

FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

AO10010017600

DEVELOPED FOR

EDGART AKA

GERLIN PROPERTIES LTD.

Owner: Chris Gerig
Signed: *Chris Gerig*
Date: November 17, 2004

Prepared By: William J. Serbonich
Service Forester
ODNR Division Of Forestry
360 E. State St.
Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-589-9909

Signed: *William J. Serbonich*
Date: 12-3-04



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

OWNERS Gerlin Properties Ltd.

FORESTER William Serbonich

ADDRESS P.O. Box 268
Athens, Ohio 45701

ADDRESS 360 E. State St.
Athens, Ohio 45701

DATE December 2, 2004

COUNTY Athens

PHONE (740) 589-9909

LOCATION Located at the end of Old Coach Road just outside the Athens City limits.

WOODLAND ACREAGE 75

TOTAL ACREAGE 85

LANDOWNER OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain and improve the productivity of this woodland.
2. To create interest and appreciation in the many intangible values such as songbirds, wild flowers, plants, mushrooms, nuts, paw paws and flowering shrubs that are all part of the managed woodland.
3. To help conserve the soil from wind and water erosion.
4. To conserve the soil and water by installing and maintaining practices, which will reduce soil erosion. Properly managed forests will hold more water and slow down flood waters better than any other crop.
5. To leave this woodland in a better condition for future generations.
6. To manage the property for all the attributes and opportunities that exist in a forest ecosystem including recreation (hiking, aesthetics, light APV use), wildlife management, soil and water management, forest protection, timber products management, and other compatible conservation uses.
7. To develop and maintain favorable food and cover conditions for game and other wildlife.
8. To select tree species best suited to the soil and site's capability.
9. To become and remain eligible for the OFTL or CAUV programs.
10. To grow trees which will provide products for sale emphasizing healthy forest conditions.
11. To become or remain a certified tree farmer.

