North Carolina
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Stanford M. Adams, Director

NC Forest Service
304 Old Hargrave Road
Lexington, NC 27295
December 16, 2004

D10-Stewardship
Project-Stokes
Marsh, Rick

Mr. Rick Marsh
PO Box 255
Wallburg, NC 27373

Dear Mr. Rick Marsh,

Upon your request for forestry assistance, Assistant County Ranger, Charles Mabe, and I recently examined your property located in Stokes County. After speaking with Charles, I understand that your objectives for this property are:

Timber Management
Wildlife Management

This report offers recommendations based on the condition of the respective stands as determined by our exam and your management objectives. I hope that by following the enclosed woodland management plan you can meet your management goals and maintain the productivity of your land.

Forestland in NC can be taxed at a present use valuation instead of an assessed value. In order to meet the requirements for a present use valuation for forestland you must own a minimum of 20 acres of woodlands, have a written management plan, and manage the property for commercial timber production. By taking this management plan to the Stokes County Tax Office you may be eligible for a reduced tax rate on your woodland.

We appreciate your interest in wise forest management. Please contact us if we can be of service to you in the future. If you have any questions about the plan and this recommendation feel free to call me at 336-956-211 or contact the County Rangers Office at 593-4027.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Money

Keith R. Money, Service Forester
NC Registered Forester 1414

KRM/sj
cc: County Ranger
Encl. Map
Stewardship Handouts

N.C. Division of Forest Resources
Woodland Management Plan

Marsh, Rick Stewardship Prepared By: Keith Money December 16, 2004

CURRENT SITUATION:
Currently your property consists of 136+/- acres of this: 70 +/- acres are currently in upland hardwoods, 23 +/- acres are in loblolly pine, 2+/- acres in white pine, 9 +/- acres in virginia pine, and 31 +/- in open fields and farm house site. Peters Creek runs through the middle of the property with the majority of the hardwood timber across the creek.

SOILS
The main soil types on this property are Rion and Pacolet soils. These are upland soils, which carry a Site Index of 80-93 for yellow poplar (site index is an indication of soil productivity a site index of 80 for yellow poplar, means that a yellow poplar tree growing on that soil will be 80 feet tall at 50 years old). In general these soils are very productive and good for forestry use.

Area # 1

Estimated Acres: 23
Timber Type: Loblolly Pine
Age Class: 6
Size: 2-4"
Slope: 5-10%
Soils: Pacolet-Rion

Forest Type or Species and Approximate Age: This loblolly pine stand is approximately 6 years old. Diameters in this stand range from 2-4 inches measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. This stand appears to be in good health at this time and is providing cover for wildlife.

Recommended Management Practices and Prescription for Carrying Out Treatment, & Other Information: This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 8-10 years at which time it should be re-examined for a possible thinning operation.

This type of operation should remove damaged trees, smaller inferior trees, and some bigger trees to allow the residual tress more room to grow. Thinning will reduce the competition for nutrients, sunlight, and water, which will result in more diameter growth for the residual trees. If a stand of pine is not thinned it will stagnate the growth of the trees resulting in small diameters and weak trees.

After thinning this stand can be improved for both aesthetics and wildlife by conducting a prescribed burn. Prescribed burning will enhance the quality and availability of wildlife forage as well as create a more open understory. Prescribed burning is the deliberate use of fire under controlled conditions to accomplish certain forestland objectives. It is also

one of the best wildlife habitat improvement techniques available to forest managers and landowners. Browse plants and small saplings will soon grow beyond the reach of deer and other wildlife in managed pine stands. Prescribed burning at 2-3 year intervals will keep hardwood sprouts and other forage plants within reach of deer and will stimulate the growth of green succulent plants. In addition, fire improves the nutritional quality for deer browse for 2-3 years. Quail and turkey benefit because heavy brush is removed and annual plants are encouraged to grow. Prescribed burning used in conjunction with pine thinning can have a dramatic effect on improving wildlife habitat. Research has shown that it can result in the production of over 5 times the available wildlife food. Pine stands properly managed can produce a very good wildlife habitat for most game species.

