

Rough Around the

▶ Edges:

Improving wildlife habitat
on your forested lands



Why Upland Habitat?

- ▶ Supports Complete Life Cycle
 - ▶ Food
 - ▶ Protection
 - ▶ Raising Young



Why Pollinator Habitat?

- ▶ Pollinator habitat is **wildlife habitat!**

- ▶ Insects
- ▶ Birds
- ▶ Small Mammals
- ▶ Large Mammals
- ▶ Amphibians
- ▶ Reptiles



5 Steps to Create Pollinator Habitat



- ▶ Site Selection
- ▶ *Site Preparation
- ▶ Seeding
- ▶ *1st Year Management
- ▶ Long-Term Maintenance

**Highly Important!*

Upland Site Selection

- ▶ Landscape:
 - ▶ Connect to similar habitat
 - ▶ Protect from nearby pesticide use
 - ▶ Protect site from heavy use
- ▶ Local:
 - ▶ Sunlight
 - ▶ Prior & current land use
 - ▶ Access
 - ▶ Size & shape



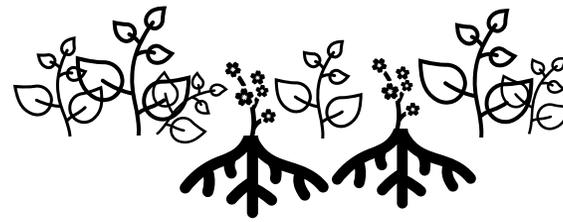
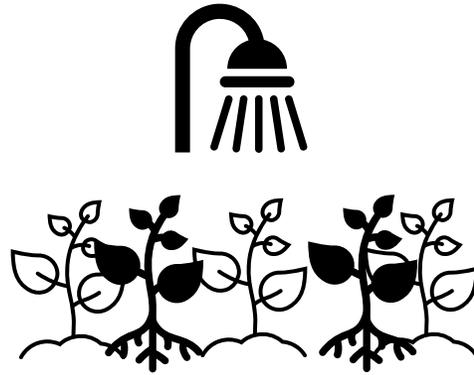
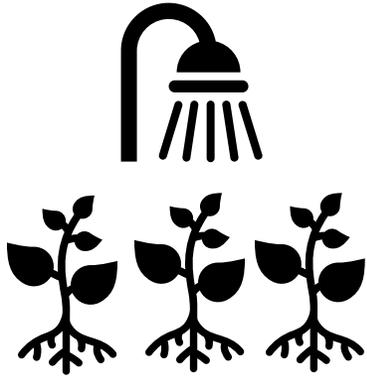
Site Preparation

*MOST IMPORTANT STEP

- ▶ Chemical application
- ▶ Solarization



Site Preparation Takes Time





Seeding

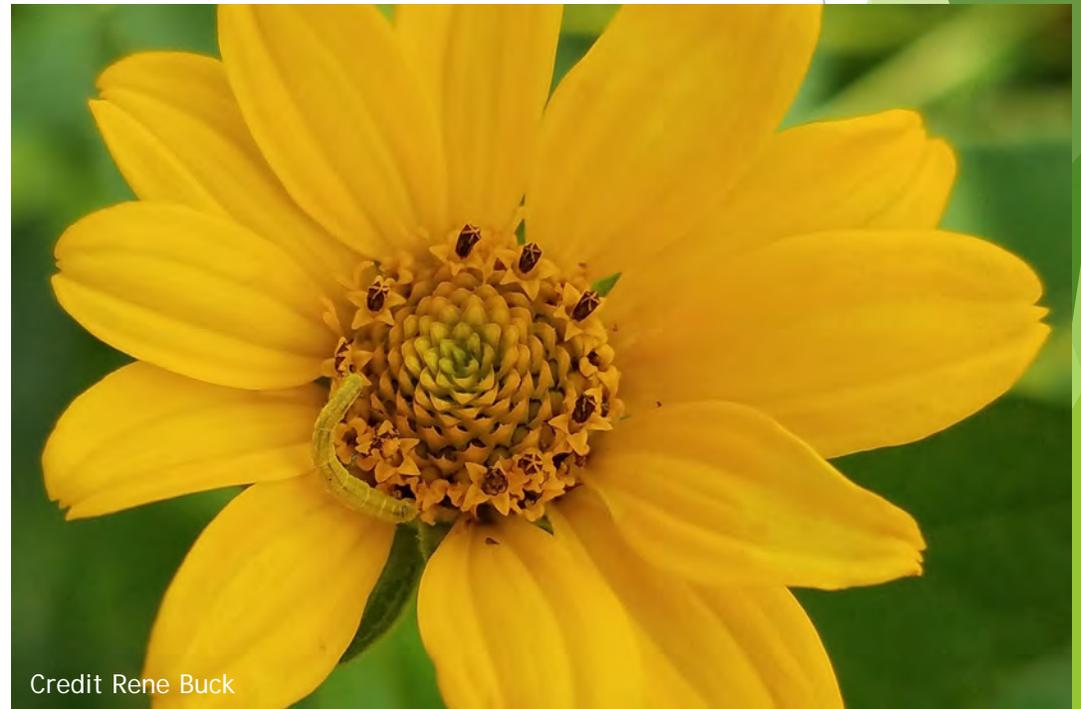
- ▶ Winter or Spring
- ▶ Broadcast Seeding
- ▶ Native seed drill
 - ▶ No deeper than ¼"

Finding a Seed Mix

- ▶ Local Vendors & Native Plants
- ▶ Keywords, in combination with “pollinator seed mix”
 - ▶ Local
 - ▶ Native
 - ▶ Ohio
 - ▶ Great Lakes
 - ▶ Midwest



