

productive, for now and times to come.

Section 2d—Land Use Types & Area

Area

Total: 126.232 Acres

Agricultural Fields: 0 Acres

Forestland or Commercial Timberland (Land on which timber-producing trees dominate, i.e., oak, hickory, maple, beech, walnut, cherry, yellow-poplar, pine, sycamore, etc.):

108.5 Acres (Stands 1 through 7)

Woodland (Land on which non-timber-producing trees or species of trees dominate, i.e., dogwood, hawthorn, redbud, etc., or on which stocking levels may not be adequate for designation as forestland or timberland):

13.550 Acres (Stands 8 & 9)

Other Land:

4.182 Acres

Old railroad right-of-way/easement

2.2 Acres (Stand 10)

Open area (buildings, yard, old field, etc.)

1.982 Acres (Stand 11)

Open Water: I don't know whether any part of the Hocking River is included in the area of the Koesters property. It certainly isn't by the new survey. If in fact no part of the river is also part of the Koesters property, then there isn't any area of open water located on the property.

Notes

In summary, dark green and olive green stands are generally lower in productivity than are medium green and blue stands. Again, the foregoing discussion refers to the attached forest stand map.

Again, growing sites vary in their quality and productivity; some are better than others. One measure of the productivity of a given site is called site index. Site index is defined as the height, in feet, of a dominant or co-dominant tree at age 50. The higher the number, the better the site. Site index figures and other measures of productivity for soils found on the Koesters property appear in Appendix 2—Soils, Sites, & Forest Productivity. In that appendix, I have made reference to various soil types. These are described in detail in the attached custom soil survey. For more information on soils, see that document, as well as the soil survey for your county, available at the soil and water conservation district (SWCD) office. Please be aware, there isn't any need to print the custom soil survey. I have included it with your forest management plan only for your information.

Water & Wetlands

As mentioned, the Koesters property includes about 1,200 feet of frontage along the Hocking River, plus part of the Lead Run bottom, plus part of the bottom of another stream located in the middle part of the property, this one unnamed. These areas are or might be considered wetlands. A good indication that you're looking at a wetland is the presence of plants such as cattails or black willow. There is certainly some of that in the Lead Run bottom and possibly in other places on the property. Other than the river, there isn't any permanent body of water located on the Koesters property.

Rare, Threatened, & Endangered Species

There aren't any known rare, threatened, or endangered species located on the Koesters property.

Cultural, Historical, & Archaeological Resources

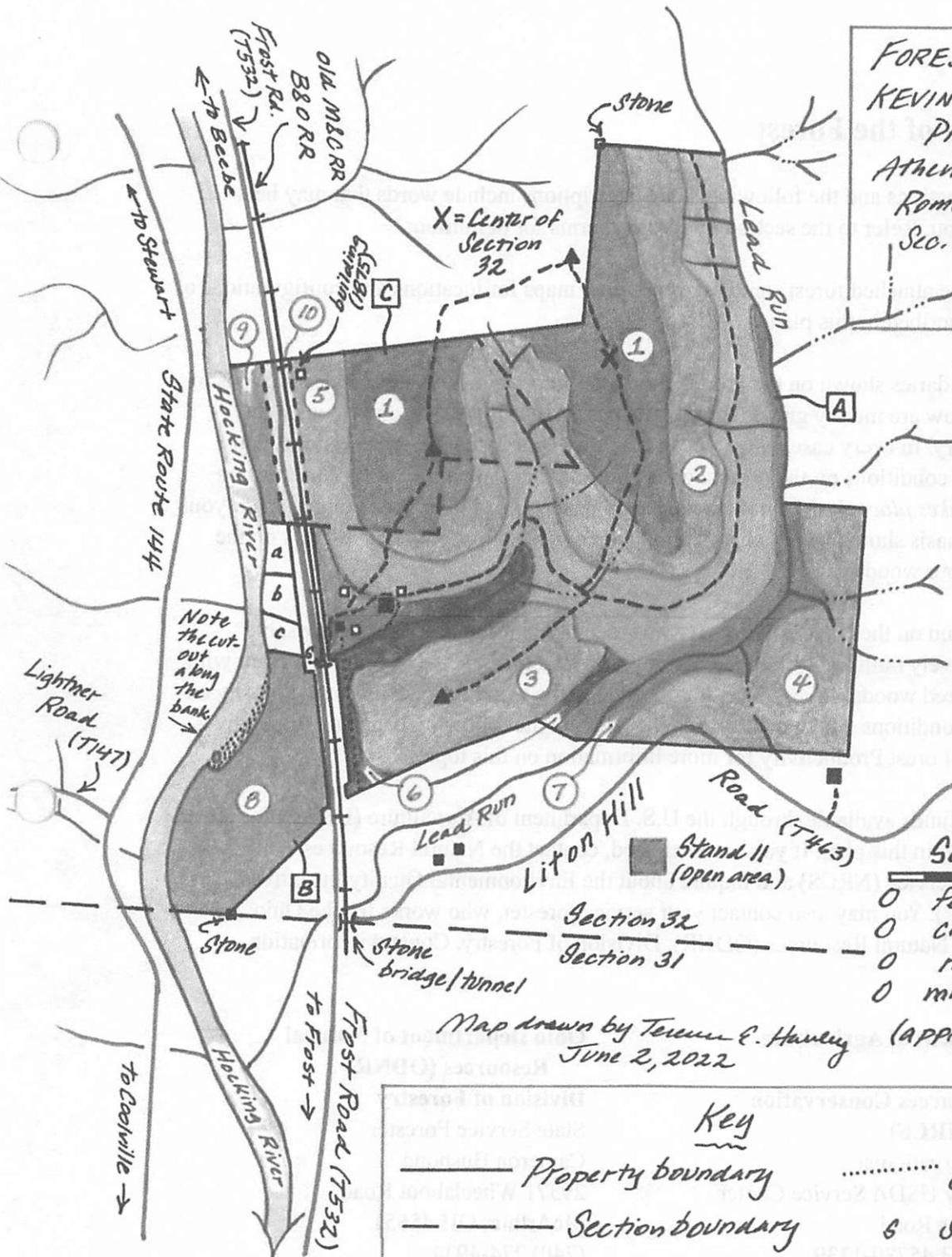
The only known cultural, historical, or archaeological resources located on the Koesters property are two buildings (the barn and what Dan Haley called the "Cellar House"), four sites of former buildings (the main house, now gone, possibly burned in 1949; a shed or small barn, now in ruins; a possible old school building, now gone; and another building in the Old Railroad Tract, also gone). For more on the history of the property, see Appendix 3—History.

