow	Bridle Trail	Repair	Church Hollow restoration completed. ¼ mile trail reroute occurred.
Tar Hollow	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots	1.25 acres on 5 plots
Tar Hollow	Wildlife Food Plot	Establishment of new plot	Completed NWTF grant to establish warm season grasses on 14 acres for native wild turkey habitat
Vinton Furnace	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots and one new plot	1.25 acres on three plots.
Zaleski	Bridle Trail	Re-route	Completed 3 sections of bridle trail re- routes on dark blue trail totaling 0.75 miles.
Zaleski	Bridle Trail	Repair	The light blue and a section of red trail were rehabilitated and graded. Slip on orange trail was repaired. Black, yellow, light blue, and red trails were mowed.
Zaleski	Backpack trail	Repair	Mowed thick areas on entirety of trail
Zaleski	Wildlife Food Plot	Reestablishment of existing plots	0.4 acres on 2 plots

10. Forest Operations

The list below contains notable capital improvements, new facilities, or closures of existing facilities. This list does not contain routine facility maintenance.

State Forest	Type	Description	Status
Shawnee	Infrastructure	5-bay heavy equipment building	Completed
Blue Rock	Infrastructure	4-bay equipment building	Completed
Maumee	Infrastructure	2-bay building and tree cooler	Completed

11. Monitoring (HCVF monitoring, etc.)

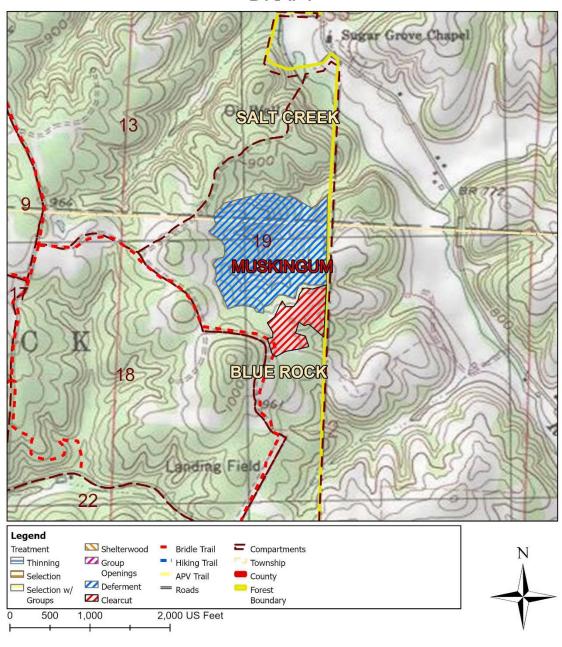
Monitoring Type	Location	Acres	Description
Annual Certification	Various State Forests	200,000+	Third-party auditors found that
Audit			DOF's management of state
			forest was again in
			conformance to the standards of

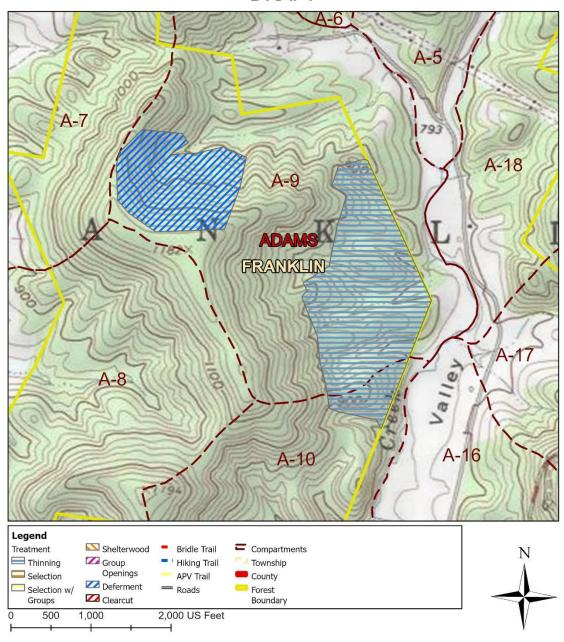
			the Forest Stewardship Council® and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®. This audit was completed in October of 2021. Ohio's State Forests are the
			only dual-certified forests in the
			state and have been certified as
			"Well-Managed" since 2010.
High Conservation	Zaleski and Beaver	2,288	Five HCVF areas were
Value Forest	Creek		monitored in two state forests
			with their general condition
			documented and any observed
			threats to high-conservation
			values noted.

12. Evaluation of Social Impacts.

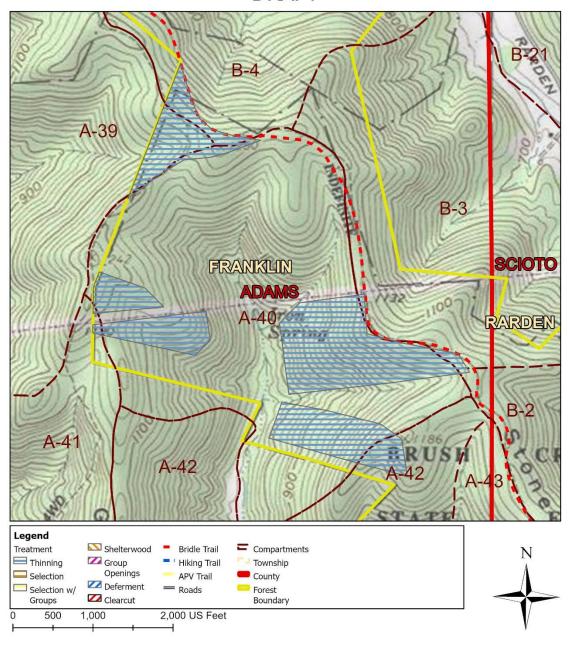
Open houses were held September 12-14, 2023 to answer questions and receive comments related to the 2023-2024 Annual Work Plan. Comments were received and considered by Division management and incorporated into the Annual Work Plan as appropriate. The 2023-2024 Annual Work Plan was approved on October 10, 2023.

