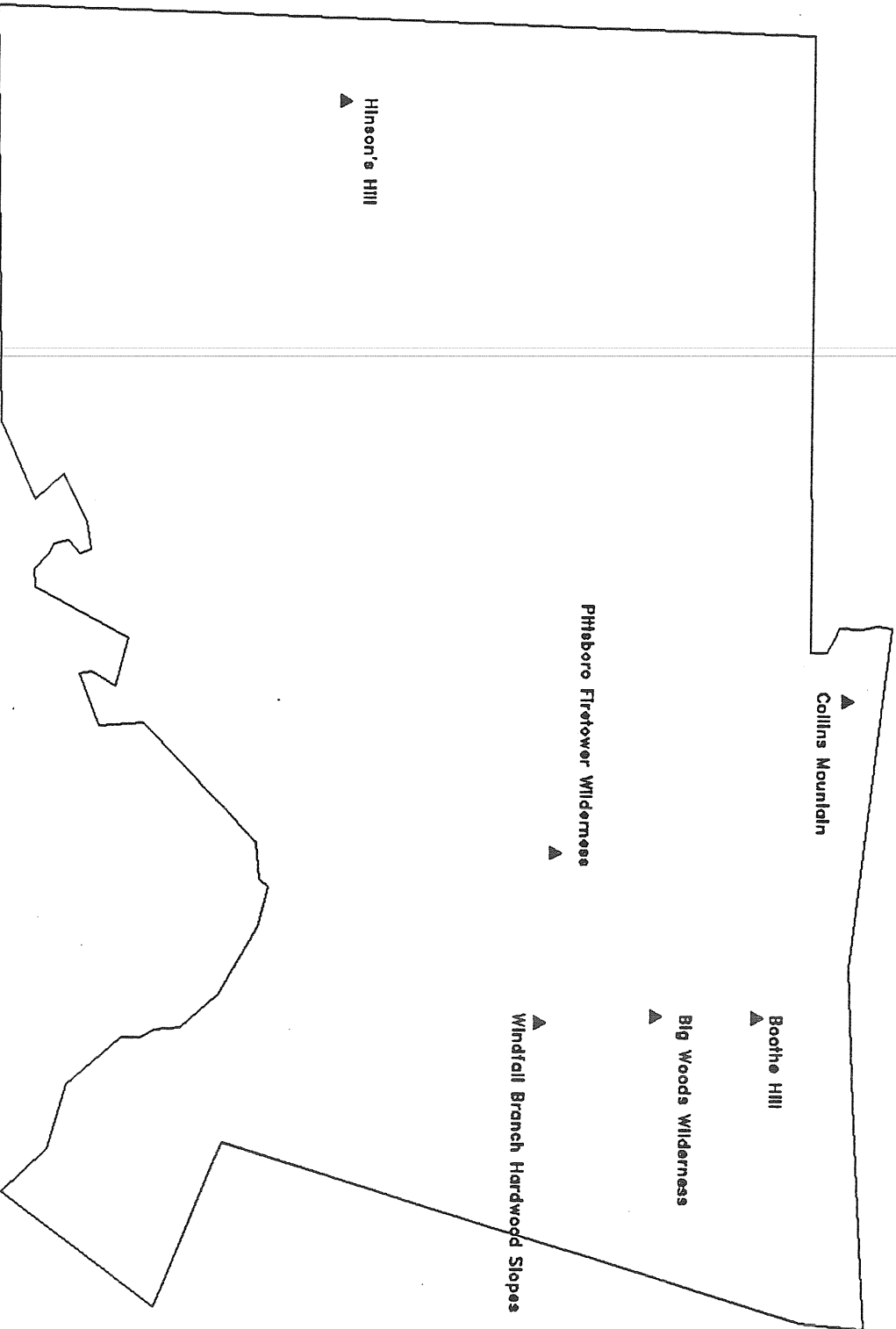


UPLAND WILDLIFE AREAS

The last category of sites includes six large areas of upland forests. Although all of them contain scattered patches of mature upland hardwoods, all have also been extensively exploited for timber and can hardly be considered pristine natural areas. Nor do any of them contain any significantly rare species, at least on a state or national level. Nonetheless, the patchworks of hardwoods, pines, old-fields, and recent clearcuts offer excellent habitat for many game species, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, cottontail, and bobwhite quail. The large size of these previously unpopulated and roadless areas also provides refuge for such wary and wide-ranging predators as bobcats, Cooper's hawks and broad-winged hawks.

Although these sites are not normally included in inventories of significant natural areas, the fact that these sites serve as major reservoirs for wildlife makes them regionally important. Species that are wary of humans, such as bobcat and wild turkey, are diminishing locally with increasing development for housing and the creation of monoculture pine plantations. Indeed, these large, roadless tracts of upland habitats may be the most rapidly vanishing elements of our landscape.

Figure 48. Upland Wildlife Areas



SITE NAME: Big Woods Wilderness

SIGNIFICANCE: County

INTEGRITY: Good to fair

THREATS: High -- timbering; residential development

PROTECTION STATUS: None

JURISDICTION: Williams and New Hope Township

OWNERSHIP: Private

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:

1. The Big Woods is the largest tract of unbroken upland forest remaining in the county, if not the entire Triangle region. As such, it serves as an important wildlife reservoir, supplying the entire area through its connections via the Jordan Lake gamelands to the Haw River, New Hope Creek, and Morgan Creek watersheds.