Forestry Operational Schedule

2012	Examine stand for possible thinning operation
2013	Examine stand for possible hazard reduction burn after thinning

Area # 2

Estimated Acres: 2
Timber Type: White Pine
Age Class: 18-20
Size: 6-10"
Slope: 1-2%
Soils: Pacolet-Rion

Forest Type or Species and Approximate Age: This white pine stand is approximately 18-20 years old. Diameters in this stand range from 6-10 inches measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. This stand appears to be overstocked but in good health. This stand does provide cover for wildlife but very little browse due to the thick canopy.

Recommended Management Practices and Prescription for Carrying Out Treatment, & Other Information: This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years at which time it should be re-examined for a possible thinning operation.

Although there would be no commercial value for thinning such a small area of white pine trees, the growth of the stand could be improved by removing 1/3 of the current trees growing. This could be done manually with a chainsaw by either felling the tree or girdling the tree. Trees to be removed should be the smaller inferior trees, trees with forked trunks, and any diseased trees. The removal of these trees would provide more light, nutrients, and water to the remaining trees allowing for faster growth.

N.C. Division of Forest Resources
Woodland Management Plan

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Forestry Operational Schedule

2004-2014	Optional thinning of stand
2014	Re-examine for further recommendations

Area # 3

Estimated Acres: 70
Timber Type: Upland Hardwood
Age Class: 47
Size: 6-18"
Slope: 5-60%
Soils: Pacolet-Rion

Forest Type or Species and Approximate Age: This upland hardwood stand is approximately 47 years old with some older residual timber. Species in this stand consists of yellow poplar, white oak, red oak, hickory, red maple, beech, and other species in lesser numbers. Diameters in this stand range from 6-18 inches measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. This stand appears to be in good health at this time and is providing cover and hard mast for wildlife.

Recommended Management Practices and Prescription for Carrying Out Treatment, & Other Information: This stand is at a stage where it should be allowed to grow to increase in both size and value. This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years at which time it should be re-examined for further recommendations.

Forestry Operational Schedule

2004-2014	Let grow
2014	Re-examine for further recommendations

Area # 4

Estimated Acres: 9
Timber Type: Virginia Pine
Age Class: 20-25
Size: 2-8"
Slope: 5-8%
Soils: Pacolet-Rion

N.C. Division of Forest Resources
Woodland Management Plan

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Forest Type or Species and Approximate Age: This virginia pine stand is approximately 20-25 years old. Diameters in this stand range from 2-8 inches measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. This stand appears to be in good health at this time.