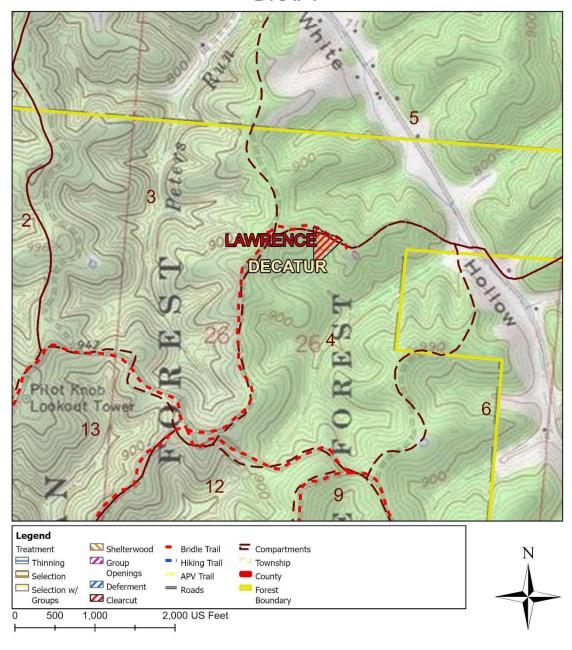
Appendix A: Timber Sale Maps

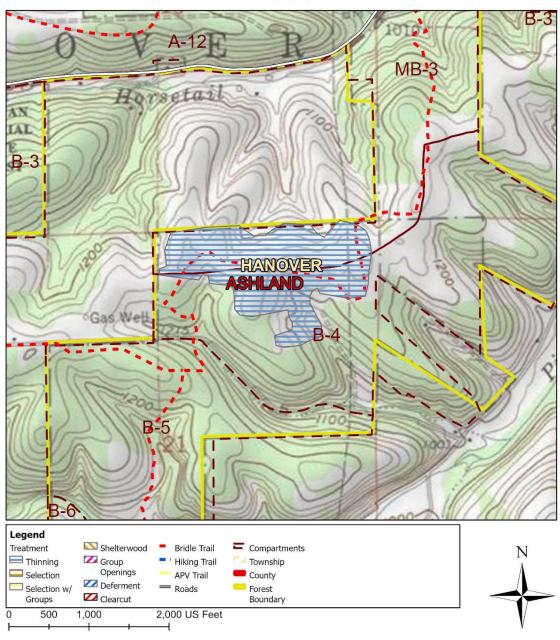


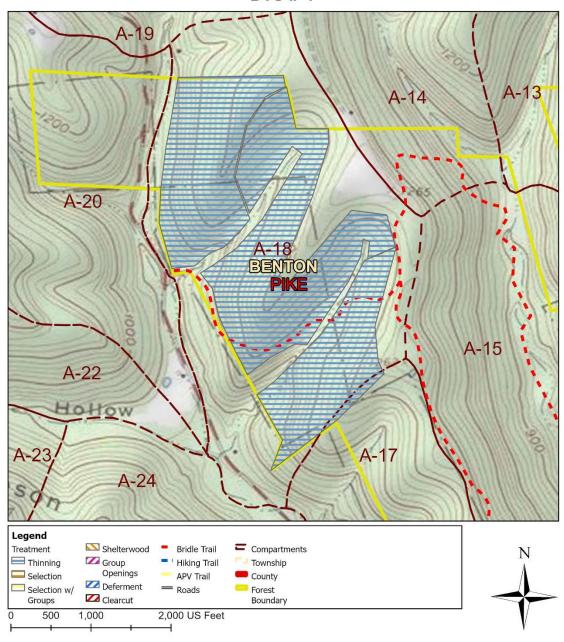


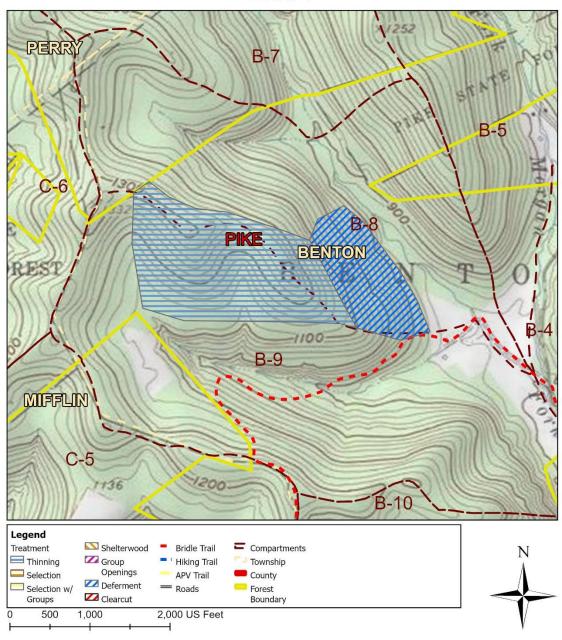
ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Marking Plan Brush Creek State Forest DRAFT