SCALE OF MILES 1/2

660 1320 1980 2640 SCALE OF FEET 5280

ATHENS TWP -- SE

ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO T.9N-R.14W

ATHENS TWP NE

R.14W
R.13W

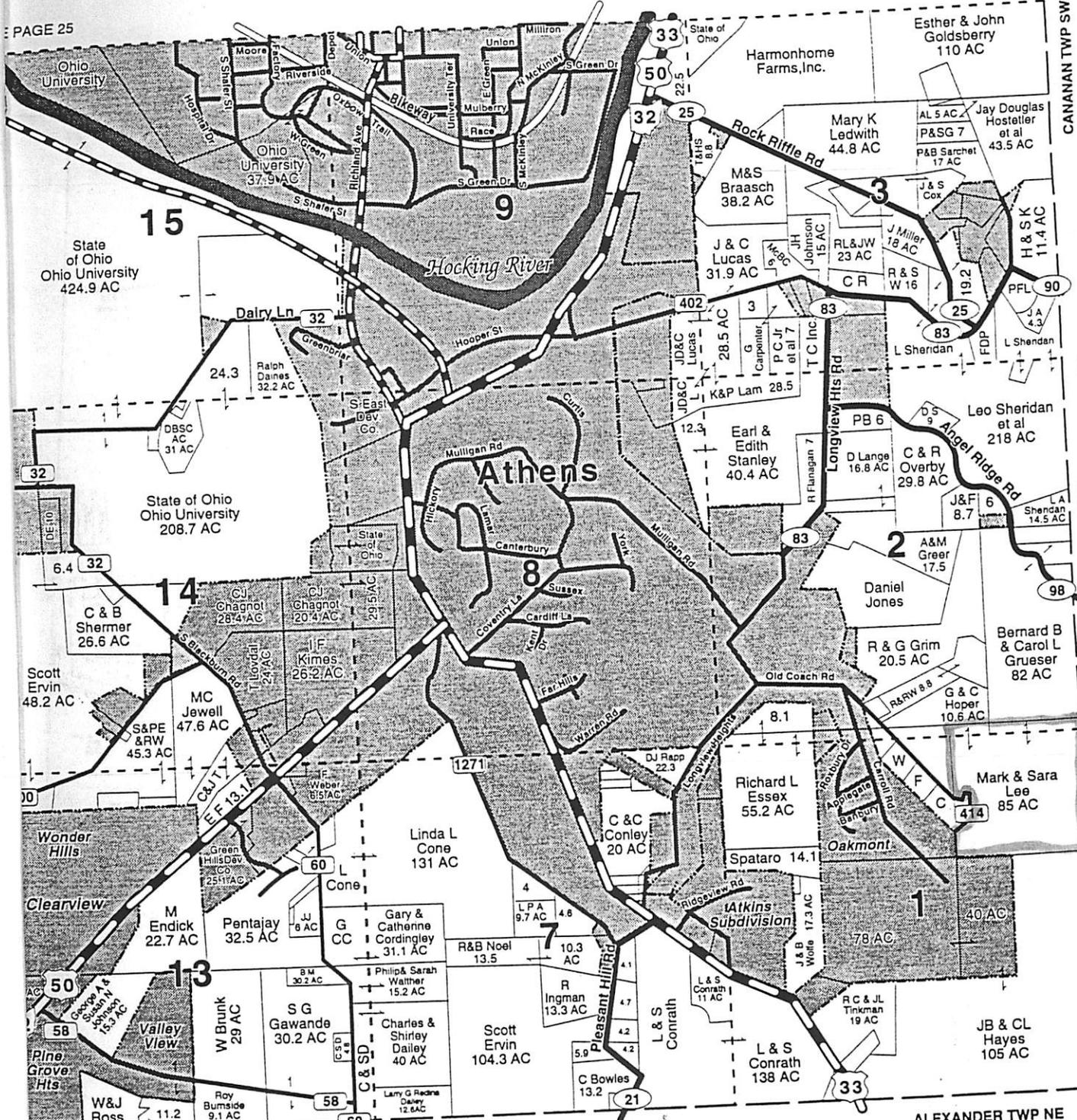
CANANAN TWP SW



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CANANAN TWP SW

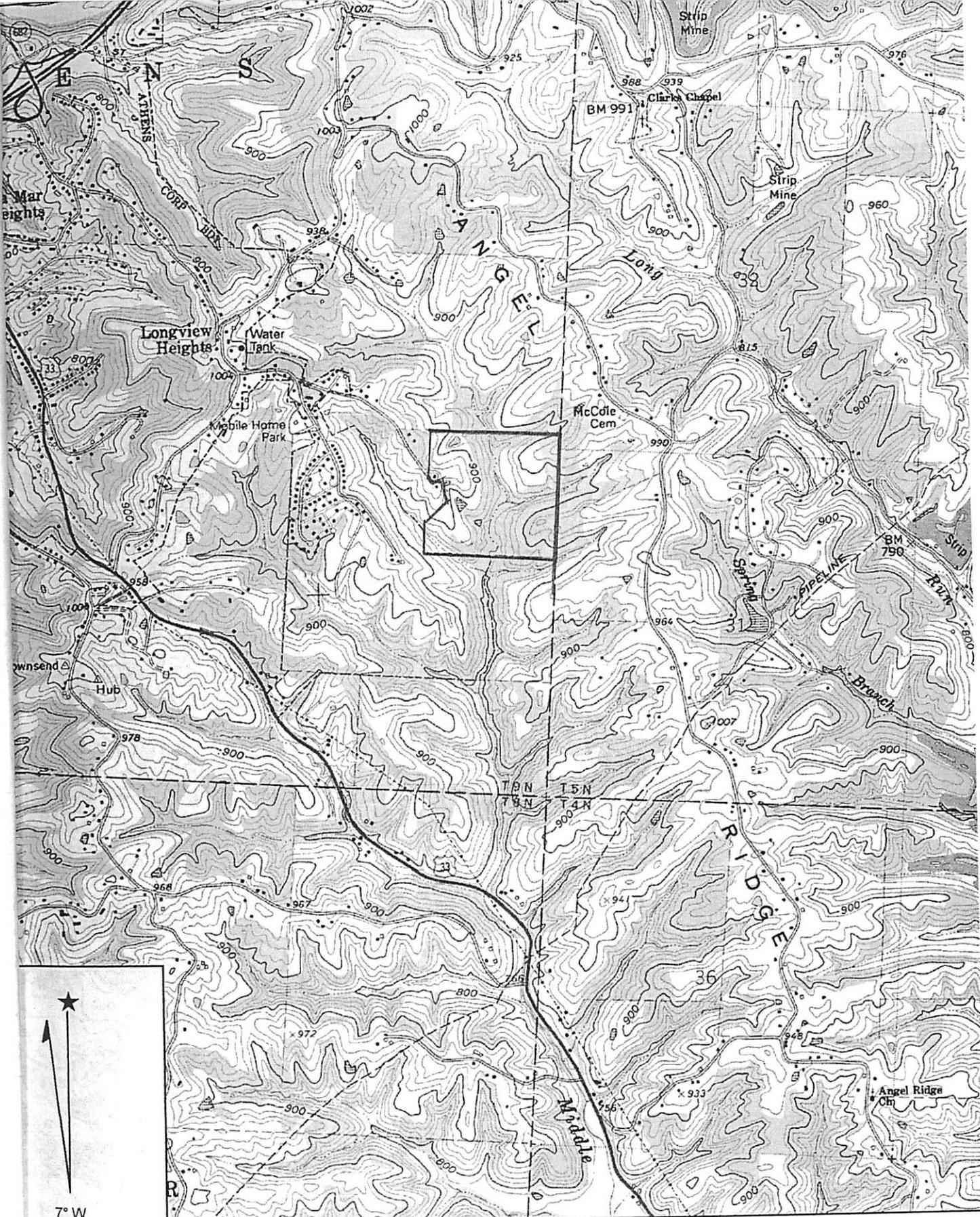
R.14W
R.13W
T.11S
T.10S



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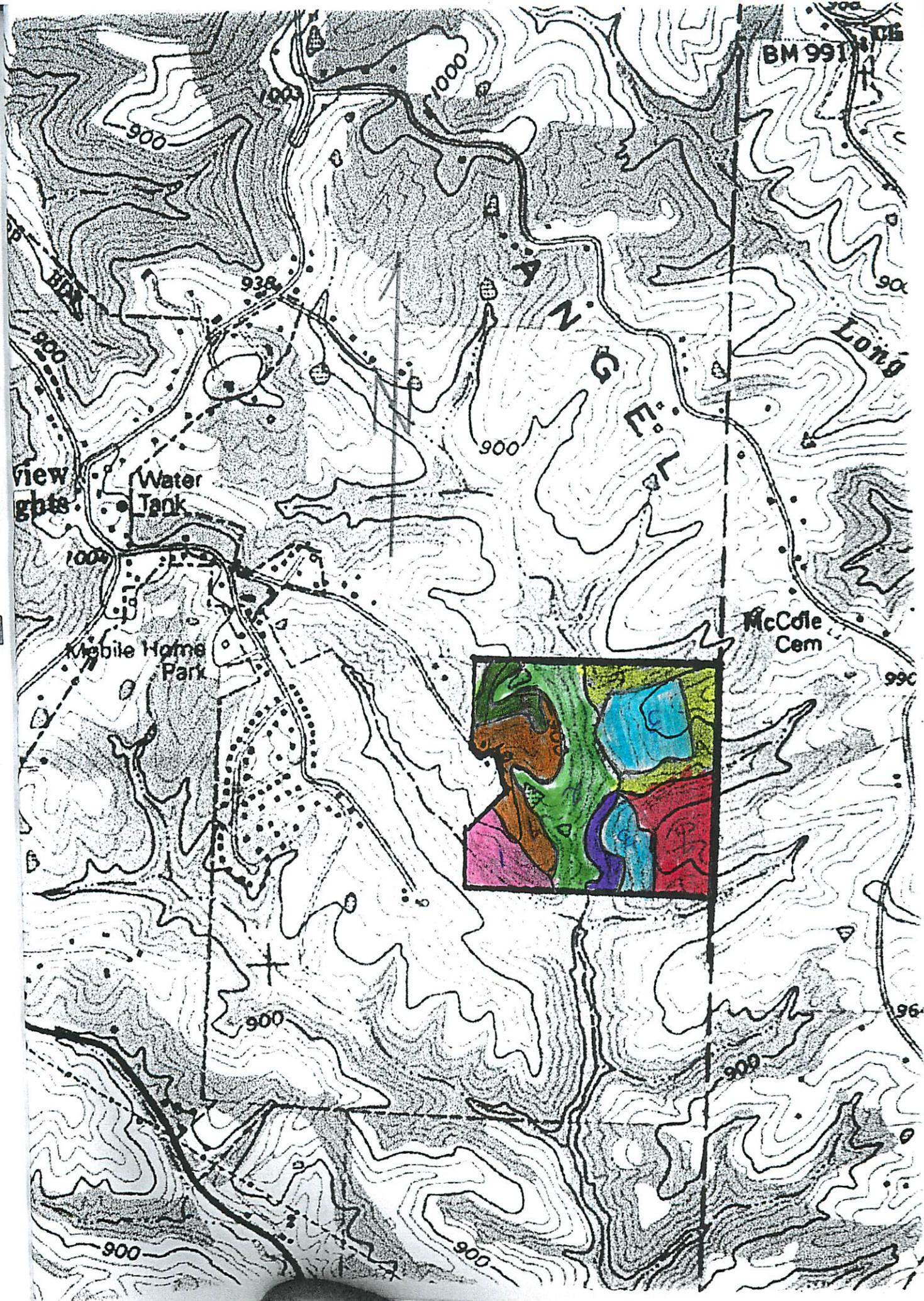
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Name: ATHENS
 Date: 11/17/2004
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 17' 28.7" N 082° 04' 28.5" W
 Caption: Gerlin Properties Ltd.





FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

GERLIN PROPERTIES LTD.

This forest stewardship management plan describes the forestlands upon your property and presents suggestions for managing designated areas for long-term growth and productivity. This plan will delineate management units based upon topography and forest cover and describe conditions found in each management unit.

Occasionally a forest management plan may recommend tree removals, thinnings or even commercial harvesting of trees. Upon implementation of these types of projects it is recommended that an Operation and Management Plan be filed