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Big Woods is a vast tract of rugged uplands that forms part of the western escarpment rising up from the Triassic Basin. Like the more sharply defined monadnocks of Boothe Hill and Edwards Mountain just to the north, the hills of the Big Woods represent an uplift that probably occurred at the same time the basin was sinking; several ridges are over 500 ft in elevation and one summit is the same height as Boothe Hill at 602 ft. Further contributing to the strong relief of this tract is the powerful stream-cutting forces that result from the extreme change in elevation across this escarpment. This entire tract has been sharply dissected by numerous small streams that now flow into Jordan Lake.

The underlying rocks are mainly felsic crystalline formations. At the northern end, the junction between these typical meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic rocks of the slate belt and the massive granite pluton underlying Edwards Ridge and Boothe Hill is marked by a zone composed primarily of schists (see Old Quarry Creek). One other noteworthy geological feature is an extensive dike of diabase that runs parallel to the fault-line that marks the western boundary of the Triassic Basin.

Largely due the ruggedness of the terrain, the Big Woods has escaped intensive exploitation. Although the entire area has been timbered at one time or another -- probably repeatedly -- much of this tract is covered with maturing hardwood forest, in strong contrast to the agricultural lands or pine plantations that extend over most of the county. The trees composing the canopy are typical of the dry-mesic oak/hickory forests that once prevailed over most of the piedmont: white oak (*Quercus alba*), southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), pignut (*Carya glabra*) and red hickory (*C.*

ovalis); scattered short-leaf pines (Pinus echinata) persist throughout the area. The understory is likewise typical in its composition of red maples (Acer rubrum), dogwoods (Cornus florida), and sourwoods (Oxydendrum arboreum). Both shrub and herb layers are fairly sparse. Representative species include blackhaw (Viburnum prunifolium), blueberries (Vaccinium spp.), and spotted wintergreen (Chimaphila maculata).

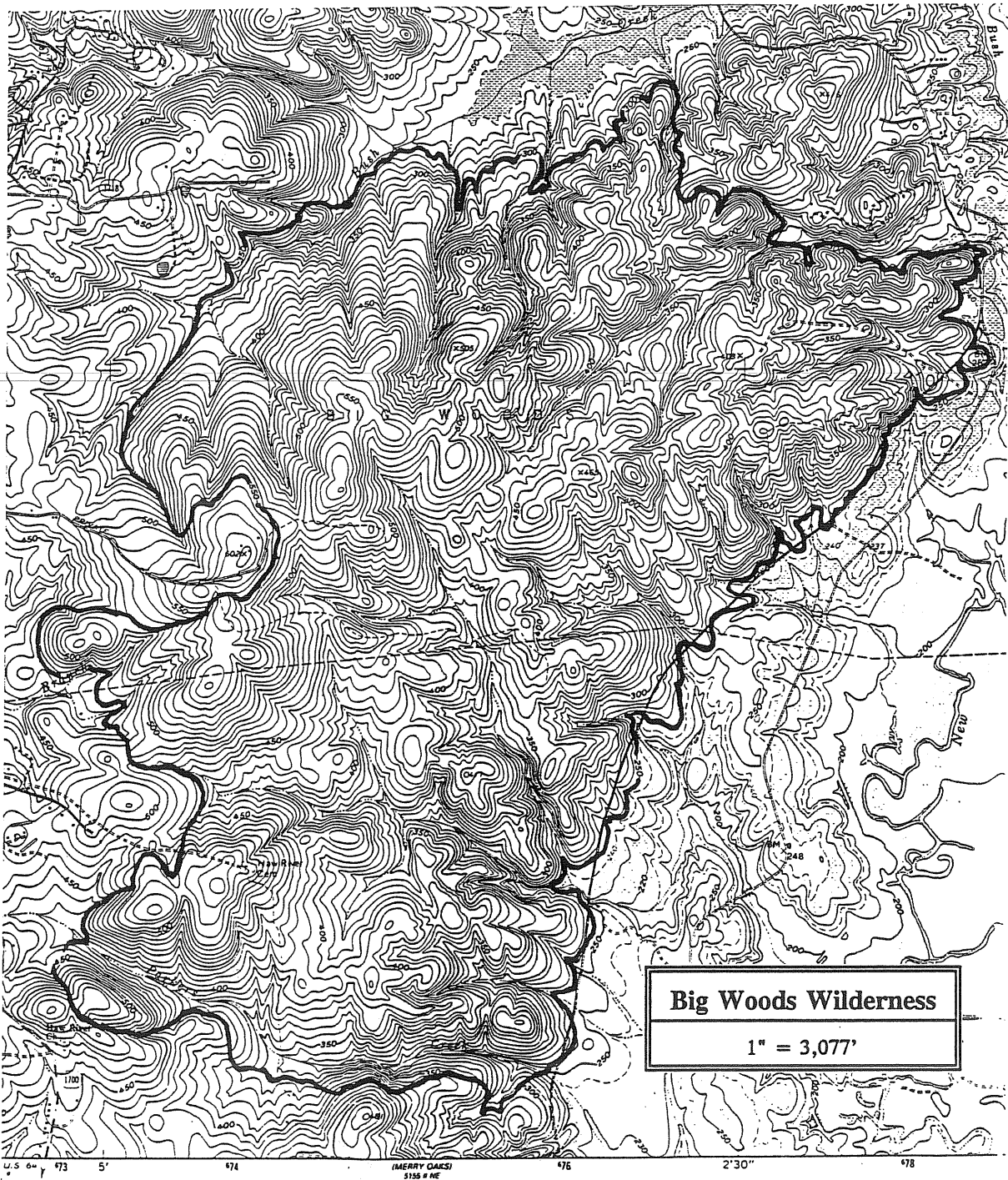
The only unusual feature of the vegetation is the presence of a stand of basic oak/hickory forest that grows along the diabase dike. The characteristic trees of this stand are southern shagbark hickories (Carya carolinae-septentrionalis), southern sugar maples (Acer floridanum), black walnut (Juglans nigra), and ash (Fraxinus spp.). Basophilic species of the understory and shrub layer include redbud (Cercis canadensis), hop-hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana), winged elm (Ulmus alata), buckeye (Aesculus sylvatica), fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus), and arrowwood (Viburnum rafinesquianum). The herb layer is again sparse, although in at least one ravine river oats (Uniola latifolia) form dense patches.