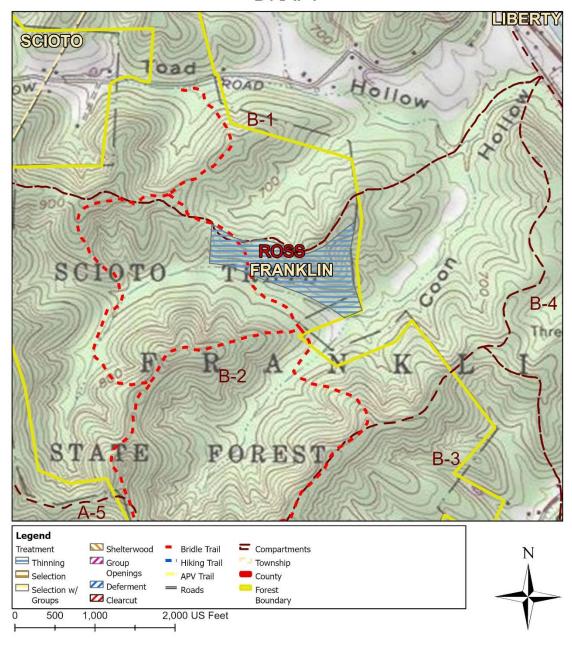




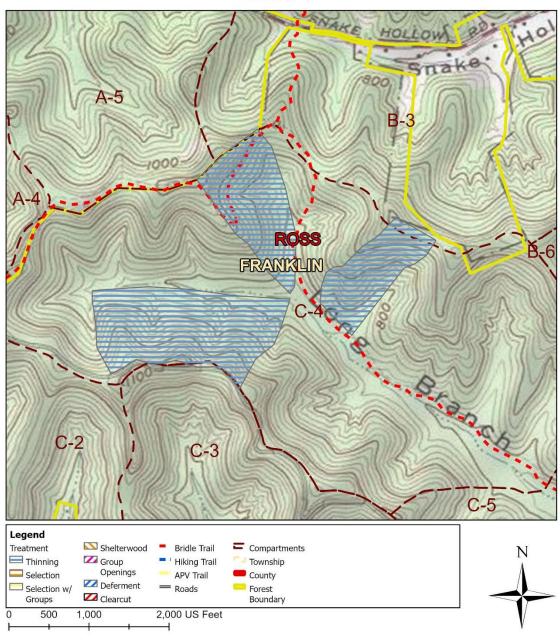




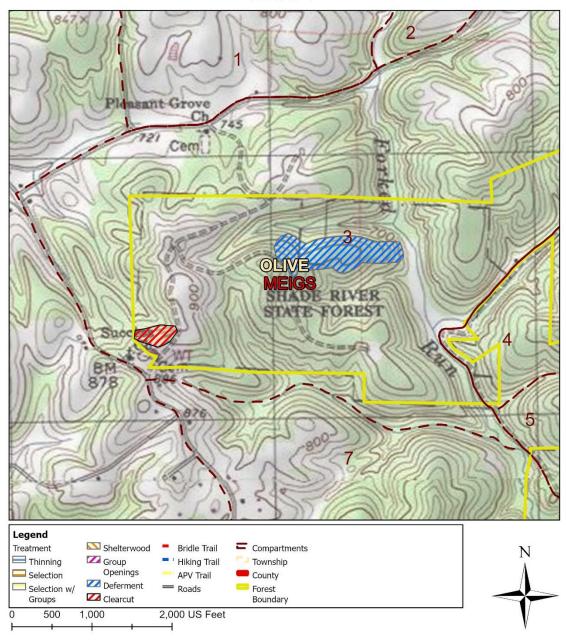


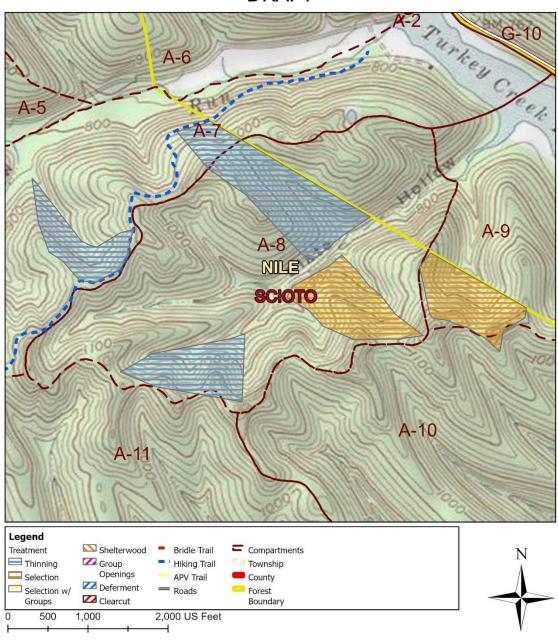


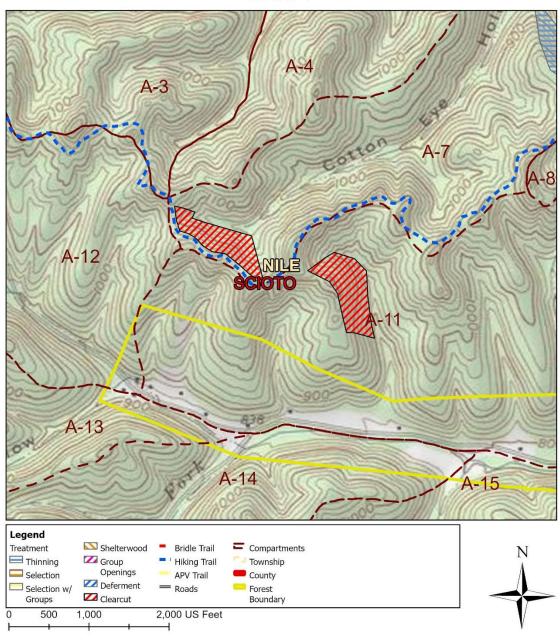
ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Marking Plan Scioto Trail State Forest DRAFT

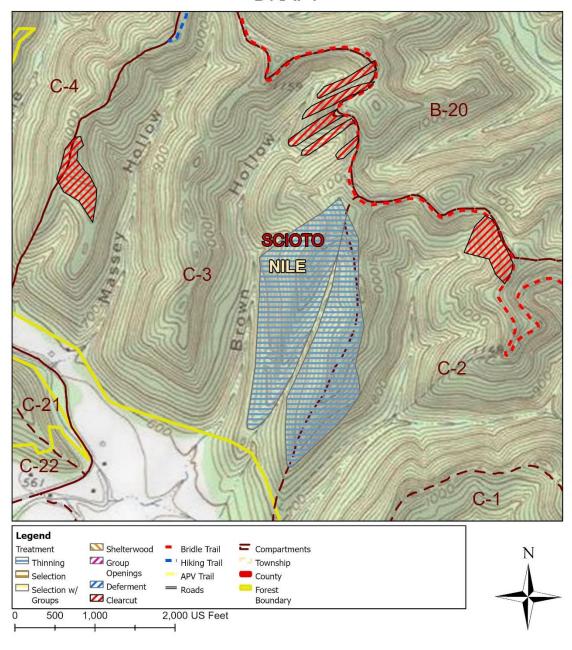


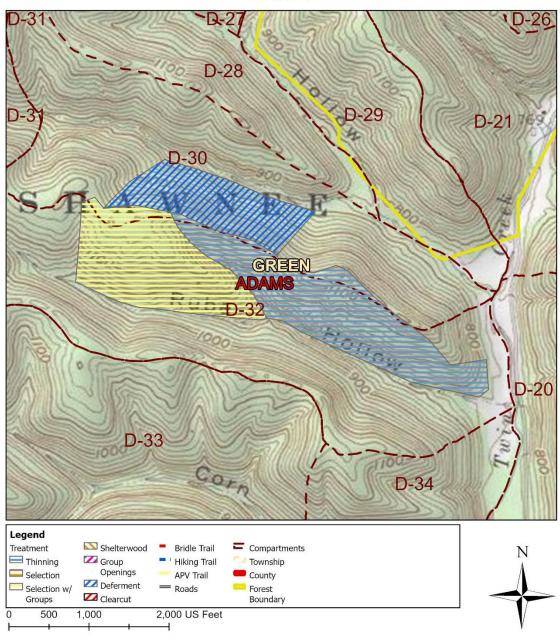
ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Marking Plan Shade River State Forest DRAFT