with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This helps both the logger and landowner understand how the harvest will be accomplished and it will allow the SWCD a source of reference should there be any questions related to compliance with the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Law (also known as House Bill 88). The Operation and Management Plan is designed to address water quality issues.

No specific endangered species were noted on your property but if you are interested in pursuing specific information on threatened or endangered species contact the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves directly at 614-265-6453 to access the Natural Heritage Data Base.

Area 1 Approximately 9 Acres. Area 1 represents a pole sized stand of timber in what is generally a reverting field condition. Poles are defined as trees that have an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of between 6 to 10 inches. A few larger sawtimber sized trees can be found scattered about however the predominate size class is poles. The stand is understocked to medium stocked meaning that room for more trees exists in the stand. Sparse areas are filling in nicely with sapling trees. Species of trees found are scarlet oak, black oak, sugar maple, tulip poplar, beech, hickory, elm, persimmon, white ash, thorn apple, white oak, black cherry, dogwood, black walnut and honey locust. Grapevines are scattered about and should be controlled. Grapevine control would be the top management priority for Area 1. Control can be accomplished either chemically with an herbicide applied to the cut surface or non-chemically by simply cutting the vines. In this area a non-chemical approach might be difficult or need to be re-visited for follow-up because the light stocking will enable sprouting vines to survive and perhaps re-infest the canopy of the trees. Favor the young trees over brush competition. Some release work can be accomplished in regards to brush competition and desirable tree growth within Area 1. Oaks are not numerous and should be favored within the stand when found. Invasive species are a problem in this stand. Controlling grapevines will help develop canopy structure. This will in turn help control the understory conditions because a vigorous canopy will begin to shade out the light dependant understory invasives. Species found within Area 1 that are a problem include multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and privet. The soils in Area 1 are in the Westmoreland series. These are very good woodland soils on a highly favorable northeast aspect