Credit: Jason Jones



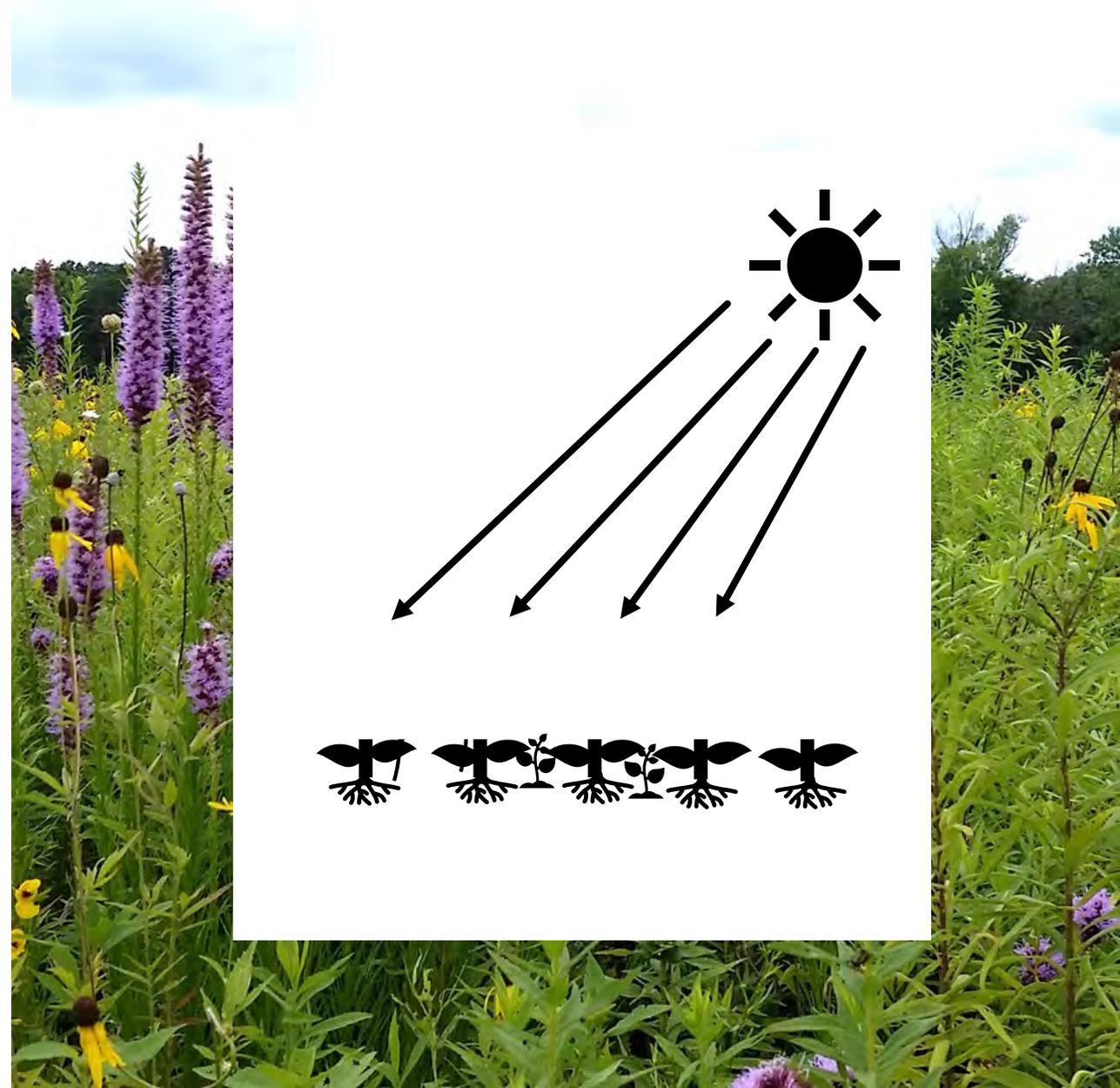
Credit Rene Buck

4. 1st-Year Management

Why bother?

- ▶ Reduce pressure by weeds
- ▶ Open sunlight to leaves
- ▶ Allow plants to gather energy

**No lower than 8 inches*



5. Long Term Maintenance

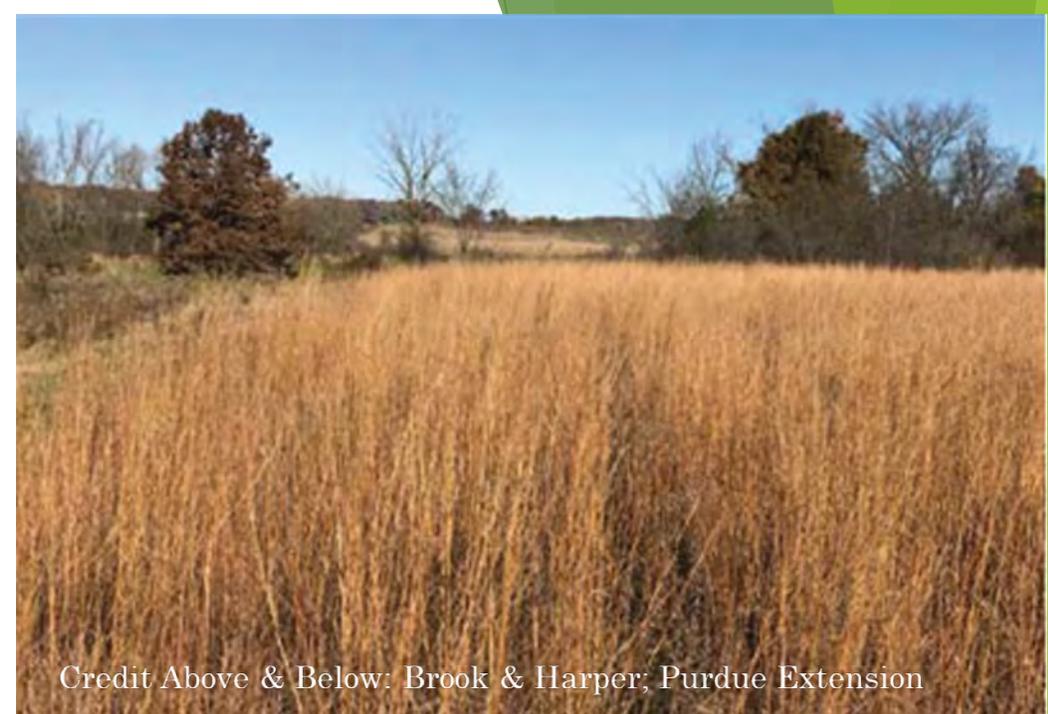
Why bother?

- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Prevent succession

How?

- ▶ Prescribed Burn
- ▶ Grazing
- ▶ Haying
- ▶ Light disking
- ▶ Mowing

**CONSTANT VIGILANCE!*



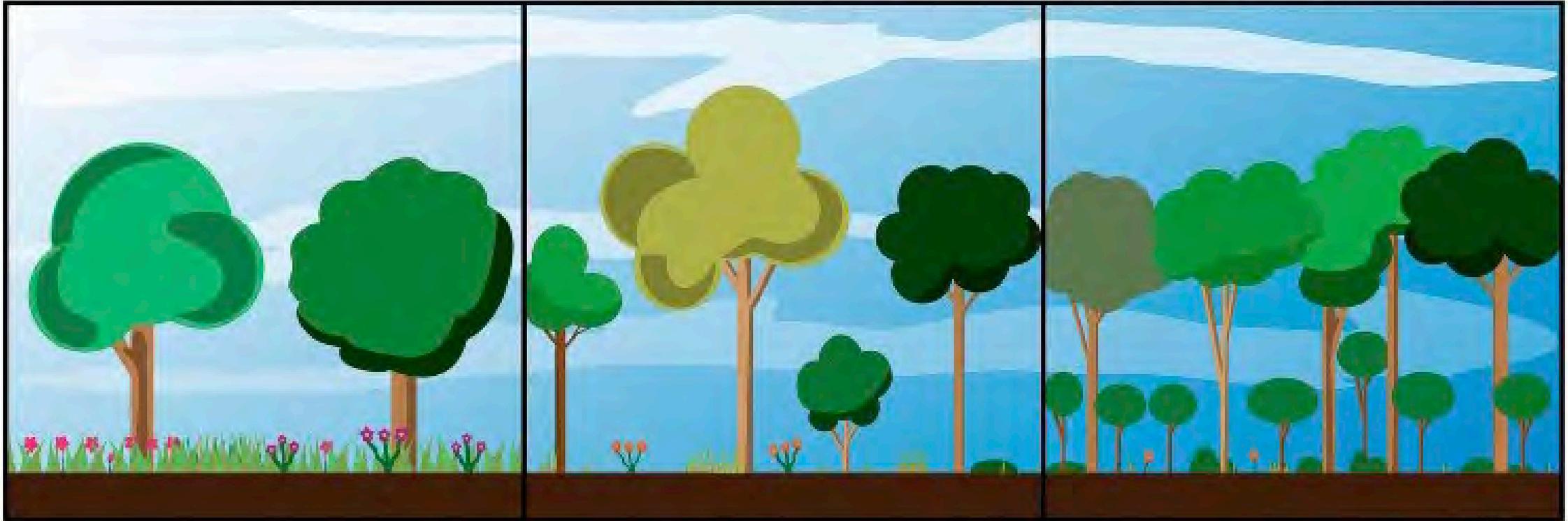
Credit Above & Below: Brook & Harper; Purdue Extension



Woodland

Open Forest

Closed Forest



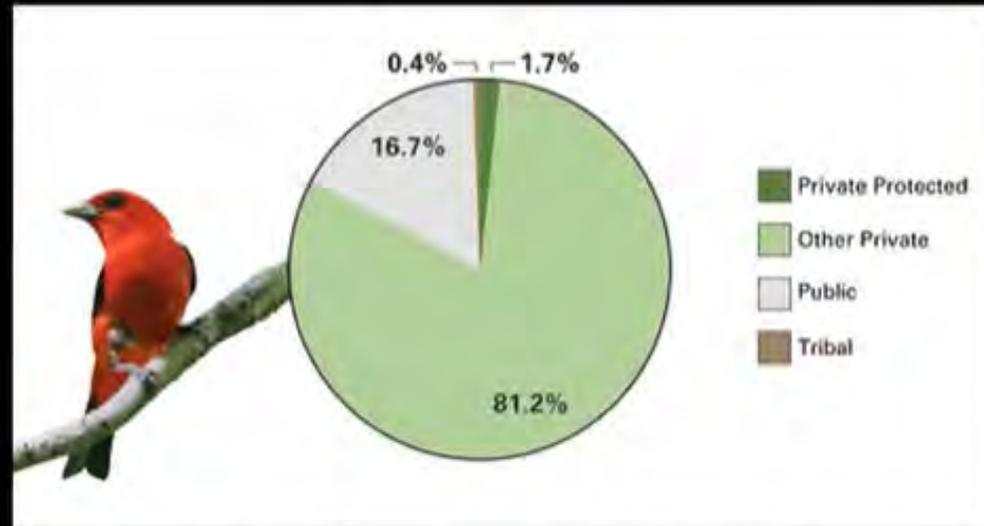
Increasing Tree Cover



Making Better Decisions for
Future Wildlife Habitat

Species of Greatest Conservation need are associated with Early Successional Habitats