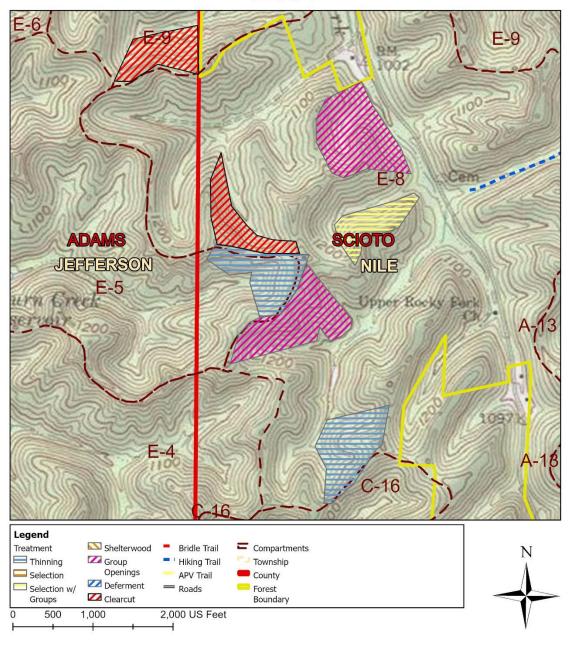


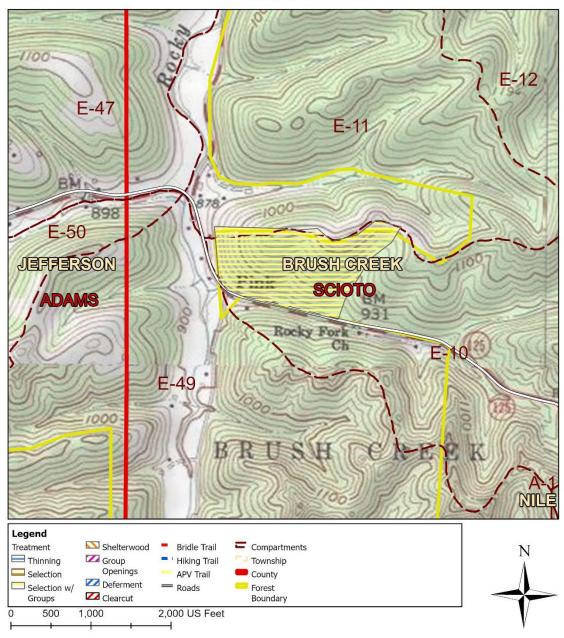


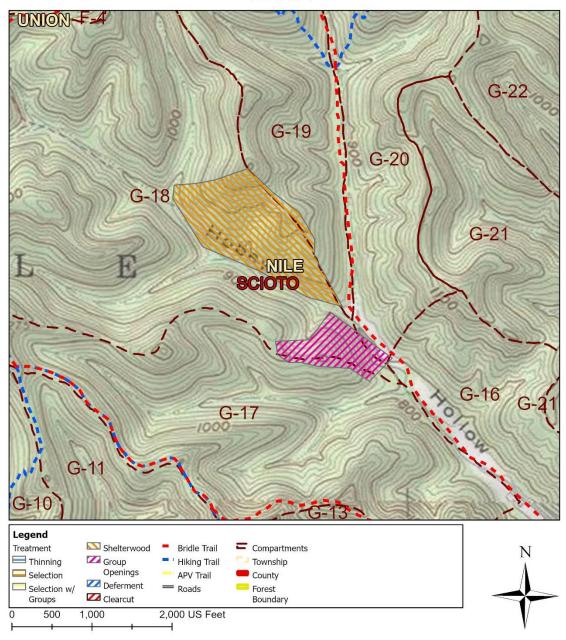


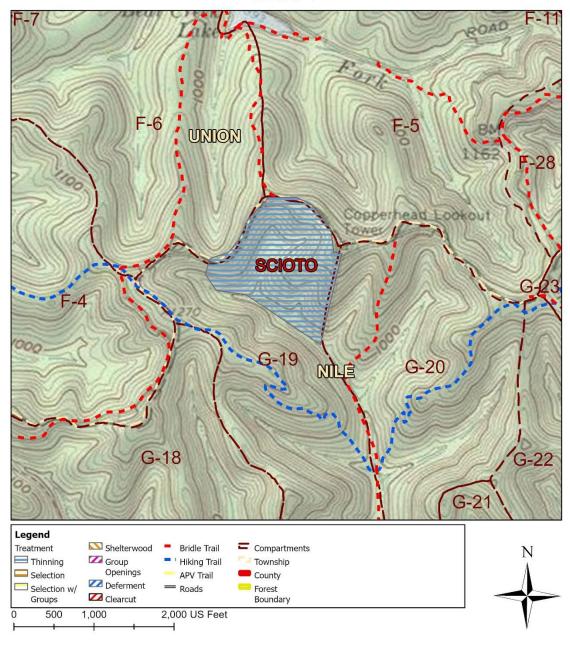


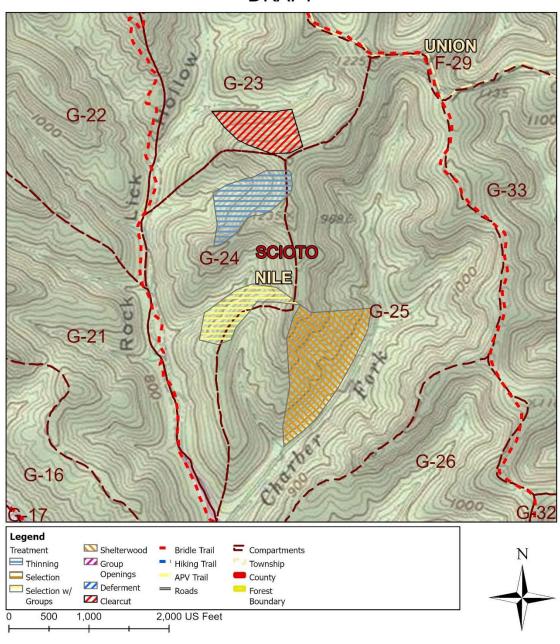


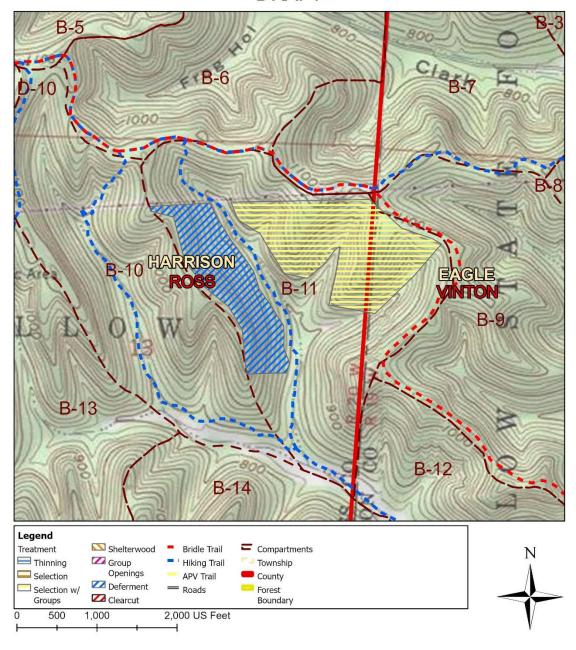


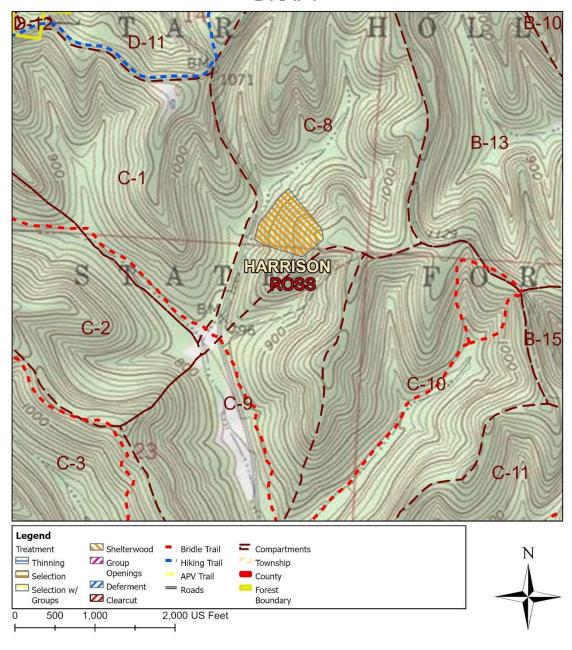