yielding a red oak site index of 81. Site index is a measure of potential and a red oak site index of 81 means that a red oak can be expected to be 81 feet tall at 50 years of age. This is considered a high site index and management in Area 1 to improve stand conditions would be time and effort well spent. Access is excellent in Area 1 and for now controlling the grapevines would be an excellent management strategy.



Area 2 Approximately 19 Acres. Area 2 represents an east facing aspect that consists of Westmoreland series soils. This is also an excellent site for tree growth and a red oak site index of 81 can be expected. Conditions within the area are somewhat of a hodgepodge. Size classes vary from small sawtimber to pole with the sawtimber more predominant along the southerly portions of the area. Stocking is medium to slightly understocked meaning trees are doing well with plenty of room to grow. Included within Area 2 are three of your ponds. Access is excellent with a nice network of roads that are well maintained. Timber was harvested within Area 2 approximately 7 to 10 years ago. Grapevines are a problem and need to be controlled. This would be a high priority project to improve stand conditions here. The grapevine situation is similar to Area 1 in that better control can be obtained with the use of an herbicide upon the cut surface of the grapevines due to light stocking levels. Species of trees noted include hickory, sassafras, scarlet oak, black oak, sycamore, dogwood, beech, red maple, white ash, white oak, sugar maple, elm, black walnut, buckeye, black cherry, tulip poplar, box elder, redbud, hemlock, red oak, Virginia pine and persimmon. Some larger coarse dominant sawlogs and poorly formed trees can be found. These types of trees will be future candidates for removal but stocking levels are such that no harvesting should be considered for at least ten years in this area. Coarse dominants are trees that take up much room in a stand and are of little commercial value. Sometimes they can be aesthetic, of value to wildlife or historic in nature. Generally they are damaged, diseased, poorly formed, and left behind when trees are harvested in commercial timber sales. They are usually candidates for removal but should be judged on a case-by-case basis. In your stands coarse dominants can be found but stocking levels are too light to address the situation at this time. In about ten years stocking will improve and you may be able to better evaluate the situation with the occasional coarse dominant found in this and some of your other stands. Coarse dominants often inhibit a stand from reaching its true productive potential and are sort of like giant weeds in a garden. Area 2 borders the main drainage across the property. This imparts a riparian corridor effect along the stream edges. These are particularly important areas for water quality issues and wildlife habitat. Minimize disturbance in the streamside areas and plan work carefully when it is needed in these areas. Time of year, equipment usage and stream crossings all play an important role in keeping riparian areas productive and healthy. The understory conditions in Area 2 are similar to those found in Area 1. Invasive species are numerous. For now controlling grapevines and time is needed to improve stand conditions and reach the true potential of the site. Maintaining access corridors and minimizing disturbance to the riparian corridor would be excellent management projects. Past logging and grapevines have left the stand with a ragged hodgepodge appearance. This will improve with time especially if grapevine control can be accomplished.