Although this area was not thoroughly explored during the survey, nor was it visited during the nesting season for birds, resulting in a fairly short species list, its importance to the wildlife of the entire region is unquestionable. It almost certainly shares with the Edwards Mountain and the Jordan Lake Gamelands most of the wilder species that remain in our area. The most noteworthy of these are bobcat (Lynx rufus), wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), pileated woodpeckers (Dryocopus pileatus), hairy woodpeckers (Picoides villosus), broad-winged hawks (Buteo platypterus), and several other species of raptors (both barred owls, Strix varia, and red-tailed hawks, Buteo jamaicensis, were observed during the course of the survey). Even black bear (Ursus americanus) were known to occur in this tract at one time, before the construction of Jordan Lake reduced the adjacent bottomland forests to a small remnant; they may still occasionally migrate through the area. White-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), on the other hand, are much more common in this area now than they probably ever were and much of these woodlands are leased to local hunt clubs.

The only unusual species observed during the course of the survey was the Carolina anole (Anolis carolinensis), a characteristic lizard of the coastal plain that penetrates into the piedmont primarily along large river floodplains; in Chatham County, this species is virtually restricted to the vicinity of the Triassic Basin.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

The value of this tract to wildlife requires that its unbroken, wooded character be preserved. Although its rugged terrain continues to offer some degree of protection, development is already making noticeable inroads, particularly along the Jordan Lake frontage. Ideally, this tract will continue to be used primarily for forestry, although the owners should be encouraged to shift away from clear-cutting to the use of selective harvesting, shelterwood stands, and other practices less disruptive to wildlife (particularly wild turkey and bobcat).



Big Woods Wilderness
1" = 3,077'

SITE SURVEY REPORT

Site name: Big Woods Wilderness

County: Chatham

Date(s): 11/VI/88, 25/VIII/88

Surveyors:

Stephen P. Hall, Ph.D
NC Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
(919) 733-7701

Marjorie Boyer
NC Plant Conservation Program
P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-3610

Size: 4,430 acres

Quad: Farrington

Province: Piedmont

Watershed: Jordan Lake --> Haw River --> Cape Fear River

Location and directions: Bounded roughly by Bush Creek on the north, Big Woods Road on the east, US 64 on the south, and Mount Gilead Church Road on the west

Landowners and addresses:

Owners contacted and attitude:

General landscape description: See Site Description

Physical description

Aspect: Various

Slope: Mostly 5-10, but 10-35 on steepest slopes

Topographic position: Crest to lower slope

Hydrology: Terrestrial

Moisture: Moist to dry

Elevation: 250 - 605'

Geology:

Soils: Georgeville Gravelly Silt Loam, Goldston Gravelly Silt Loam

Comments on physical description: large, relatively unbroken block of rugged uplands

Biological description

Community # 1: Dry-mesic Oak-hickory forest

Vegetation structure: Forest

Position in landscape and relation to other communities: Crest

Quality and condition: Fair

Size:

Dominants (*) and important species:

Canopy:

Carya glabra
Carya ovalis
Liriodendron tulipifera
Pinus echinata
Quercus alba
Quercus coccinea
Quercus falcata
Quercus rubra
Quercus velutina

Shrubs and vines:

Ilex opaca
Nyssa sylvatica
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Prunus serotina
Ulmus alata
Vaccinium sp.
Viburnum acerifolium
Viburnum prunifolium

Subcanopy:

Acer rubrum
Cornus florida
Ilex decidua
Juniperus virginiana
Oxydendrum arboreum

Herbs:

Chimaphila maculata

Community # 2: Basic Oak-hickory Forest

Vegetation structure: Forest

Position in landscape and relation to other communities: Diabase dike cutting across low slopes and creek bottom

Quality and condition: Fair

Size:

Dominants (*) and important species:

Canopy:

Acer floridanum
Carya carolinae-septentrionalis
Carya tomentosa
Fraxinus sp.
Juglans nigra
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Pinus taeda
Platanus occidentalis
Quercus alba
Quercus falcata
Quercus rubra

Subcanopy:

Acer rubrum
Carpinus caroliniana
Cercis canadensis
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Juniperus virginiana
Ostrya virginiana
Oxydendrum arboreum
Ulmus alata

Shrubs and vines:

Aesculus sylvatica
Alnus serrulata
Amelanchier arborea
Chionanthus virginicus
Hamamelis virginiana
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Prunus serotina
Rhus radicans
Rubus sp.
Smilax sp.
Vaccinium sp.
Viburnum acerifolium
Viburnum prunifolium
Viburnum rafinesquianum
Vitis sp.