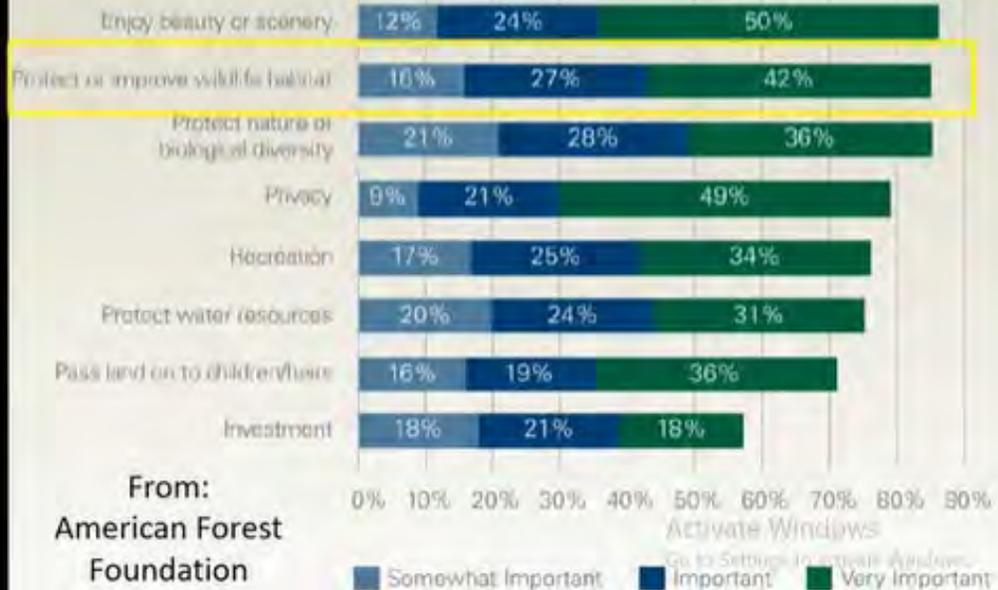
Why Birds on Private Land?



80% of Eastern Forest Birds Rely on Private Land

REASONS FOR OWNING WOODLANDS

(FIGURE 7)



From:
American Forest
Foundation

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%
Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.



Hard Edge



Feathered Edge



Wildlife habitat diversity can be created

- Bare ground
- Grasses legumes and forbs
- Native Shrubs
- Fruiting trees
- Oak and Hickory trees
- Dead wood

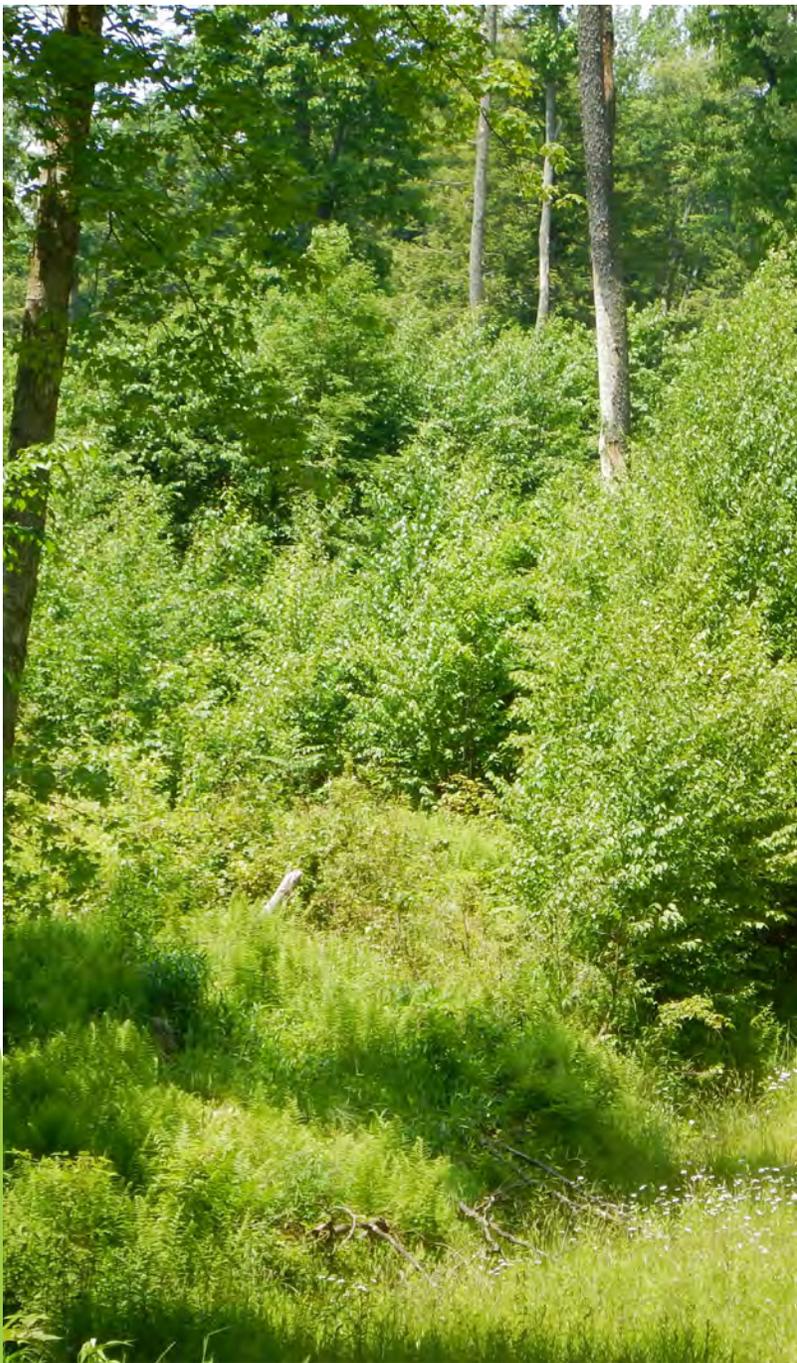


Woodlands & Wildlife

Goals:

- ▶ Gaps between trees
- ▶ Plant Diversity
- ▶ Transitional habitat with abundant edges
- ▶ Standing dead
- ▶ Invasives removed
- ▶ Native understory





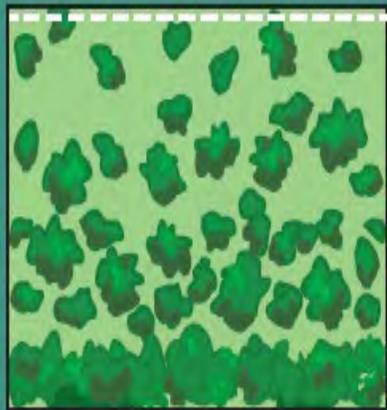
Edge-feathering Project Planning

- Identify your project edge-feathering area
- Identity trees and Invasives plants
- Site preparation when planting trees/shrubs
- Pick trees suitable for your area.
- Grass and pollinator buffers
- Which edge-feathering method can we use ?



Edge-feathering Zones

Edge-feathering by thinning



Original forest edge

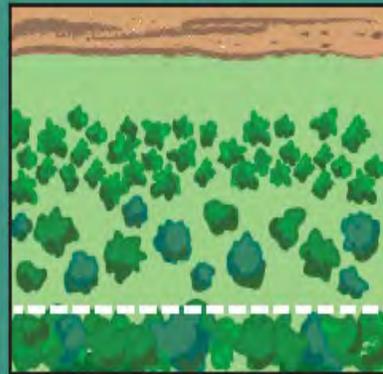
Zone 1 - 75% of canopy removed

Zone 2 - 50% of canopy removed

Zone 3 - 25% of canopy removed

Unthinned forest

Edge-feathering by planting



Strip disked area

Zone 1 - Native Warm Season Grass

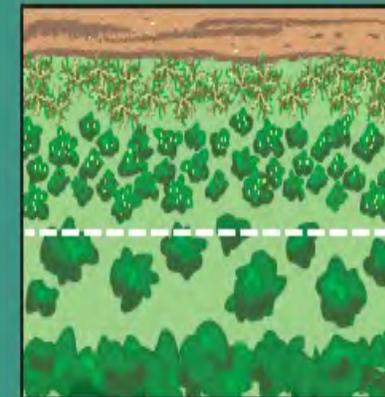
Zone 2 - Small shrubs such as silky dogwood or hazelnut

Zone 3 - Evergreens and/or small trees and large shrubs such as crab apple, wild plum and hawthorn

Original forest edge

Unthinned forest

Edge-feathering using a combination of thinning, planting and natural revegetation



Strip disked area

Zone 1 - Maintain in briar stage by mowing once every 3 - 5 years

Zone 2 - Plant a variety of mast producing shrubs or small trees

Original forest edge

Zone 3 - Approximately 50% of overstory removed

Unthinned forest



Holden Arboretum Demonstration Area

Implementation

Farm Bill Programs

NRCS - Promoting agriculture and voluntary conservation

- ▶ **Technical Assistance** - we generate, manage, and share the data, technology, and standards that enable partners and policymakers to make decisions informed by objective, reliable science.
- ▶ **Financial Assistance** is available to help agricultural producers install and maintain conservation improvements on their land.
- ▶ **Easement programs** allow eligible landowners to conserve working agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands, and forestlands

USDA Farm Bill Programs

NRCS programs:

- ▶ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ▶ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- ▶ Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - ▶ Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)
 - ▶ Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)

Farm Service Agency(FSA) Programs:

- ▶ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - ▶ Grasslands CRP
 - ▶ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP)
 - ▶ State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)