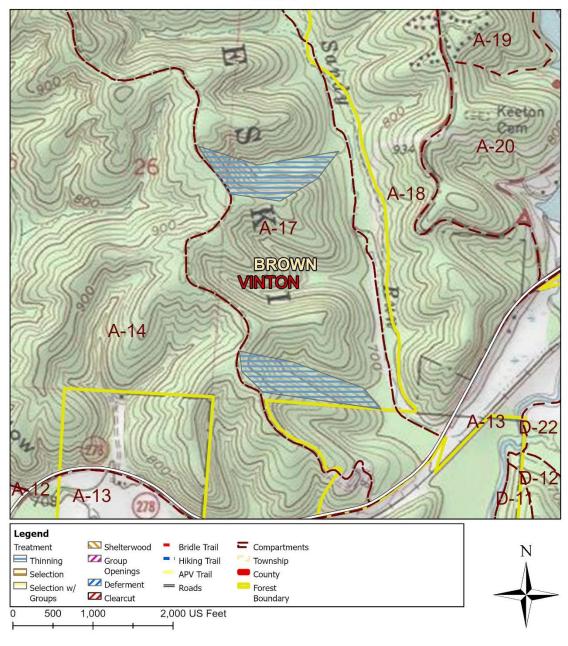


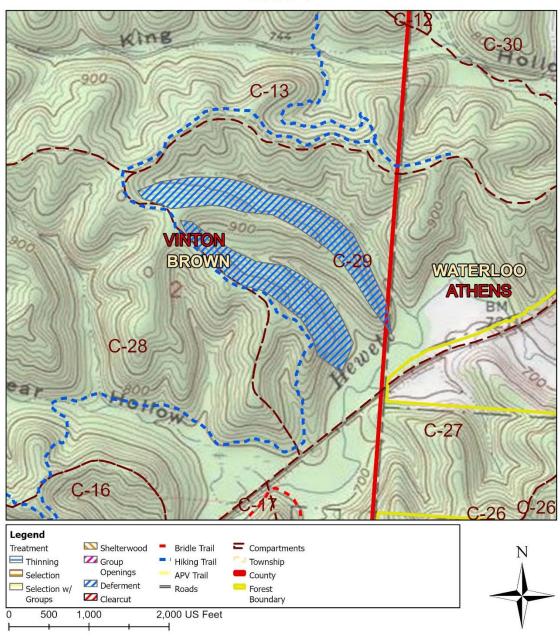




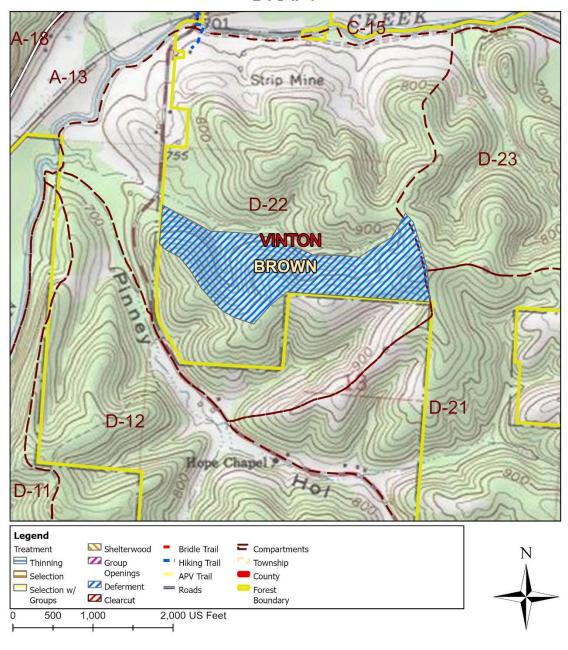






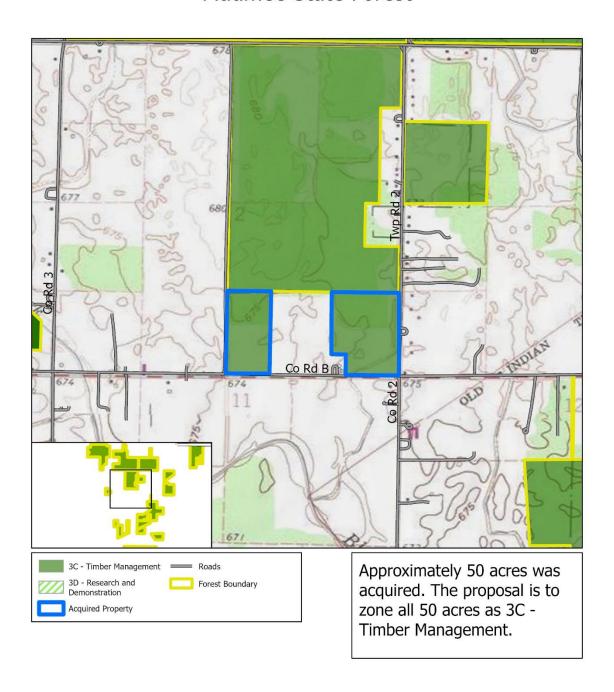


ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Marking Plan Zaleski State Forest DRAFT

