DIXON LOT

The Dixon Lot is a 193 acre lot located in the Town of Birdsall. The Lot can be accessed two different ways. The first is by an abandoned Town Road intersecting County Road 16. The second is by the intersection of McMahon and York Roads.

The Dixon Lot was once a farm and a large portion of the Lot was cleared for agriculture. After the County acquired the land, the cropland and pastures were planted to conifers. Six ponds and a system of access roads were constructed. Much of the road system is adjacent and parallel to the boundary lines. A portion of the road system ran straight up hill, which prevented draining the water off the road. Other portions of the road system were constructed without any provision for draining the water off the road. This has allowed a large volume of water to run at high velocity in some places, resulting in erosion ranging from light to heavy.

The erosion problem with the road system was made worse by four-wheel drive vehicles with oversize tires, rutting up the roads during wet weather. They also created some deep and wide holes. Other portions of the roads have been, or are in the process of being overtaken by multiflora rose and honeysuckle.

Multiflora rose and honeysuckle shrubs once planted for food and cover for wildlife, are now called invasive species. These species are now spreading rapidly, and are found to varying degrees in many of the stands. If left unchecked, they will completely take over the understory. When this happens, the shrubs choke out the seedlings of the desirable species of trees, when enough light reaches the forest floor to start reproducing the stands. It is a serious problem if the County's objective is to grow more timber after the existing crop of trees is harvested or dies.

STAND #1: Mixed Conifers – 7 acres

1a. Norway Spruce – Small sawtimber and poles
Norway spruce planted at very close spacing, some trees as close as 4ft or less. Due to the genetic variation in height growth between individuals, the taller trees were able to express dominance, and are now small sawtimber in size. The shorter trees are pole size. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. The spruce can be commercially thinned when other conifer stands in the Lot are harvested. There is no reproduction in the understory.

1b. White Spruce – Poles
The same as 1a except the trees are white spruce and the larger trees are still pole sized.

1c. Red Pine – Poles and small sawtimber
Red pines planted at close spacing and never been thinned. The stand is overstocked. The crown ratio is small, and the diameter growth rate very slow. After a thinning, the residual trees would not respond and would probably blow over. Most of the trees are pole sized, but a few of them are small sawtimber size. The red pine has reached its full potential and is starting to decline, and should be harvested. Let natural hardwood succession take place after the harvest.

1d. Scotch Pine – Small sawtimber and Poles
Scotch pine planting that has heavy mortality. The overstory is understocked with Scotch pine that is small sawtimber and poles in size. There is enough sunlight reaching the forest

floor, so a stand of hardwoods is developing in the understory. White ash has the highest percentage of the seedlings and saplings present. Other species present are red maple, sugar maple, bitternut hickory, beech, choke cherry, buckthorn, blue beech, ironwood, black cherry, American elm, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. The Scotch pine should be harvested and that portion of the stand converted to hardwoods through natural hardwood succession. The honeysuckle and multiflora rose should be eradicated.

The north and south edges of Stand #1 were encroached by hardwood poles to varying degrees. As soon as the conifers are removed, these parts of the stand will become part of Stands #2 and 3.

STAND #2: Hardwoods – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 4 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	sugar maple	red maple ironwood black cherry bitternut hickory
Small Sawtimber	sugar maple big tooth aspen	white ash black cherry bitternut hickory

Stand #2 is a stand of poles and some small sawtimber, mostly sugar maple. There are some aspen sawtimber trees in the western end of the stand. The stand has good quality trees and is overstocked. It should be thinned. The stand should be included in the next hardwood timber sale on the Lot.

STAND #3: Hardwoods – Poles – 0.5 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	sugar maple white ash	red maple red pine

Stand #3 is at the edge of what was once Stand #1. It was originally planted to red pine but has been taken over by good quality hardwood poles with high potential. It is overstocked and should be thinned.

STAND #4: Hardwoods – Small Sawtimber – 1.5 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Sawtimber	sugar maple	white ash bitternut hickory basswood
Seedling-Saplings	white ash sugar maple	black cherry beech choke cherry bitternut hickory ironwood buckthorn

Stand #4 was part of a timber sale in 2007 along with Stand #17. Large sawtimber trees were harvested so the Stand is quite open. The next stand is starting in the understory. Honeysuckle and multiflora rose are coming in, and should be eradicated before they get worse. No other work is needed at this time.