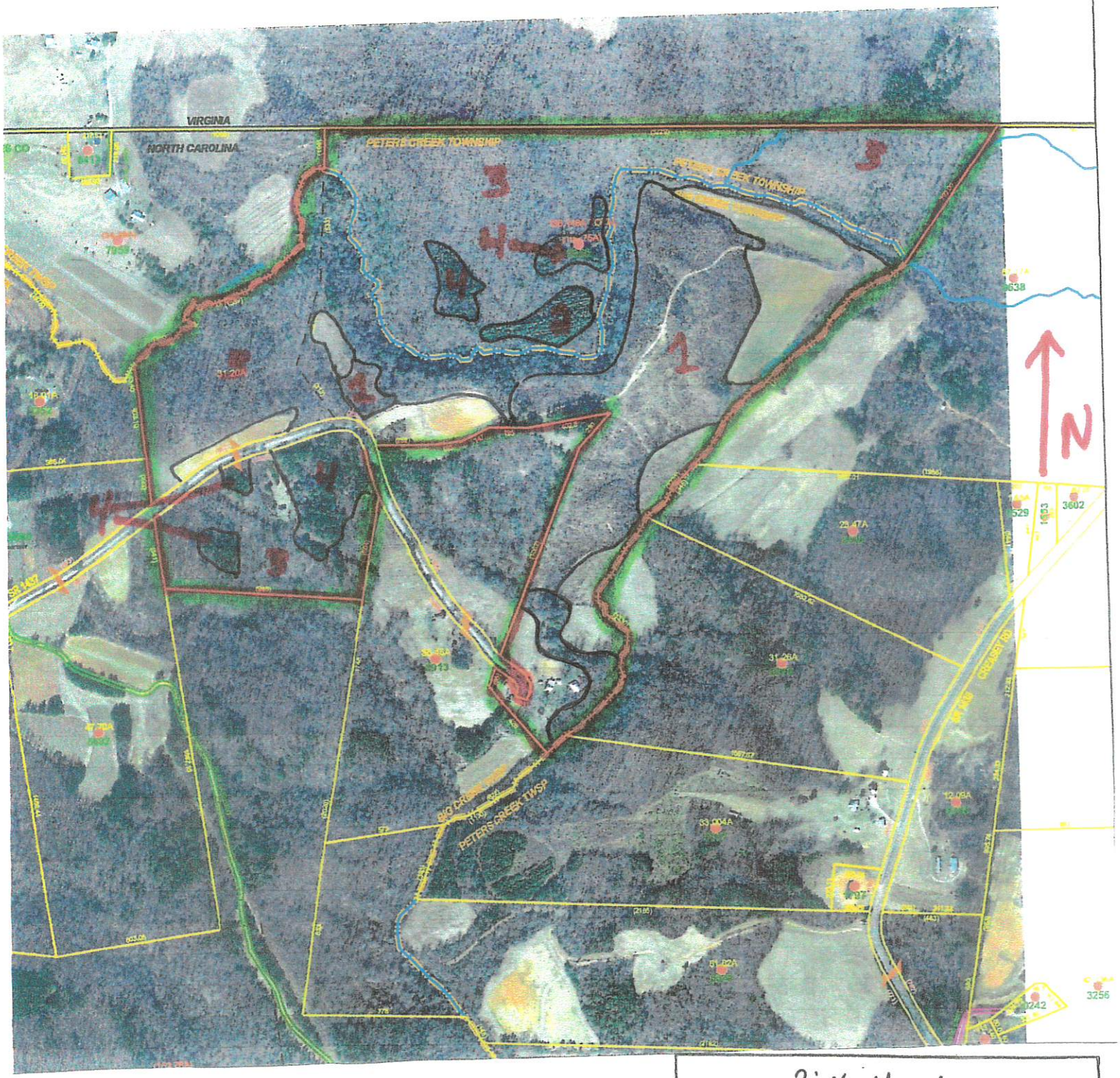
Recommended Management Practices and Prescription for Carrying Out Treatment, & Other Information: This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years at which time it should be re-examined for a possible thinning operation.

Forestry Operational Schedule

2004-2014	Let grow
2014	Re-examine for further recommendations

Additional Management Recommendations:
The primary objective of any wildlife management program is to provide food, water and cover. Most farms and woodlands contain cover and water, but lack herbaceous food production and soft mast production for the fall, winter and early spring months, which are critical months for most wildlife. During our examination we noticed several fields that were planted to benefit wildlife. This practiced should be continued supplement local wildlife. Additional food plots could be established on the north side of the creek where there is an abundance of hardmast but very little soft mast.

In addition to grasses many shrubs and trees can be planted around the edges of openings to provide soft and hard mast for wildlife. Beneficial species that can be established in this area are crabapple, sawtooth oak, and wild plum. For wildlife planting recommendations contact your local NC Wildlife Resources Biologist, David Sawyer at 336-957-4855 or Kelly Hughes, Forest Stewardship Biologist at 828-274-3646.



ROAD

PROPERTY OR AREA BOUNDARY

FARM OR WOODS ROAD

STREAM

BUILDING

ACREAGE DATA AND BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE.

OWNER Rick Marsh

COUNTY Stokes

DRAWN BY KM

DATE 12/16/04

AERIAL PHOTO NO. Tax

SCALE 1" = 660'

GRID COORD. B 69 S 13 P 19

N.C. DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES