



WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY

Forestry & Conservation Easements

January, 2022

Our Mission



To provide the people of our region with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration

Our Work



Natural Areas Preservation



Agricultural Conservation

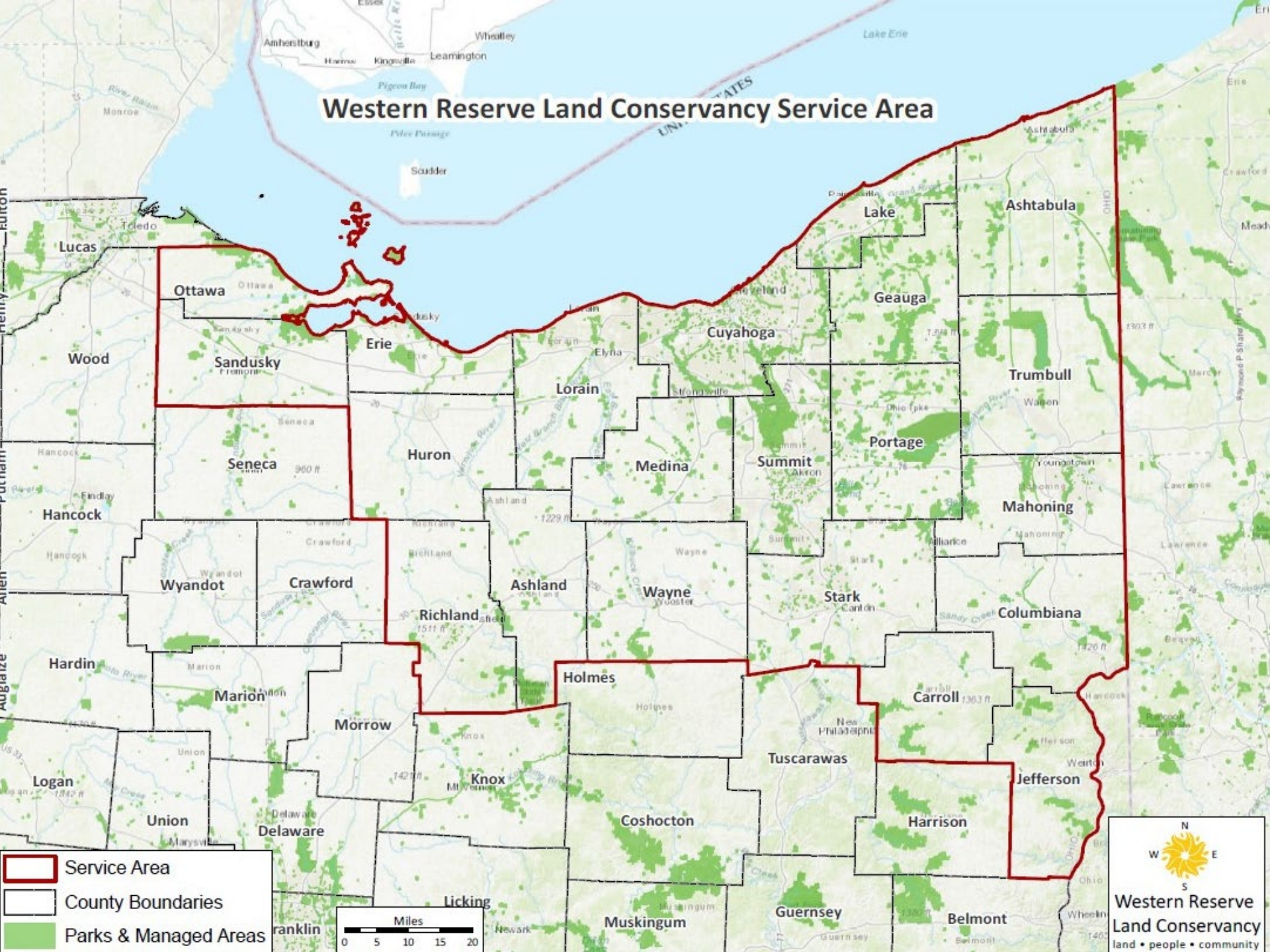


Urban Revitalization

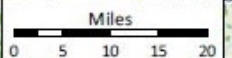


Restoration

Western Reserve Land Conservancy Service Area

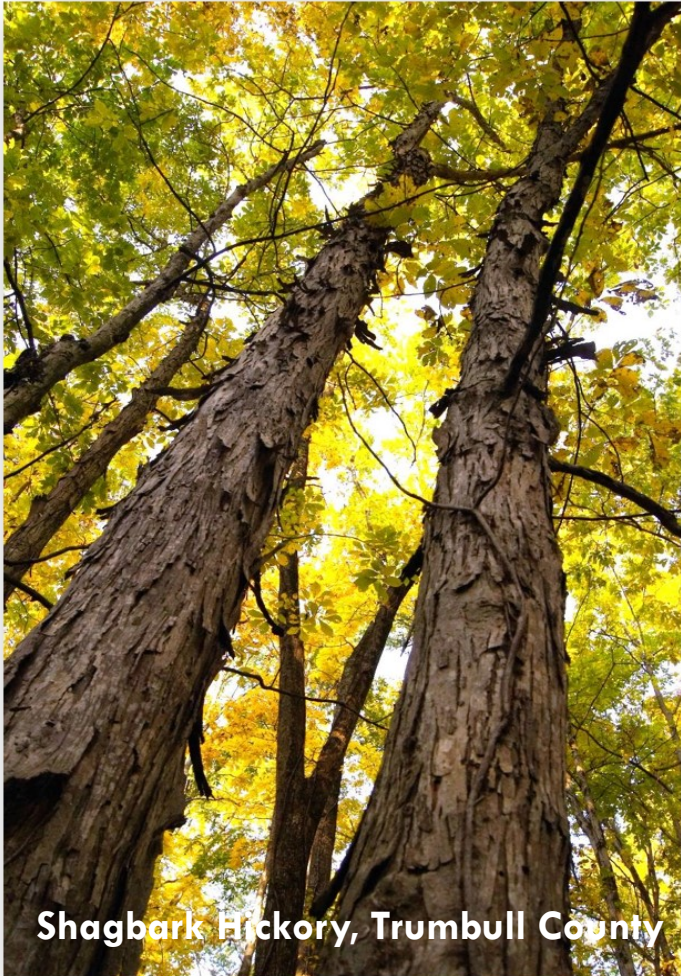


-  Service Area
-  County Boundaries
-  Parks & Managed Areas