STAND #5: White Ash – Poles with some Small Sawtimber – 4 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	white ash	
Small Sawtimber	white ash	

Stand #5 is an even aged stand that is over 90% white ash. The trees are tall and spindly and the stand is overstocked. The crowns of the trees are quite small. There is heavy multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and buckthorn in the understory. There are a small number of sugar maple and American elm seedlings that are too few in number to regenerate the stand. When the stand is harvested the invasive species will take over the stand unless eradicated. The stand should be clear cut, sprayed with herbicide and planted to Norway spruce. After planting, the invasive species will need to be controlled until the crowns of the spruce close in.

STAND #6: Norway Spruce – Sawtimber and Poles – 1 acre

	Major Species	Minor Species
Sawtimber & Poles	Norway spruce	

Stand #6 is abandoned agricultural land planted to Norway spruce. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. This can be done by a commercial thinning when larger similar stands are harvested.

STAND #7: Hardwoods – Poles & Small Sawtimber – 14 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	white ash sugar maple	ironwood bitternut hickory beech aspen
Small Sawtimber	white ash	aspen sugar maple

Stand #7 is a pole stand with a few scattered small sawtimber sized trees. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. The result will be a stand with more sugar maple in it. The sawtimber size ash should be harvested if they can be incorporated in a sale. The invasive species are getting started in a portion of the stand. They should be eradicated before they become a serious problem.

STAND #B: Brush – 4 acres

Stand B is abandoned agricultural land with various species of brush. There are some scattered aspen, red maple, and white ash coming through but not enough for crown closure. Let hardwood succession continue.

STAND #8a & 8b: Hardwoods – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 7 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	white ash sugar maple	beech basswood bitternut hickory
Small Sawtimber	white ash	

Stand #8a and 8b is a stand of large poles, with some small sawtimber trees that are mostly white ash. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. The white ash timber should be harvested if it can be incorporated in a hardwood sale.

STAND #9: Scotch Pine, Red Pine and Hardwoods – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 20 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles and Small Sawtimber	red pine Scotch pine	sugar maple black cherry white ash red maple

Stand #9 is abandoned agricultural land planted to Scotch pine and red pine. Some hardwoods also seeded in the new plantation. The pines were planted off site. The red pine was not thinned and the trees have small crowns. The red pine is fully stocked in some places but understocked in others.

There is a lot of mortality in the Scotch pine so the overstory is understocked. There is good hardwood reproduction throughout the stand, consisting of sugar maple, black cherry, white ash, red maple, choke cherry, beech, ironwood and shadbush. There is also honeysuckle present in the Stand. The pines have reached their full potential and are deteriorating. The stand should be harvested and converted to hardwoods as soon as possible, to get the hardwood seedlings and saplings past the honeysuckle. Invasive species control may be needed to get the hardwood reproduction by the honeysuckle.

STAND #10: Norway and White Spruce – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 29 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles & Small Sawtimber	Norway spruce	white spruce

Stand #10 is abandoned agricultural land planted to Norway spruce and white spruce, mostly Norway. The stand is overstocked and needs thinning. There is no reproduction under the Norway. There is a little reproduction under the white spruce, which is mostly white ash. The stand should be commercially thinned through a row thinning.

STAND #11: Larch – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 19 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles and Small Sawtimber	larch	

Stand #11 is abandoned agricultural land planted to larch. The larch is off site and was never thinned. The crowns are very small. There is a high risk that the stand will experience severe blowdown in the near future. There are seedlings and saplings of sugar maple, white ash, black cherry, and choke cherry. Honeysuckle is present. There isn't as much good reproduction as desirable, but there is a need to get what you can before the honeysuckle takes over. The Stand should be thinned and converted to hardwoods. Invasive species control may be necessary after the harvest.

STAND #12: Hardwood – Sawtimber and Poles – 2 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Sawtimber and Poles	sugar maple	black cherry white ash

Stand #12 is a stand of almost pure sugar maple. It was not cleared for agricultural because of the gullies running through the stand. The pole sized trees are of high quality and have excellent timber potential. The stand is overstocked and should be thinned. The stand should be included in the next hardwood timber sale on the Lot. Honeysuckle is getting started and should be eradicated. If the County does any invasive species control, this stand should receive high priority.

STAND #13: Brush with scattered Hardwoods – 8 acres

Stand #13 is abandoned agricultural land that has been taken over by brush. Most of the brush is honeysuckle and multiflora rose. It is very heavy, and impenetrable on foot in places. There are some scattered hardwoods that have come through, but not enough for crown closure. The invasive species should be eradicated.