Area 3 Approximately 13 Acres. Across the main drainage can be found two pine plantations. These pine stands represent Area 3. The stands contain sawlog sized trees and are somewhat overcrowded. The trees are about 30 to 35 years old. Signs of crowding include some mortality and reduced growth. The crowding is somewhat moderated because lots of edge with adjacent hardwood stands can be found. A thinning would be appropriate in these stands however grapevines are also a problem and should be handled prior to or along with a thinning. Grapevines here can be controlled by cutting the vines. No need for herbicides exists because of adequate stocking levels. An insect called white pine adelgid is at work within the pine plantations. This insect ebbs and flows from year to year but can cause problems particularly in overcrowded stands. Some of the broken snapped off trees found in your plantation may actually be a result of the white pine adelgid feeding activity. Ideally a thinning should be conducted removing logs in a way that avoids crossing the main drainage. Explore the possibility of taking logs out by going uphill across the neighbors to Angel Ridge. If that does not work consider thinning your stands and removing logs across the creek during dry or hard frozen conditions that minimize impacts to the stream and crossing area as much as possible. Technical assistance from the Division of Forestry is available to help properly thin the pine and assist with crossing the stream. The stands might be of interest commercially however volume is moderate and access could be a factor for a commercial operation. Combining Area 5 with Area 3 may make a commercial operation thinning these stands more feasible. Soils are in the Westmoreland series but the dryer west facing aspect would yield a red oak site index of 70. This is still a good site for woodland productivity. For now control the grapevines and within the next five years a thinning would be appropriate for these stands.

Area 4 Approximately 10 Acres. This area represents your maintained open ground. Included within Area 4 would be the mowed fields, home sites, entry and access corridors utility corridors and the areas that generally receive heavy use and impact because of the proximity of the homes and activity found near the homes. Mowing is a routine operation and the edge and habitat diversity created improves conditions for wildlife enjoyment and viewing. Planting trees on these areas would be successful. The soils are a hodgepodge of Westmoreland, Upshur and Guernsey soils and a red oak site index of 70 to 81 can be found within these conditions. The east facing aspect is very favorable to tree growth. One small pond is located in this area as well as this area being a major portion of drainage impacts to all of your ponds. Keeping the area mowed and maintained will keep all management options open and available to you for future considerations. If you decide to maintain the area specifically for wildlife management you might consider delaying mowing until after July 15th of each year to facilitate nesting habitat. The conditions found on this area allow one to enjoy all the rural attributes of Southeast Ohio and create a wonderful setting for enjoying the conditions found on the property.

Area 5 Approximately 5 Acres. This stand consists of the homesite near the pond along your northwest corner. The trees located here are a conifer planting consisting of Norway spruce and white pine. Both patches of these species can use a thinning and are overcrowded. The white pine is sawtimber sized and the Norway spruce is mostly pole to

small sawtimber sized. Grapevines should be controlled within the stand and can be accomplished without herbicides because of the stand stocking levels. Combining a thinning here with Area 3 might yield a commercial harvest that will create some income and accomplish needed work. Overcrowded stands can become unhealthy and should be thinned periodically. A combination of soils are found in Area 5 including Guernsey, Westmoreland and Dekalb series soils. Trees do well on all of these soils and the favorable aspect is beneficial. Considering all the soils, on average, the site would for red oak be a high medium condition (site index 74). It is important to not thin your pine stands too heavily as one can reduce stocking levels inappropriately when thinning. In your situation it would be best to thin your stands to a basal area level of 90 square feet to the acre. Basal area is a measure of how crowded a stand condition might be. This is the level that maximizes growth but does not open the stand up to much.

Area 6 Approximately 13 Acres. Area 6 is somewhat similar to Area 7. Logging has occurred about 7 to 10 years ago. The aspect is westerly and south and riparian considerations would be warranted along the drainages. Species of trees found include hickory, sycamore, red oak, black walnut, white ash, black cherry, elm, white oak, tulip poplar, black oak, scarlet oak, sugar maple, black gum, beech, and red maple. The soils are Berks, Westmoreland and Wellston series soils and would yield a red oak site index of 70. Some grapevine can be found and can be controlled with a non-chemical treatment. Stocking levels are medium to slightly understocked. The best management strategy for the next ten years would be controlling grapevines, marking boundaries and maintaining access. More time is needed to further develop the promising hardwood resource developing on this site.