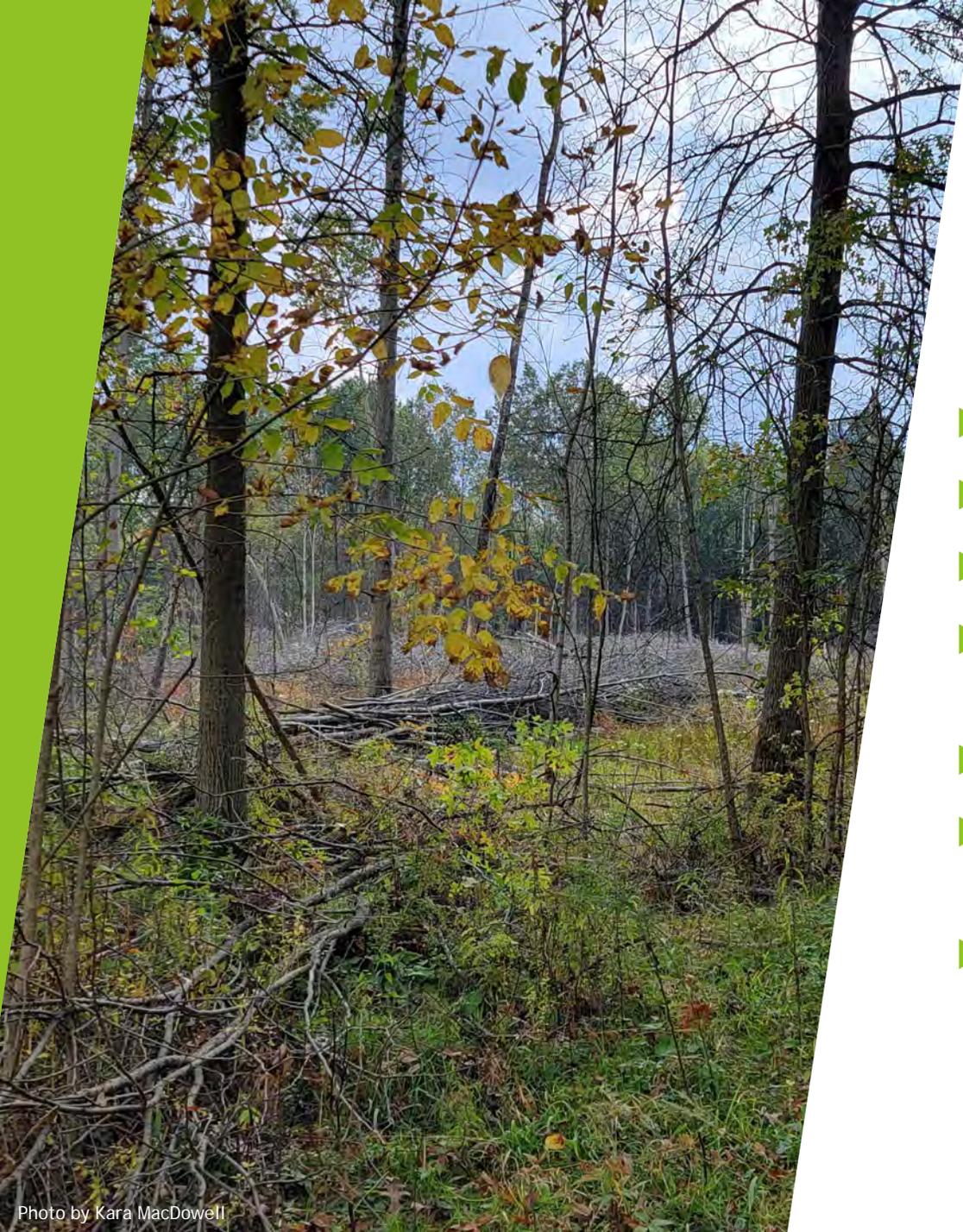
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE):

- ▶ Helps private landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses
- ▶ Long term restoration and management with an easement
- ▶ Easement payment plus restoration costs
- ▶ Over 2.6 million acres protected over the last 20 years



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- ▶ Establishes conservation cover to cropland or marginal pastureland to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and to develop wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Crop history required in most cases
- ▶ 10-30-year contracts
- ▶ Maintenance activity required in year 5
- ▶ Cost-share for installation
- ▶ Small annual rental payment based on soil types.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- ▶ 1-9-year contracts
- ▶ Participant can be owner or operator
- ▶ Agricultural land and NIPF
- ▶ At least 10% of EQIP funds must be targeted to wildlife
- ▶ Ohio has separate wildlife pool funds
- ▶ All Wildlife 10% contracts must contain at least one core practice
- ▶ Wildlife core practices in other funds can count as well



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

► FY 2022 Wildlife Core Practice Examples:

- ❑ Wildlife Habitat Plantings (420)
- ❑ Early Successional Habitat Development /Management (647)
- ❑ Hedgerow Planting (422)
- ❑ Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- ❑ Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- ❑ Structures for Wildlife (649)
- ❑ Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- ❑ Wetland Creation (658)
- ❑ Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

► FY 2022 Wildlife Supporting Practice Examples:

- ❑ Brush Management (314)
- ❑ Critical Area Planting (342)
- ❑ Field Border (386)
- ❑ Firebreak (394)
- ❑ Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- ❑ Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- ❑ Structure for Water Control (587)
- ❑ Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- ❑ Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

► Forestry

- Focused on timber management
- Some wildlife related actions included
- Requires Forest Management Plan (FMP)
- Crop tree release, invasive control, tree planting, wildlife structures

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- ▶ Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns.
- ▶ 5-year contracts
- ▶ \$1500 minimum annual payment
- ▶ Cropland, pasture, farmstead, forest, associated ag land

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- ▶ Entire operation must be enrolled
- ▶ Builds on existing conservation by doing additional practices or enhancing existing practices.
- ▶ Enhancements exceed basic practice requirements
- ▶ Focused on different resources
- ▶ “Bundles” - suites of complementary enhancements; higher payment rate.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- ▶ Enhancement Examples:
 - ▶ Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - ▶ Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitat creation/management
 - ▶ Riparian Forest Buffers
 - ▶ Tree Planting for Wildlife
 - ▶ Shallow Water Habitat enhancement
 - ▶ Riparian Filter Strips





United States Department of Agriculture

USDA NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to:

USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.

Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Abby Prieur

Farm Bill Biologist

Pollinator Habitat

aprieur@pheasantsforever.org

330-577-3804

Ryan Jackson

Private Lands Biologist

ryan.jackson@dnr.ohio.gov

330-245-3023

Kara MacDowell

NRCS District Conservationist

kara.macdowell@usda.gov

330-282-8622 (office)

330-360-7125 (cell)

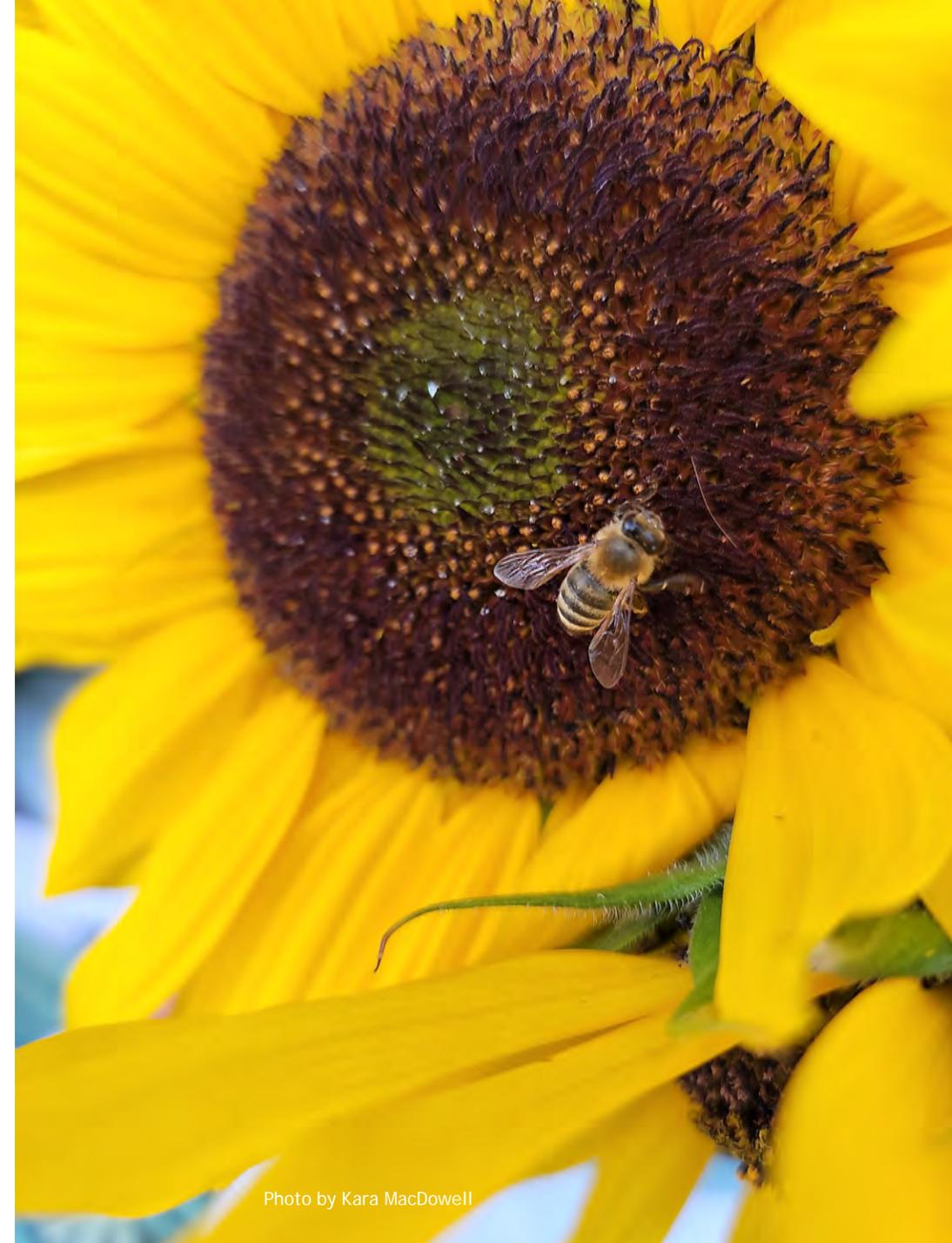
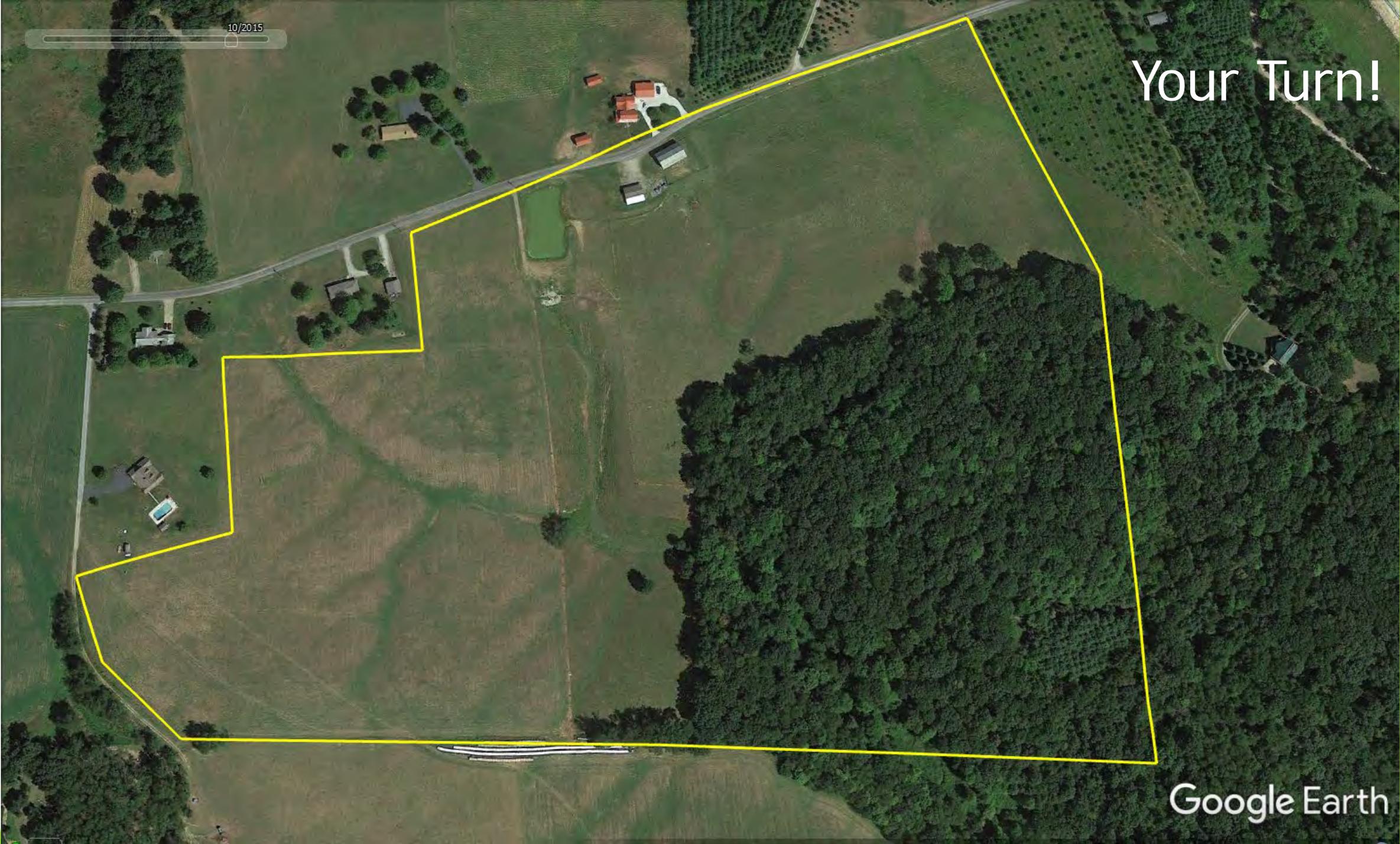