STAND #14: white pine – Small Sawtimber and Poles – 5 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Small Sawtimber & Poles	white pine	sugar maple red maple aspen

Stand #14 is abandoned agricultural land planted to white pine at close spacing (4' x 4') and never thinned. The trees have very small crowns, and won't respond to thinning. The pine has reached its full potential and is declining.

There are some scattered hardwood poles and sawtimber trees of sugar maple, red maple and aspen. Remove the aspen and poor quality maple. There is excellent hardwood reproduction, mostly sugar maple and white ash, with some black cherry, bitternut hickory, and beech. There are enough sugar maple seedlings to have a fully stocked stand of maple when the emerald ash borer kills the white ash.

Honeysuckle is just beginning. Since the next stand of hardwoods has such high potential, honeysuckle control should be a high priority. It should be eradicated before it becomes a problem. The pine should be harvested and the stand converted to hardwoods. Follow up honeysuckle control might be necessary.

Stand #15: Conifers and Hardwoods – Small Sawtimber and Poles – 3 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Small Sawtimber	red pine white ash aspen red maple	Scotch pine
Poles	red pine white ash aspen red maple	Scotch pine white spruce

Stand #15 is abandoned agricultural land planted to strips of red pine, Scotch pine, and white spruce. Scattered hardwoods seeded in the plantation. The red pine was planted off site, but the trees have been able to reach small sawtimber and large pole size. The Scotch pine has been almost wiped out from porcupine damage and taken over by honeysuckle. Most of the white spruce was shaded out by hardwoods.

The reproduction varies from poor to good in the stand. There is moderate to heavy honeysuckle with a little multiflora rose in the understory. If invasive species are not eradicated, the next stand will be honeysuckle with scattered hardwoods. The stand should be harvested and the honeysuckle eradicated.

STAND #16: Hardwoods – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 14 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Small Sawtimber	sugar maple white ash	aspen black cherry
Poles	red maple aspen	blue beech

Stand #16 is a stand of poles and small sawtimber. There is a patch of blue beech and ironwood in the southeast corner. There are cull trees in the Stand. There is small sawtimber ash that should be removed if they can be incorporated in a sale. The cull trees should be cut or girdled the next time saleable timber is removed from the stand. The honeysuckle is well established and will take over the understory. It should be eradicated.

STAND #17: Hardwoods – Small Sawtimber – Poles – 34 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Small Sawtimber and Poles	sugar maple white ash	beech red oak bitternut hickory
Seedling-Saplings	sugar maple white ash beech	

Stand #17 is a stand of small sawtimber and poles that was harvested in 2007. Large sawtimber and culls were removed in the harvest plus some smaller trees for thinning purposes. The stand should be checked

in ten years (2022) to see if it is ready for another cut. Portions of the stand have honeysuckle and multiflora rose coming in. They should be eradicated.

STAND #18: Conifers – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 7 acres

Stand #18 is abandoned agricultural land planted in bands of Norway spruce, red pine, Scotch pine, and white spruce. The Norway spruce is the only species that has done well. The trees are large poles and small sawtimber and need thinning. This can be done with a commercial row thinning along with Stand #10. There are occasional white ash and aspen trees in the stand. There is very little reproduction.

The Scotch pine, white spruce, and red pine all have heavy mortality. They are being overtaken by hardwoods to varying degrees. There are some hardwood trees, mostly white ash, that are sawtimber and pole size. The reproduction is mostly white ash with a little sugar maple. Honeysuckle and multiflora rose are present in the stand and should be eradicated. Except for the Norway spruce, all conifers should be cut and the stand converted to hardwoods. The timber size ash should be harvested if they can be incorporated in a sale.

STAND #19: Scotch Pine, Red Pine and Hardwoods – Poles and Small Sawtimber – 6 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles and Small Sawtimber	red pine Scotch pine	sugar maple black cherry white ash red maple

Stand #19 is abandoned agricultural land planted to Scotch pine and red pine. Some hardwoods also seeded in the new plantation. The pines are off site and not thinned. They have small crowns. The reproduction is mostly honeysuckle. The conifers should be harvested and the honeysuckle eradicated.

STAND #20: Hardwoods – Poles – 3 acres

	Major Species	Minor Species
Poles	white ash	sugar maple

Stand #20 is a stand of mostly white ash poles that is overstocked. There are some sugar maple seedlings and saplings in the understory. However, most of the understory is occupied by honeysuckle. The ash could be harvested in a hardwood pulp or firewood sale along with Stand #5 if a buyer can be found. The honeysuckle should be eradicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Harvest all conifers except Norway spruce in Stands #1, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 19.

2. Thin commercially the Norway spruce with a row thinning in Stands #1, 6, 10, 18 and 19.

3. Eradicate multiflora rose and honeysuckle in Stands #1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Give high priority to Stands #12 and 14.

4. Harvest scattered small white ash sawtimber in Stands #1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 if a buyer can be found before they are killed by the emerald ash borer.

5. Harvest ash in Stands #5 and 10 in a pulpwood or firewood sale.

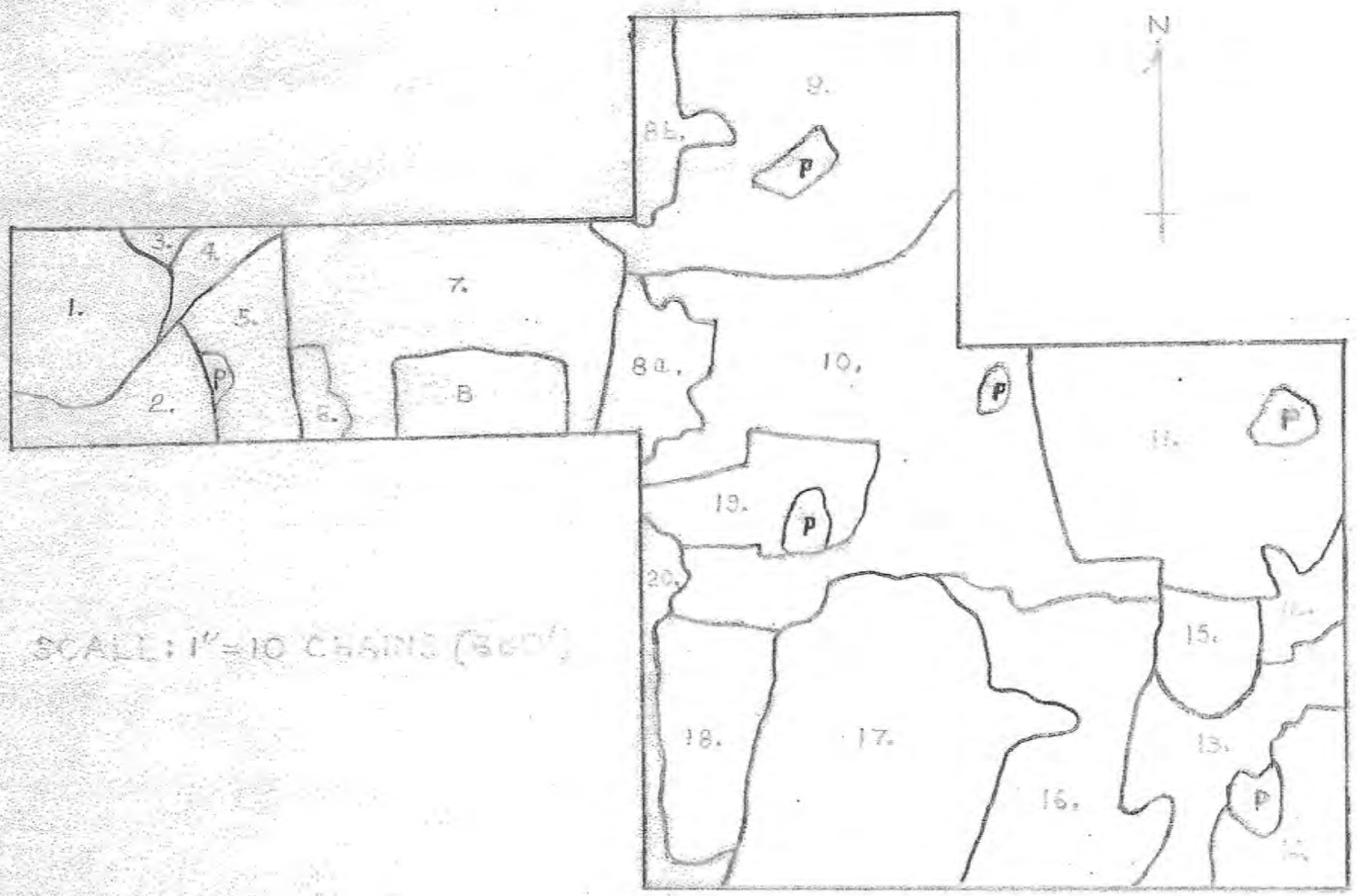
6. Do a pre-commercial thinning or thinning through a firewood sale in Stands # 2 and 3.

7. Stands #2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 may be ready for a hardwood timber sale in the 10 year period between 2022 and 2032.

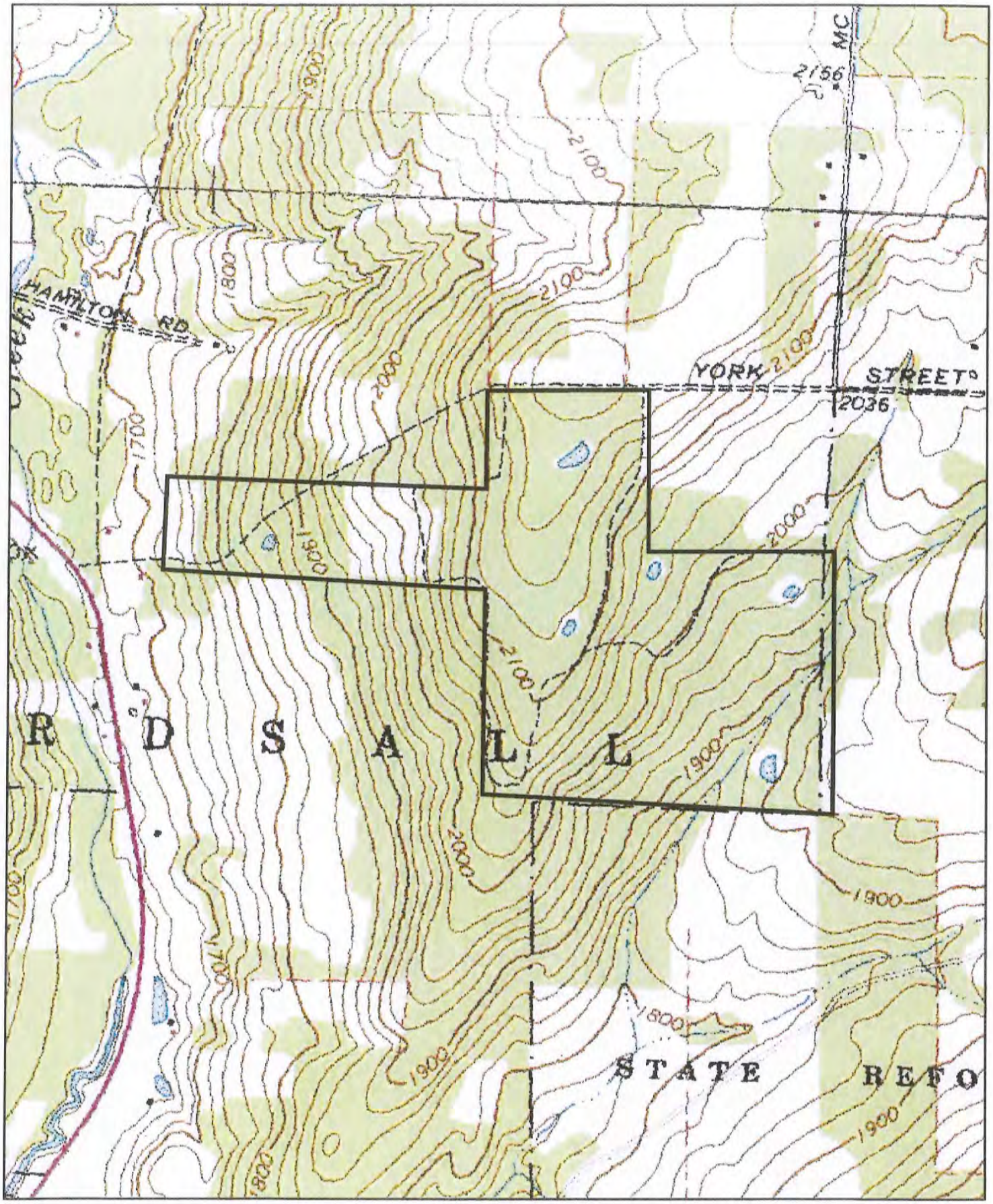
8. Repair the road system where possible. Then gate or block the roads to prevent access by four wheel drive vehicles.

9. Maintain the boundary lines.

DIXON LOT



SCALE: 1" = 10 CHAINS (660')



Allegany County Forest
Dixon Lot
Town of Birdsall

Map Updated: 2/7/2012

1 inch equals 1,000 feet

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Allegany County Soil & Water Conservation District
Established 1941