Year of Last Timber Cutting

Timber was last cut on the Koesters property in the period 2017-2020, before Mr. Koesters acquired it. This cutting was a high-grade cutting, probably a diameter-limit cutting, in which all or most of the largest, best, and most valuable timber was cut while the smallest, poorest, and least valuable was left behind. This is typical for logging jobs in southeastern Ohio, even when landowners have a forest management plan in place or have previously consulted with a forester on the process of selling timber. There is nothing that can be done about this problem now except to begin work to undo the effects of high-grading and to make the woods better and more

FOREST STAND MAP
 KEVIN J. KOESTERS
 PROPERTY
 Athens County, Ohio
 Rome Township
 Sec. 32, T6N, R11W
 126.232 Acres
 Total

Key
 Stand boundary
 Stand number



Scale
 0 feet 660
 0 chains 10
 0 rods 40
 0 miles 1/8
 (approx.)

Map drawn by Terrence E. Hanley
 June 2, 2022

For comparison, this square, at a scale of 1 inch = 660 feet represents 40 Acres (1,320 feet x 1,320 feet, or 1/4 mile by 1/4 mile).
 2 inches = 1,320 feet

Key

—————	Property boundary	Utility line
- - - - -	Section boundary	⊓	Stone culvert
~~~~~	Public road	))	Stone bridge/tunnel
- · - · -	Private road or trail	■ ■	Buildings - current
+++++	Old railroad bed	□	Building - former (except for labeled stones)
- - - - -	Old parcel boundary	~~~~~	Streams
[A]	Tract label	~~~~~	River
- · - · -	Easement boundary	.....	Washout & island
a	Small Lot label		

### **3. Description of the Forest**

#### **Notes**

1. The previous sections and the following stand descriptions include words that may be unfamiliar to you. Refer to the section on forestry terms for definitions.
2. Refer also to the attached forest stand map and other maps for locations and configurations of the features described in this plan.
3. The stand boundaries shown on the aforementioned forest stand map and the descriptions of stands that follow are merely guides for your management activities. Conditions on the ground may vary. In every case, when you are making your management decisions, you should go with conditions on the ground or as you find them in your woods. *That's where management takes place.* It does not take place on paper, and neither your emphasis nor your forester's emphasis should be on what is printed on a piece of paper versus what is on the ground or in your woods.
4. Again, forestland on the Koesters property was recently high-graded. That inadvisable practice effectively nullified differences among previous forest stands. Now we are left with drastically altered woods. In response, I have divided the woods into stands based mostly on soils and site conditions or site quality. See the table on the following page and Appendix 2—Soils, Sites, & Forest Productivity for more information on this topic.
5. There may be funds available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the work prescribed in this plan. If you are interested, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and inquire about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). You may also contact your service forester, who works for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Forestry. Contact information follows:

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
(USDA)  
Natural Resources Conservation  
Service (NRCS)  
District Conservationist  
Athens County USDA Service Center  
69 South Plains Road  
The Plains, OH 45780-1339  
(740) 797-9686**

**Ohio Department of Natural  
Resources (ODNR)  
Division of Forestry  
State Service Forester  
Cameron Bushong  
29371 Wheelabout Road  
McArthur, OH 45651  
(740) 274-4934  
Cameron.Bushong@dnr.ohio.gov**

## 4. Prescription

In order to meet the stated objective of managing this forestland for the production, for a commercial purpose, of timber (and of allied forest products), I recommended the following:

### **Specific Recommendations** (Also listed in Section 5, Schedule of Management Activities)

1. **Maintain your property boundary markings and improve your boundary markings along the old railroad right-of-way.** Be sure to use brightly colored paint applied to trees and/or fenceposts along the perimeter at a distance of no more than 50 or 60 feet between marks. (The requirement for OFTL is 100 feet or less.)