Photo by Kara MacDowell

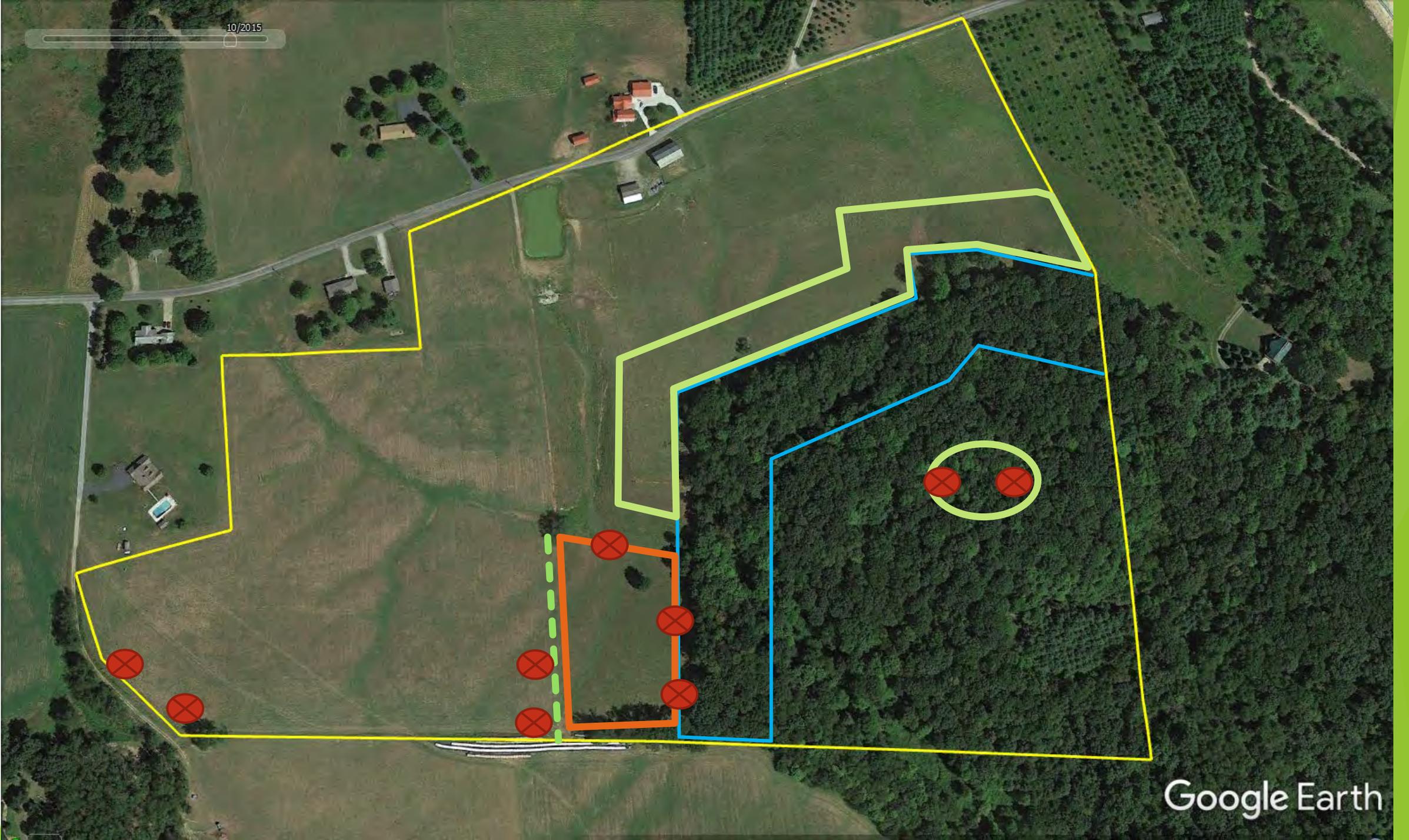
10/2015

Your Turn!

Google Earth



10/2015



Google Earth