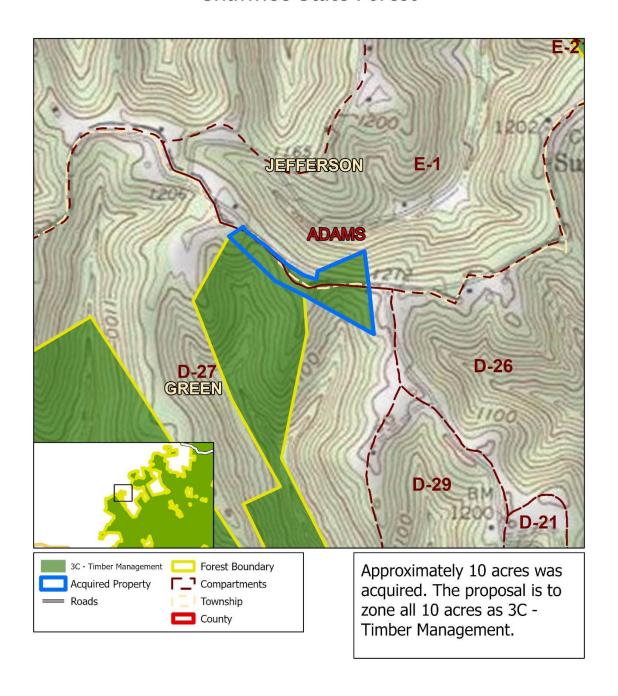


Appendix B: Proposed Zoning

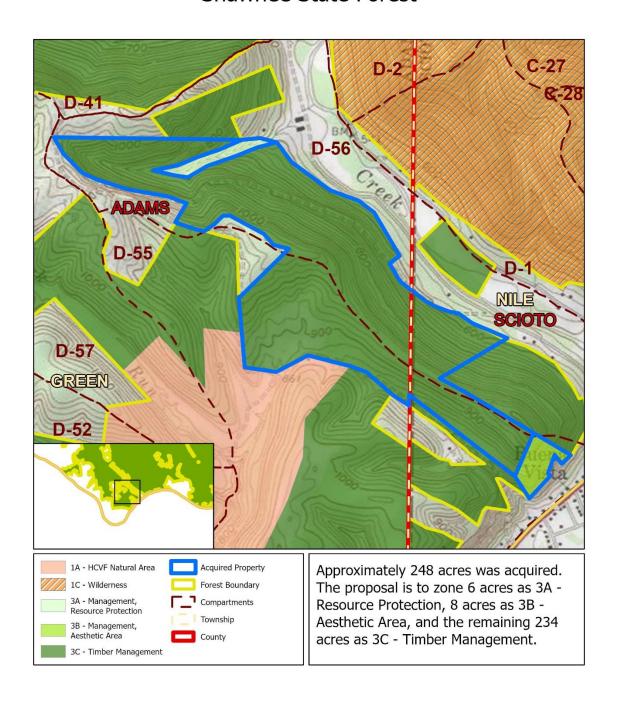
ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Forest Zone Proposal Maumee State Forest



ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Forest Zone Proposal Shawnee State Forest

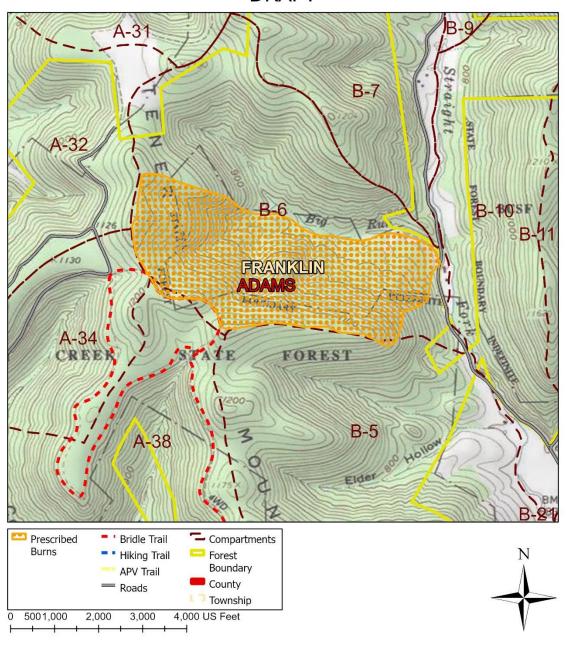


ODNR - Division of Forestry 2024-2025 Forest Zone Proposal Shawnee State Forest

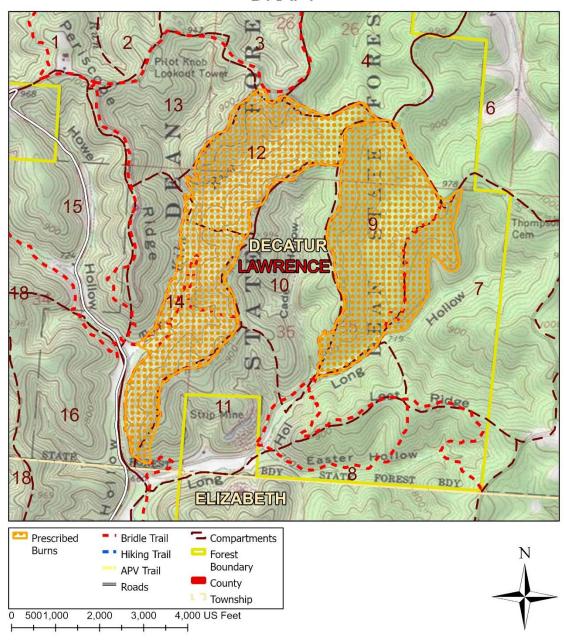


Appendix C: Prescribed Fire Maps

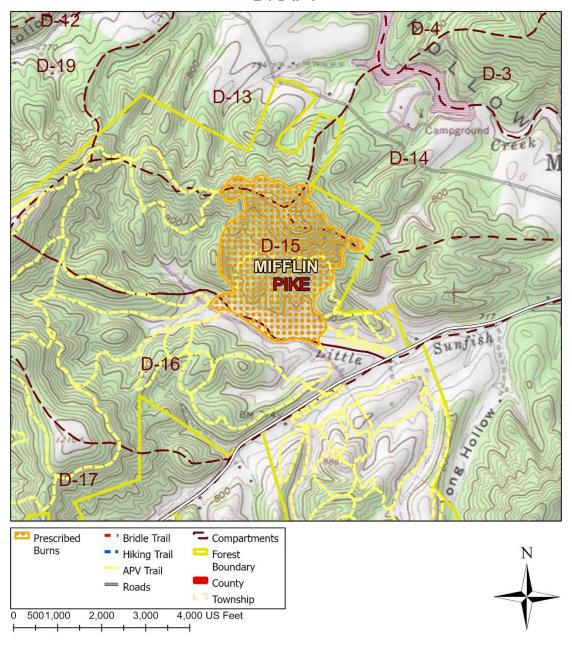
ODNR - Division of Forestry Straight Fork Planned Rx Fire Brush Creek State Forest DRAFT