Herbs:

Chimaphila maculata
Dioscorea villosa
Euonymus americanus
Hepatica americana
Iris cristata
Polystichum acrostichoides
Tiarella cordifolia
Uniola latifolia

Special status species

State-listed species: None observed

Potential for other special status species: Low

Other noteworthy species or features: Largest unbroken tract of forested uplands left in the county; of regional importance in maintaining significant populations of wildlife

Animals:

rr Anolis carolinesis

Site condition

Site integrity: Fair

Average DBH of canopy trees:

Maximum DBH of canopy trees:

Fire regime: Natural

Logged: Within last 20 years

Evenness of canopy: Mixed-age

Ditched/drained: No

Stream channelized: No

Dredged/filled: No

Understory cleared: No

Grazed: No

ORV damaged: No

Other disturbances: Clear-cuts and new housing developments

Adjacent Land Uses: Forest and residential

Significance of site: County

Discussion: See Site Description

Protection considerations and management needs: In order to maintain the integrity of a tract this large, county planning must be employed

Determination of survey boundaries: Encloses upland area of strongest relief between Old Quarry Creek on the north, Parker's Creek on the south, and Big Woods Road on the east; the western boundary was determined more arbitrarily through use of the 1981 photorevision of the USGS quad map

Priority for further study: Medium; surveys were only made along the margins of this very large tract, leaving the possibility that significant features remain to be discovered.

Specimens collected:

Photographs:

Others knowledgeable about the site:

References:

Topo map: Attached

Sketch map: None

PLANT SPECIES LIST

List is: Cursory

- Polystichum acrostichoides (11)
Pinus echinata (16)
Pinus taeda (16)
Juniperus virginiana (18)
Uniola latifolia (29)
Smilax sp. (41)
Dioscorea villosa (43)
Iris cristata (46)
Carya carolinae-septentrionalis
(53)
Carya glabra (53)
Carya ovalis (53)
Carya tomentosa (53)
Juglans nigra (53)
Alnus serrulata (54)
Carpinus caroliniana (54)
Ostrya virginiana (54)
Quercus alba (55)
Quercus coccinea (55)
Quercus falcata (55)
Quercus rubra (55)
Quercus velutina (55)
Ulmus alata (56)
Hepatica americana (76)
Liriodendron tulipifera (80)
Tiarella cordifolia (94)
Hamamelis virginiana (95)
Liquidambar styraciflua (95)
Platanus occidentalis (96)
Amelanchier arborea (97)
Prunus serotina (97)
Rubus sp. (97)
Cercis canadensis (98)
Rhus radicans (110)
Ilex decidua (112)
Ilex opaca (112)
Euonymus americanus (113)
Acer floridanum (115)
Acer rubrum (115)
Aesculus sylvatica (116)
Parthenocissus
 quinquefolia (120)
Vitis sp. (120)
Nyssa sylvatica (141)
Cornus florida (142)
Chimaphila maculata (145)
Oxydendrum arboreum (145)
Vaccinium sp. (145)
Chionanthus virginicus (153)
Fraxinus sp. (153)
Viburnum acerifolium (174)
Viburnum prunifolium (174)
Viburnum rafinesquianum (174)

ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

List is: Cursorsy (not visited during nesting season)

Vertebrates:

i Buteo jamaicensis
i Coccyzus erythrophthalmus
i Strix varia
Melanerpes carolinus
Hirundo rustica
Cyanocitta cristata
Parus carolinensis
Thryothurus ludovicianus
Hylocichla mustelina
Carduelis tristis
Odocoileus virginianus
i Terrapene carolina
rr Anolis carolinesis
Eumeces fasciatus
Coluber constrictor
Thamnophis sirtalis
Rana clamitans
Rana sphenoccephala

Invertebrates:

Papilio glaucus
Limenitis arthemis astyanax
Hermeuptychia hermes sosybius
Haplotrema concavum
Mesodon thyroidus
Triodopsis fallax

SITE NAME: Pittsboro Firetower Wilderness

SIGNIFICANCE: County

INTEGRITY: Good to fair

THREATS: High -- construction of US 64 Bypass; residential development

PROTECTION STATUS: None

JURISDICTION: Center Township

OWNERSHIP: Private

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:

1. The Pittsboro Firetower Wilderness, next to the Big Woods, is the largest remaining roadless area in the county. As such it has great importance as a wildlife reservoir, supplying the region as a whole through its connections to the Haw River.

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION:

Although located just to the northeast of Pittsboro, this large tract of land has largely escaped development, thanks to its extremely hilly terrain and sharp dissection by numerous narrow stream valleys. Old home sites are scattered over the area, as are a few occupied homes, but for the most part, the area is currently uninhabited and covered by a mosaic of second-growth hardwoods and pine forests.

Probably the most mature section of forest is at the easternmost edge of the tract on the slopes surrounding the highest point (Pittsboro benchmark). Here the red oaks (Quercus rubra) and white oaks (Q. alba) are 35-40 cm in diameter, with the largest reaching 48 cm. Most of this section is typical dry-mesic oak/hickory forest, with a canopy of red and white oaks, pignut and mockernut hickories (Carya glabra and tomentosa), a fairly sparse understory of dogwood (Cornus florida) and maple (Acer rubrum), and scattered drier-woodland herbs such as arrowleaf heartleaf (Hexastylis arifolia), rattlesnake orchid (Goodyera pubescens) and crane-fly orchid (Tipularia discolor). Resurrection fern (Polypodium polypodioides) decorates the several small rock outcrops.

In a large area of this section, silverberry (Elaeagnus umbellata), an introduced shrub, forms a dense thicket under the oaks and hickories. The summit here was once a homesite, now an open area with persisting periwinkle (Vinca minor) and tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima). The rest of the tract consists of younger, similarly disturbed stands of oak-hickory forest grading into mesic mixed hardwoods on the lower slopes, with one section of pine plantation (Pinus taeda) adjacent to the firetower.

Animals were not surveyed at this site. For the most part, no unusual species were expected and the wilder species that would be most characteristic of this tract take a major effort to inventory. Nonetheless, the extensive unbroken nature of this tract of woodlands makes it undoubtedly significant as a wildlife reservoir. As is true for the Big Woods, most of the larger and warier species of animals recorded from Edwards Ridge and the Jordan Lake Gamelands can be expected to occur here as well. This includes wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), pileated woodpecker (Dyrocopus pileatus), and hairy woodpecker (Picoides villosus), all known from the adjoining Duke Forest tract, as well as bobcat (Lynx rufus) and broad-winged hawk (Buteo platypterus). More common game species such as white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), cottontail (Sylvalagus floridanus), gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), raccoon (Procyon lotor), possum (Didelphus virginianus), and bobwhite (Colinus virginianus) can all be expected to occur within this tract in large numbers.

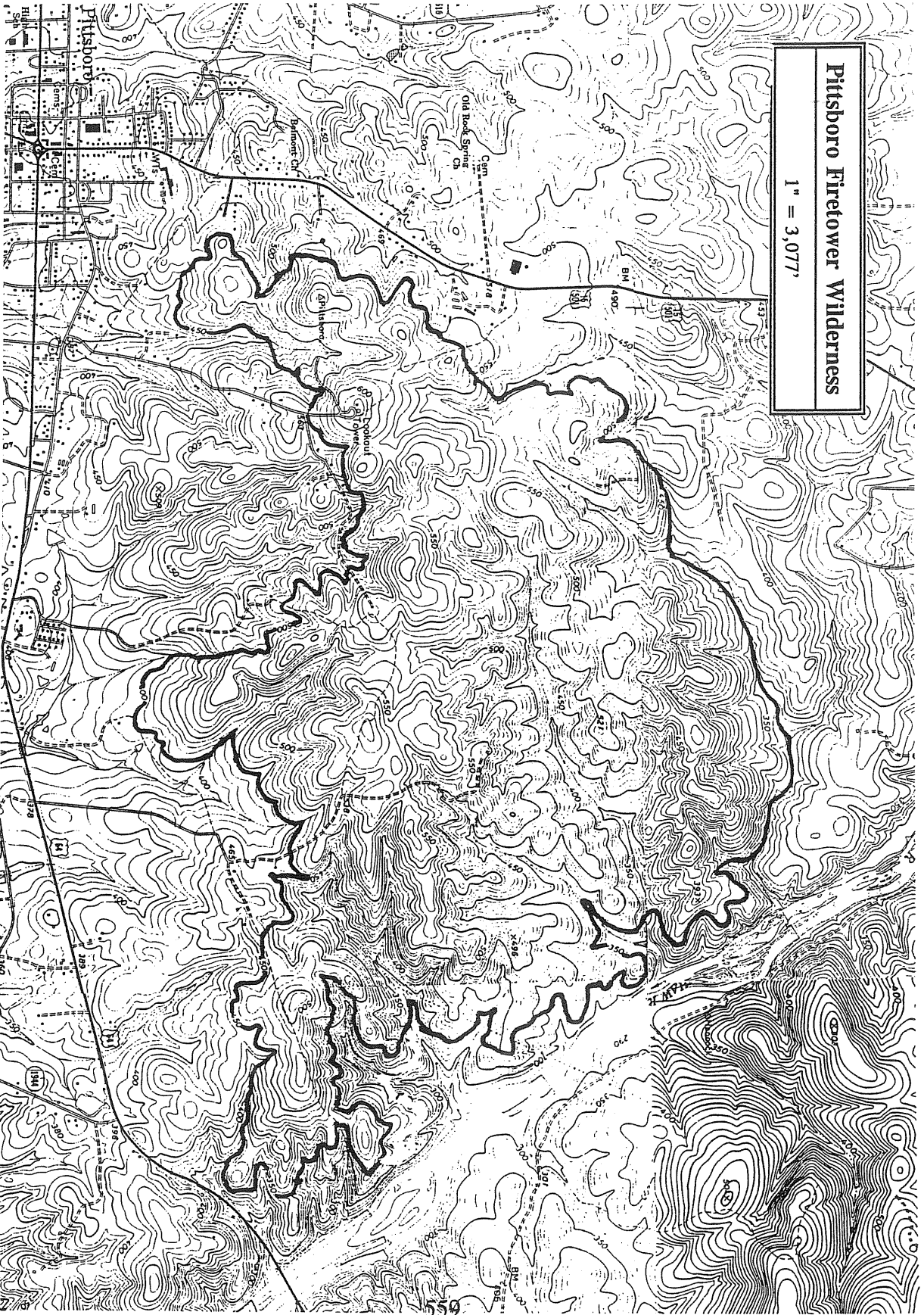
CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

The extremely rugged terrain of this area continues to offer some degree of protection from high intensity exploitation. Nonetheless, if the US 64 Bypass transects the center of this tract, development is sure to follow, greatly reducing the significance of this tract as a wildlife reservoir.

Ideally, the majority of this area will continue to be used only for forestry purposes. Even more ideal for the rarer species of wildlife, the owners should be encouraged to move away from clear-cutting and the planting of loblolly monocultures, and to adopt instead selective harvesting, retention of shelterwoods, and other less disruptive management techniques.