2. **Maintain roads and trails as needed for good access to your woods.**
3. **Install and maintain erosion control measures such as water bars, turnouts, and ditches.** See *BMPs for Erosion Control for Logging Practices in Ohio* (Bulletin 916), available online or in print from Ohio State University Extension, for more information.
4. **Eradicate the worst non-native, invasive species, especially ailanthus or tree-of-heaven and bush honeysuckle, wherever you might find them.**
5. **Cut and control other non-native, invasive species as needed to promote the growth and reproduction of native plants.**
6. **Cut grapevines that are growing on crop trees, including oak, walnut, cherry, hickory, yellow-poplar, persimmon, and other timber-producing and mast-bearing trees.** You can leave poison-ivy vines and Virginia creeper vines, as they do not harm trees.
7. **If you are interested in planting trees, look into government programs available for offsetting your costs. Be sure to consult with a professional forester or well-qualified forest technician as to species, spacing, site preparation, weed control, etc., before proceeding.**
8. **Undertake non-commercial timber stand improvement (TSI), namely by cutting inferior, defective, weedy, and otherwise undesirable trees.** Be sure to retain certain cavity trees as wildlife den trees. Also, be sure to work with a professional forester in the management of your woods, especially in any effort at selling timber.
9. **By all means avoid high-grading your woods.** The best way to do that is to work with a good forester at harvest time and to avoid all non-silvicultural cutting, including diameter-limit cutting and so-called "selection" cutting. See the following paragraphs for more on managing and selling timber.

**Description:** Stand 10 includes some small area of forestland, but it also includes the old railroad right-of-way, and, as far as I can tell, Frost Road. In order for any forestland here to be managed as such, you would have to learn what you are permitted to do under the easement held by the Athens County Board of Commissioners.

**Recommended Silvicultural Treatment:** Same as Stands 1 through 9, if forest management activities are permitted under the easement.

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**Stand 11— Open Area (buildings, yard, old field, etc.)**

Red on the forest stand map.

This stand corresponds to Stand 5 in the management plan of 2009.

**Area:** 1.982 Acres (3 Acres in the management plan of 2009)

**Forest Type:** Non-forest (open ground)

**Location & Site Conditions:** Stand 11 is an old-field site that has never reverted or been allowed to revert to forestland as other old fields have been. I suspect that site conditions are poorer here than in adjoining areas of Stands 5 and 6. However, we shouldn't think of this area as so poor that it can't be reclaimed or restored.

**Description:** Stand 11 includes the old "Cellar House" the old barn, and the sites of two other old buildings, including a possible old school building. (A third old building, a ruined old barn or shed, is located just outside this area in Stand 5.)

**Recommended Silvicultural Treatment:** Be sure to keep non-native, invasive species under control, paying special attention to ailanthus and tree-of-heaven and bush honeysuckle. As for activities other than silvicultural activities, I think that a search for old building sites, plus some historical research, would be a worthwhile activity. Beyond that, Stand 11 is one place where you could plant pollinator plants, prairie plants, orchard trees, etc. There is also of course an opportunity to use this area for recreational activities, including camping and gathering. One drawback is that the Athens-Belpre Rail-Trail passes directly in front of Stand 11. Because of that, there may not be all of the privacy and security that you might like here.

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**Minor woody species on the Koesters property:** Blackberry, black raspberry, eastern redcedar, poison-ivy

**Non-native invasive species found on the Koesters property:** Ailanthus or tree-of-heaven, autumn-olive, bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese stilt-grass, multiflora rose