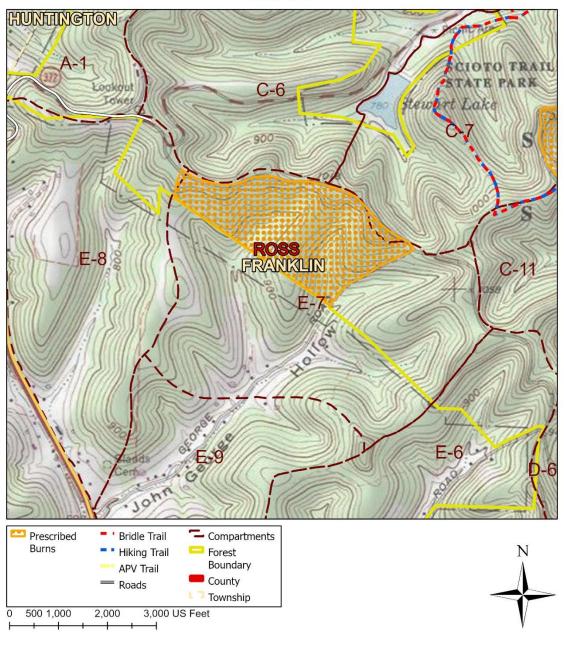
ODNR - Division of Forestry Tarkiln Run & Post Planned Rx Fire Dean State Forest DRAFT



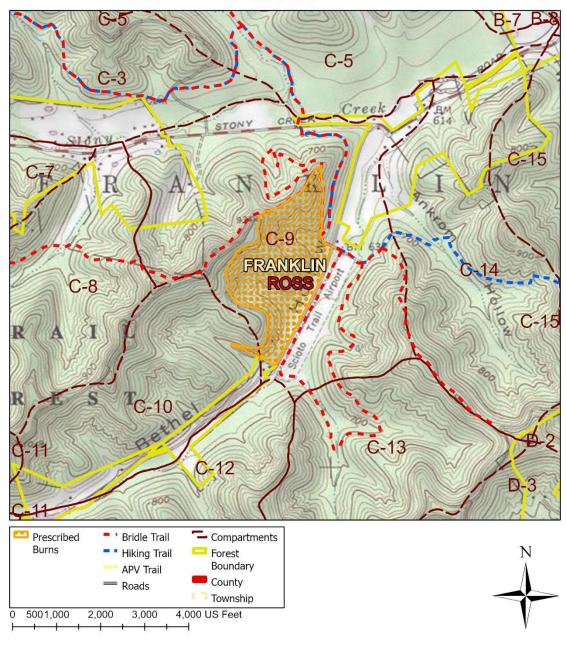
ODNR - Division of Forestry Little Sunfish Planned Rx Fire Pike State Forest DRAFT



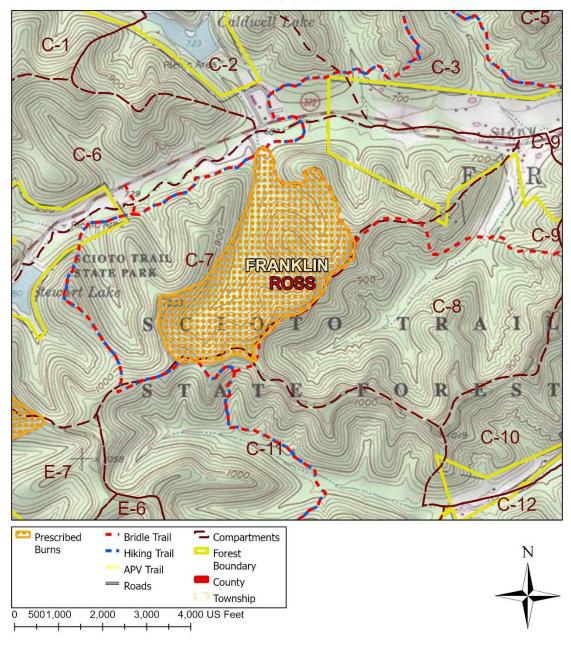
ODNR - Division of Forestry George Hollow Planned Rx Fire Scioto Trail State Forest DRAFT



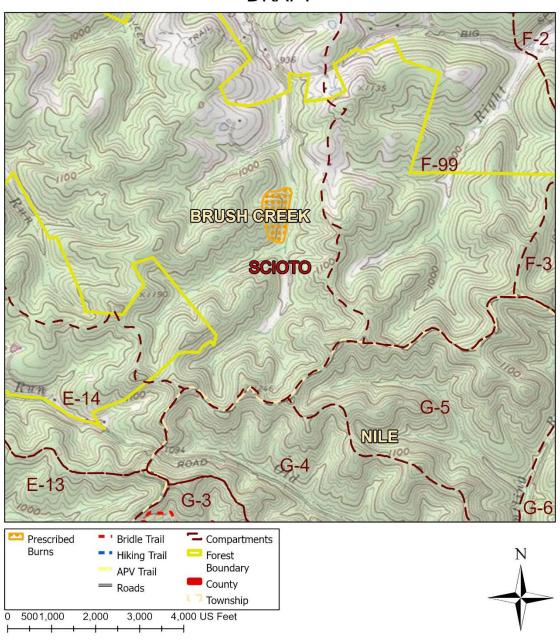
ODNR - Division of Forestry Hatfield Switchback Planned Rx Fire Scioto Trail State Forest DRAFT