Pittsboro Firetower Wilderness

1" = 3,077'



SITE SURVEY REPORT

Site name: Pittsboro Firetower Wilderness
County: Chatham

Date(s): 20/VIII/88, 21/III/89, 13/IV/89

Surveyors:

Stephen P. Hall, Ph.D
NC Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
(919) 733-7701

Marjorie Boyer
NC Plant Conservation Program
P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-3610

Size: 3,283 acres

Quad: Pittsboro, Bynum, and Merry Oaks

Province: Piedmont

Watershed: Haw River --> Cape Fear River

Location and directions: Forested area east of US 15-501, north of US 64, and south of the Haw River

Landowners and addresses:

Owners contacted and attitude:

General landscape description: See Site Description

Physical description

Aspect: Various

Slope: Primarily 5-10

Topographic position: Crest to upper slopes

Hydrology: Terrestrial

Moisture: Moist to dry

Elevation: 620 - 350'

Geology: Carolina Slate Series

Soils: mostly Georgeville Stony Silt Loam, with some Georgeville Gravelly Silt Clay Loam

Comments on physical description: One of the largest blocks of undeveloped uplands remaining in the Triangle area; characterized by strong relief

Biological description

Community # 1: Dry-mesic Oak-hickory Forest

Vegetation structure: Forest

Position in landscape and relation to other communities: Upper slopes and summit west of the firetower

Quality and condition: Fair

Size:

Dominants (*) and important species:

Canopy:

Acer rubrum
Ailanthus altissima
Carya glabra
Carya tomentosa
Juglans nigra
Liriodendron tulipifera *
Pinus echinata
Pinus taeda
Quercus alba *
Quercus falcata
Quercus rubra *
Quercus velutina

Shrubs and Vines:

Anisostichus capreolata
Elaeagnus umbellata
Euonymus americanus
Lonicera japonica
Rhododendron nudiflorum
Rosa carolina
Smilax bona-nox
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus
Vaccinium stamineum
Vaccinium tenellum
Viburnum prunifolium
Vitis sp.

Subcanopy:

Acer floridanum
Cercis canadensis
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Juniperus virginiana
Liquidambar styraciflua
Prunus serotina
Ulmus alata

Herbs:

Asplenium platyneuron
Aureolaria virginica
Chaerophyllum tainturieri
Galium circaezans
Geranium maculatum
Geum canadense
Goodyera pubescens
Hexastylis arifolia
Hieraceum venosum
Houstonia caerulea
Podophyllum peltatum
Polypodium polypodioides
Polystichum acrostichoides
Thaspium trifoliatum
 var. flavum
Tiarella cordifolia
Tipularia discolor
Uvularia sessilifolia
Vinca minor
Viola palmata var. triloba

Special status species

State-listed species: None observed

Potential for other special status species: Low

Other noteworthy species or features: The main virtue of this tract is the large size of the unbroken woodlands it contains, which is of great importance in maintaining the diversity of wildlife not only within the county but the region as a whole.

Site condition

Site integrity: Fair

Average DBH of canopy trees: 35-40 cm in most mature section

Maximum DBH of canopy trees: 48 cm

Fire regime: Natural

Logged: Within last 20 years

Evenness of canopy: Mixed-age

Ditched/drained: No

Stream channelized: No

Dredged/filled: No

Understory cleared: No

Grazed: No

ORV damaged: Yes; trails through area

Other disturbances: No

Adjacent Land Uses: Forest and residential

Significance of site: County

Discussion: See Site Description

Protection considerations and management needs: Preserving large unbroken tracts of upland woods such as this requires county- or even state-level planning; construction of new roads (such as the US 64 Bypass) into this area for the sake of opening it up for development is the major threat to this area.

Determination of survey boundaries: Encloses the area of undeveloped, rugged uplands located north of US 64, east of US 15-501, and west of the Haw River (eastern boundary is shared with the Duke-Haw River Natural Area, site MROK1).

Priority for further study: Medium; only the area around the firetower has been surveyed for plants; animal surveys are still needed

Specimens collected:

Photographs:

Others knowledgeable about the site:

References:

Topo map: Attached

Sketch map: None

Plant Species List: See Community # 1

List is: Cursory

ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

List is: Cursory

Vertebrates:

Corvus brachyrhynchos
Thryothurus ludovicianus
Dendroica pinus
i Terrapene carolina

Invertebrates:

Papilio glaucus
Anthocharis midea
Colias eurytheme

SITE NAME: Boothe Hill

SIGNIFICANCE: County

INTEGRITY: Fair

THREATS: High -- residential development, timbering

PROTECTION STATUS: None

JURISDICTION: Williams Township

OWNERSHIP: Private

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:

1. The forest on the summit of Boothe Hill is one of the best examples of mature, upland hardwoods remaining in the county.
2. The large extent of forested lands covering the slopes of Boothe Hill provide important habitat for wildlife, especially those species that require upland forests for foraging and shelter.

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION:

Located just south of Edwards Mountain, Boothe Hill is another high knob of granite situated along the western rim of the Triassic Basin. Although smaller in area than Edwards Mountain, it is currently less developed and still supports extensive woodlands. Most of the slopes are covered in pines or young stands of hardwoods dominated by tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera). The summit, however, contains a stand of mature hardwood forest dominated by a mixture of dry to mesic oaks and hickories, including white oak (Quercus alba), southern red oak (Q. falcata), post oak (Q. stellata), black oak (Q. velutina), red oak (Q. rubra), mockernut (Carya tomentosa), pignut (C. glabra), and red hickory (C. ovalis). As is characteristic of hilltop forests, the shrub and herb layers are relatively open. Typical species include haws (Viburnum prunifolium and V. rufidulum), New Jersey tea (Ceanothus americanus), wild grapes (Vitis spp.), spotted wintergreen (Chimaphila maculata), and wild ginger (Hexastylis arifolia).