Area 7 Approximately 16 Acres. This is an interesting stand in that the old Cuckler Cemetery can be found here. Historically this is significant and management impacts should take into consideration this very unique historical site. Trees have taken over the cemetery itself but upon close inspection tombstones can be found intermingled among the forest. Many of the tombstones are dated from the 1850's. Some interesting background information is available regarding this historic site. Surrounding the cemetery is a medium to slightly understocked stand of small sawtimber hardwood trees. Species of trees include chestnut oak, red oak, white oak, sugar maple, black oak, scarlet oak, hickory, white ash, elm, tulip poplar, sassafras, buckeye, thorn apple, honey locust, black walnut, red maple, black cherry, beech, black gum and sycamore. Some riparian corridor effect is found in Area 7 indicating caution with impacts and equipment near the drainages. The aspect is dryer and faces to the south and west. Some grapevine can be found and should be able to be controlled non-chemically. The soils found in Area 7 are Westmoreland, Berks and Wellston soils. This variety of soils will yield a red oak site index of approximately 70. The variety of species and soils as well as the past history of this area leads to a very diverse resource base that is quite interesting. The area was logged about 7 to 10 years ago and has recovered nicely from, the logging impacts. For now not much needs to be done except for controlling the occasional grapevine and maintaining access and boundaries.

General Comments. It was a pleasure to meet with you and have the opportunity to view your property. This is truly a wonderful property with some fabulous attributes including ponds, good access, woodlands, a very nice stream, geologic features and historical interest. One of the best things that can be done in the immediate future is boundary line marking, improving and maintaining access and bringing the grapevines under control. The suggested strategies will dwell on this aspect of the management of the property. Non-native species are quite numerous on the property. This is interesting however it is also a problem. The understory portions of your woodlands are particularly affected and this is a detrimental and unhealthy forest condition. Japanese honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, autumn olive and privet are the major culprits. Other non-natives found include barberry and even holly. This condition is often a result of past land use especially in areas that were used for livestock production. The properties proximity to the urban interface will also allow many invasive plants to reproduce in suitable conditions. This may be where the barberry, bush honeysuckle and holly have come from. Impacted and disturbed areas are very conducive to invasive plants and the recent past logging probably introduced ideal conditions for regeneration of many of the non-native plants found in the understory. Reduced stocking levels let too much light into the forest creating ideal conditions for invasive plants (the last harvest cut too heavy). A good approach to the situation with the undesirable understory plants is to develop the canopy to create more shade in the forest. Grapevine control is the first step in this process. Following grapevine control patience and time are warranted and as the canopy and trees develop conditions will improve. Thinning the pine and spruce plantations has merit and should be a consideration following grapevine control in these stands. Sometimes timber stand improvement projects such as grapevine control can receive cost share monies to assist landowners with implementation of projects. Prior to beginning a project contact the Division of Forestry to see if any cost share money is available. This Stewardship Management Plan is one of the steps needed to also become eligible for the Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) program. Inspection of the property indicates boundaries will need to be better marked although they are not in bad condition and still can be determined from evidence on the ground. A suggested management practice will also need to be completed prior to OFTL certification. You may be eligible for the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) program and this stewardship plan will assist you in that regard also. The Athens County Auditor should be contacted for further details about CAUV. Remember you cannot receive both CAUV and OFTL. Following is a ten year schedule of activities for the property suggesting strategies to meet your goals and objectives, improve the resource and allow you to become qualified for the OFTL.

10- YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

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- Locate corners and mark boundary lines. 2005
- Control grapevines in Areas 3 & 5. 2005
- Apply for OFTL if interested. 2005
- Maintain and improve access. Ongoing
- Control grapevines in Area 7. 2006
- Control grapevines in Area 6. 2007
- Control grapevines in Area 1 (may need herbicides). 2008
- Control grapevines in Area 2 (may need herbicides). 2009
- Conduct a thinning in Areas 3 & 5 (may also do this sooner). 2010
- Locate corners and mark boundary lines. 2011
- Follow-up grapevine control in Areas 3 & 5. 2012
- Follow-up grapevine control in Areas 6 & 7. 2013
- Follow-up grapevine control in Areas 1 & 2. 2014
- Evaluate goals and objectives & redo Stewardship Mgt. Plan. 2015