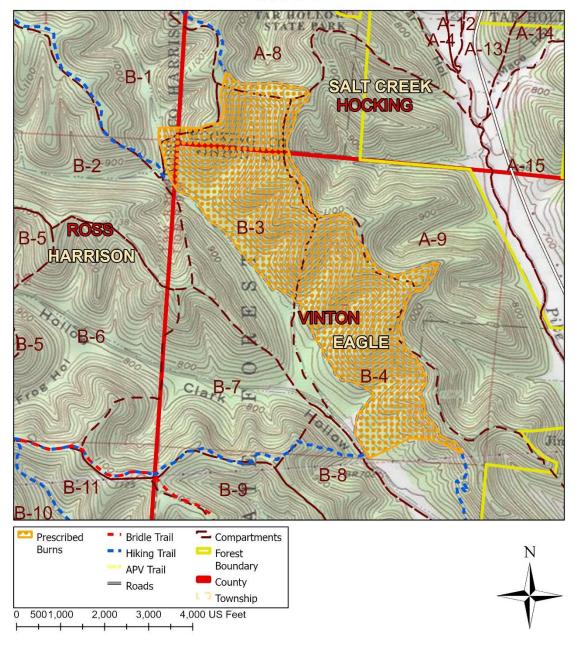
ODNR - Division of Forestry Three Points Planned Rx Fire Scioto Trail State Forest DRAFT



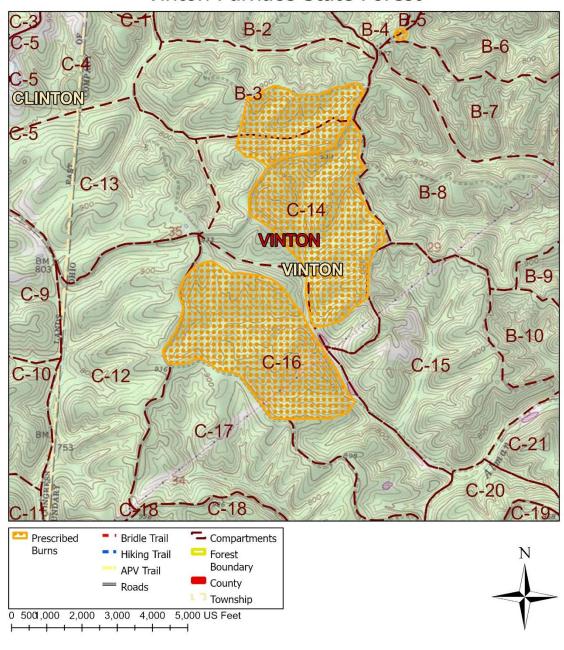
ODNR - Division of Forestry Big Spruce Pine Planned Rx Fire Shawnee State Forest DRAFT



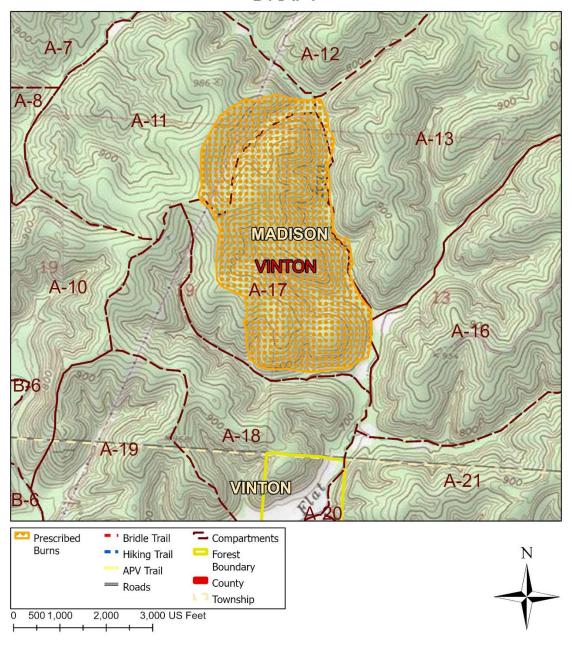
ODNR - Division of Forestry Tri County Planned Rx Fire Tar Hollow State Forest DRAFT



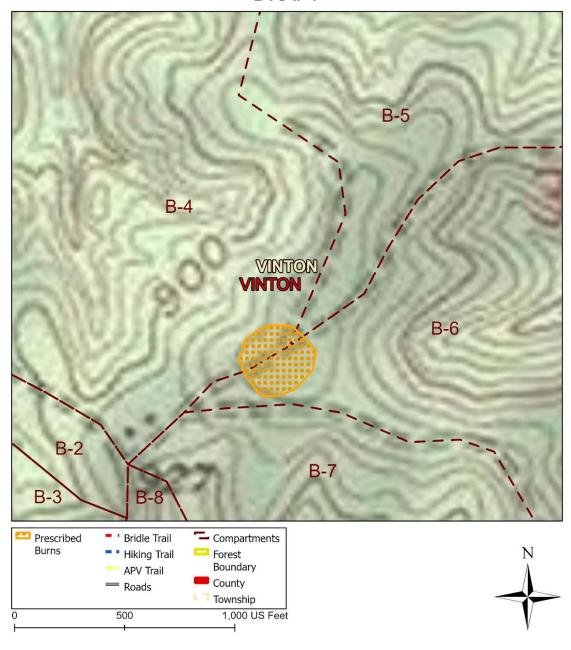
ODNR - Division of Forestry Axle Ridge, Yellow Jacket & Wolf Oak Rd. Planned Rx Fire Vinton Furnace State Forest



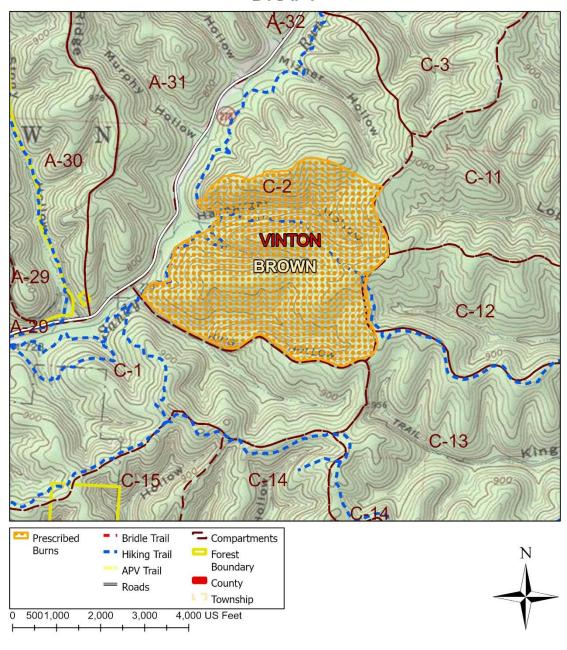
ODNR - Division of Forestry Flat Run Planned Rx Fire Vinton Furnace State Forest DRAFT



ODNR - Division of Forestry Weather Station Planned Rx Fire Vinton Furnace State Forest DRAFT



ODNR - Division of Forestry Sandy Run Planned Rx Fire Zaleski State Forest DRAFT



Appendix D: Precommercial Project Maps