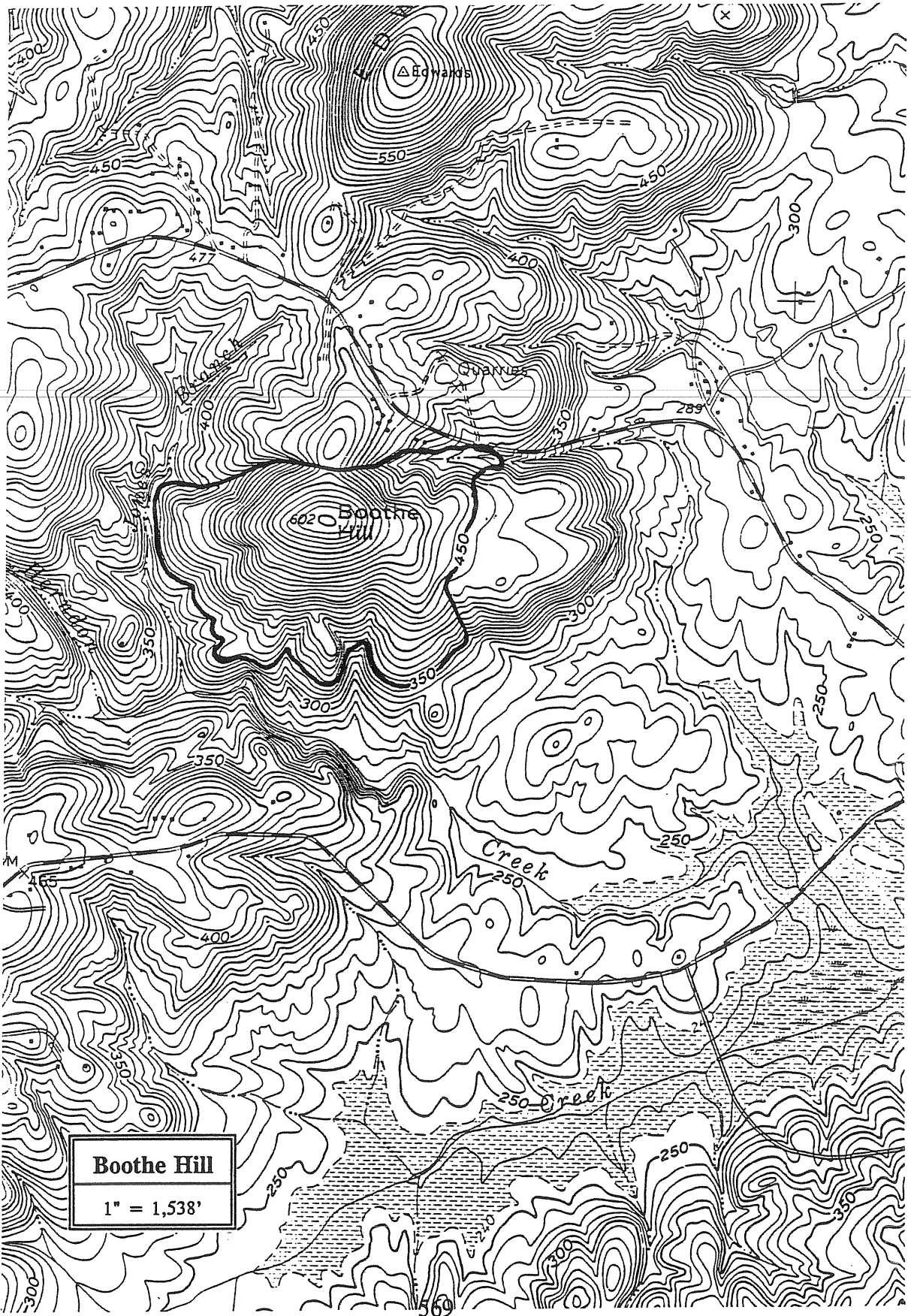
One other area of interesting vegetation occurs in the ravine running down the north slope of Boothe Hill, parallel to Lystra Church Road. The microclimate here is moister than on the rest of the hill, and many mesic species occur there, such as spicebush (Lindera benzoin), pinxter flower (Rhododendron nudiflorum), witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana) and many species of ferns (e.g., Osmunda cinnamomea, O. regalis, and Woodwardia areolata). Particularly noteworthy members of this community are umbrella tree (Magnolia tripetala) and indian cucumber root (Medeola virginiana), both of which have a highly restricted distribution in Chatham County.

Perhaps the most outstanding quality of this site is its value to wildlife. The forests of Boothe Hill themselves are quite extensive and they are also contiguous with the even greater forested area of the Jordan Lake gamelands. Although we observed few animal species in our brief visit to this site, Boothe Hill has high potential for harboring several species that require large unbroken tracts of woodlands for their survival. Both bobcat (Lynx rufus) and wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) occur in the vicinity of this tract, and these species as well as deer, squirrel, bobwhite, foxes, and other game animals can be expected to visit this area, particularly since it contains a large number of mast-producing trees and offers upland habitats largely missing from the low-lying gamelands.

Apart from these natural history values, Boothe Hill offers scenic values similar to those of Edwards Ridge. At 602 feet, this large, forested hill rises several hundred feet above all the surrounding terrain except for Edwards Ridge itself. The view of this rise from Jordan Lake and the Triassic lowlands is especially good.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

The landowners should be alerted to the significance of the upland forest their property contains, especially its value for wildlife. Covenants between landowners or zoning for large lots only would help preserve the integrity of this site, as would the use of selective cutting of timber and other forestry practices less devastating than clear-cutting.



Boothe Hill
1" = 1,538'

SITE SURVEY REPORT

Site name: Boothe Hill

County: Chatham

Date(s): 12/VI/88

Surveyors:

Stephen P. Hall, Ph.D
NC Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687
(919) 733-7701

Marjorie Boyer
NC Plant Conservation Program
P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-3610

Size: 152 acres

Quad: Farrington

Province: Piedmont

Watershed: Herndon Creek --> Haw River --> Cape Fear River

Location and directions: Summit located south of SR 1721

Landowners and addresses:

Owners contacted and attitude:

General landscape description: See Site Description

Physical description

Aspect: Various

Slope: 10-35 (in places)

Topographic position: Crest to lower slope

Hydrology: Terrestrial

Moisture: Dry

Elevation: 300 - 602'

Geology: Farrington Granite

Soils: Appling Stony Sandy Loam (steep phase)

Comments on physical description: A small granitic inselberg

Biological description

Community # 1: Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest

Vegetation structure: Forest

Position in landscape and relation to other communities: Ravine running below north slope and parallel to Lystra Road

Quality and condition: Good to fair

Size:

Dominants (*) and important species:

Canopy:

Carya glabra
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Quercus alba
Quercus prinus
Quercus rubra
Quercus velutina

Subcanopy:

Magnolia tripetala
Oxydendrum arboreum

Shrubs and vines:

Alnus serrulata
Chionanthus virginicus
Euonymus americanus
Hamamelis virginiana
Lindera benzoin
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Rhododendron nudiflorum
Vaccinium sp.
Viburnum acerifolium
Vitis rotundifolia
Vitis sp.

Herbs:

Chamaelirium luteum
Desmodium sp.
Dioscorea villosa
Goodyera pubescens
Hexastylis arifolia
Laportea canadensis
Medeola virginiana
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis
 var. *spectabilis*
Polystichum acrostichoides
Pteridium aquilinum
Smilacena racemosa
Tiarella cordifolia
Trillium catesbaei
Uvularia sessilifolia
Woodwardia areolata

Biological description

Community # 2: Dry-mesic Oak-hickory forest

Vegetation structure: Forest

Position in landscape and relation to other communities: Summit and upper slopes

Quality and condition: Good to fair

Size:

Dominants (*) and important species:

Canopy:

Carya glabra
Carya ovalis
Carya tomentosa
Liriodendron tulipifera
Pinus taeda
Quercus alba
Quercus falcata
Quercus rubra
Quercus stellata
Quercus velutina

Subcanopy:

Acer rubrum
Cornus florida
Fraxinus sp.
Nyssa sylvatica
Oxydendrum arboreum
Sassafras albidum
Ulmus alata

Shrubs and vines:

Ceanothus americanus
Cercis canadensis
Chionanthus virginicus
Elaeagnus umbellata
Euonymus americanus
Hamamelis virginiana
Prunus serotina
Vaccinium sp.
Viburnum prunifolium
Viburnum rufidulum
Vitis labrusca
Vitis rotundifolia

Herbs:

Aristolochia serpentaria
Chimaphila maculata
Desmodium sp.
Dioscorea villosa
Hepatica americana
Hexastylis arifolia

Special status species

State-listed species: None observed

Potential for other special status species: Low

Other noteworthy species or features: Contains a large tract of relatively unbroken upland forest

Site condition

Site integrity: Fair

Average DBH of canopy trees:

Maximum DBH of canopy trees:

Fire regime: Natural

Logged: Within last 30-40 years

Evenness of canopy: Natural

Ditched/drained: No

Stream channelized: No

Dredged/filled: No

Understory cleared: No

Grazed: No

ORV damaged: No

Other disturbances: Houses are located on part of the crest and northern slope

Adjacent Land Uses: Forest and residential

Significance of site: County

Discussion: See Site Description

Protection considerations and management needs: Landowners should be alerted to the value for wildlife of large unbroken tracts of upland hardwood forest

Determination of survey boundaries: Encloses summit and steepest slopes

Priority for further study: Low

Specimens collected:

Photographs:

Others knowledgeable about the site:

References:

Topo map: Attached
Sketch map: none

PLANT SPECIES LIST

List is: Cursory

- Osmunda cinnamomea (7)
Osmunda regalis
 var. spectabilis (7)
Pteridium aquilinum (10)
Polystichum acrostichoides (11)
Woodwardia areolata (12)
Pinus taeda (16)
Chamaelirium luteum (41)
Medeola virginiana (41)
Smilacena racemosa (41)
Trillium catesbaei (41)
Uvularia sessilifolia (41)
Dioscorea villosa (43)
Goodyera pubescens (49)
Carya glabra (53)
Carya ovalis (53)
Carya tomentosa (53)
Alnus serrulata (54)
Quercus alba (55)
Quercus falcata (55)
Quercus prinus (55)
Quercus rubra (55)
Quercus stellata (55)
Quercus velutina (55)
Ulmus alata (56)
Laportea canadensis (59)
Aristolochia sepentaria (62)
Hexastylis arifolia (62)
Hepatica americana (76)
Liriodendron tulipifera (80)
Magnolia tripetala (80)
Lindera benzoin (84)
Sassafras albidum (84)
Tiarella cordifolia (94)
Hamamelis virginiana (95)
Liquidambar styraciflua (95)
Prunus serotina (97)
Cercis canadensis (98)
Desmodium sp. (98)
Euonymus americanus (113)
Acer rubrum (115)
Ceanothus americanus (119)
Parthenocissus
 quinquefolia (120)
Vitis labrusca (120)
Vitis rotundifolia (120)
Vitis sp. (120)
Elaeagnus umbellata (134)
Nyssa sylvatica (141)
Cornus florida (142)
Chimaphila maculata (145)
Oxydendrum arboreum (145)
Rhododendron nudiflorum (145)
Vaccinium sp. (145)
Chionanthus virginicus (153)
Fraxinus sp. (153)
Viburnum acerifolium (174)
Viburnum prunifolium (174)
Viburnum rufidulum (174)

ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

List is: Cursory

Vertebrates:

- i Coccozyus erythropthalmus
- Thryothurus ludovicianus

Invertebrates:

Papilio glaucus
Limenitis arthemis astyanax
Hermeuptychia hermes sosybius