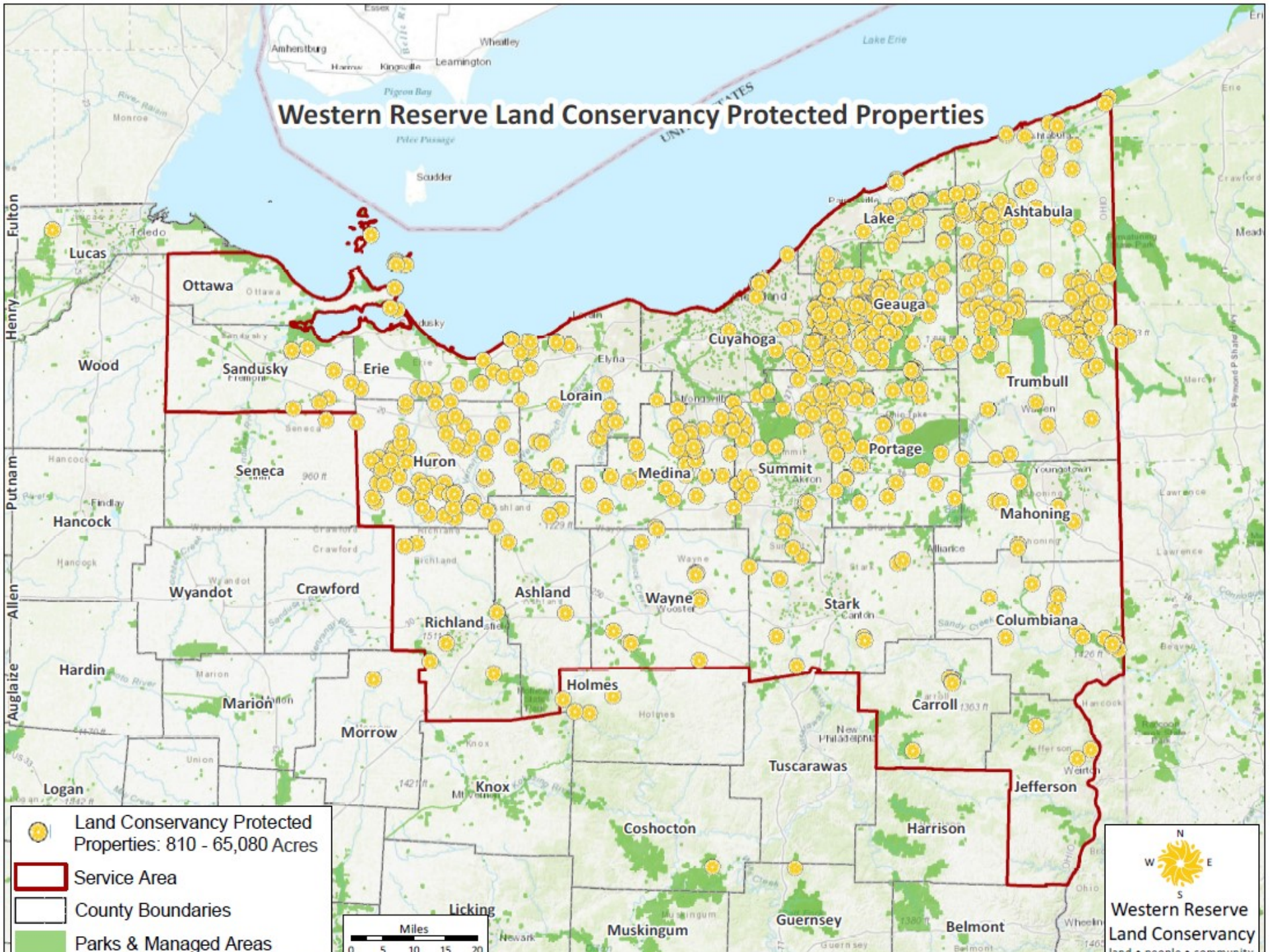
**Western Reserve
Land Conservancy**
land • people • community


Our Success




- ❑ Created more than **193 public parks**
- ❑ Created **15,557 publicly accessible acres**
- ❑ Protected **290 working farms**
- ❑ Conserved **34,823 acres of farmland**
- ❑ Permanently conserved **846 total properties**
- ❑ Permanently protected **67,637 acres**


Western Reserve Land Conservancy Protected Properties

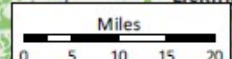


 Land Conservancy Protected Properties: 810 - 65,080 Acres

 Service Area

 County Boundaries

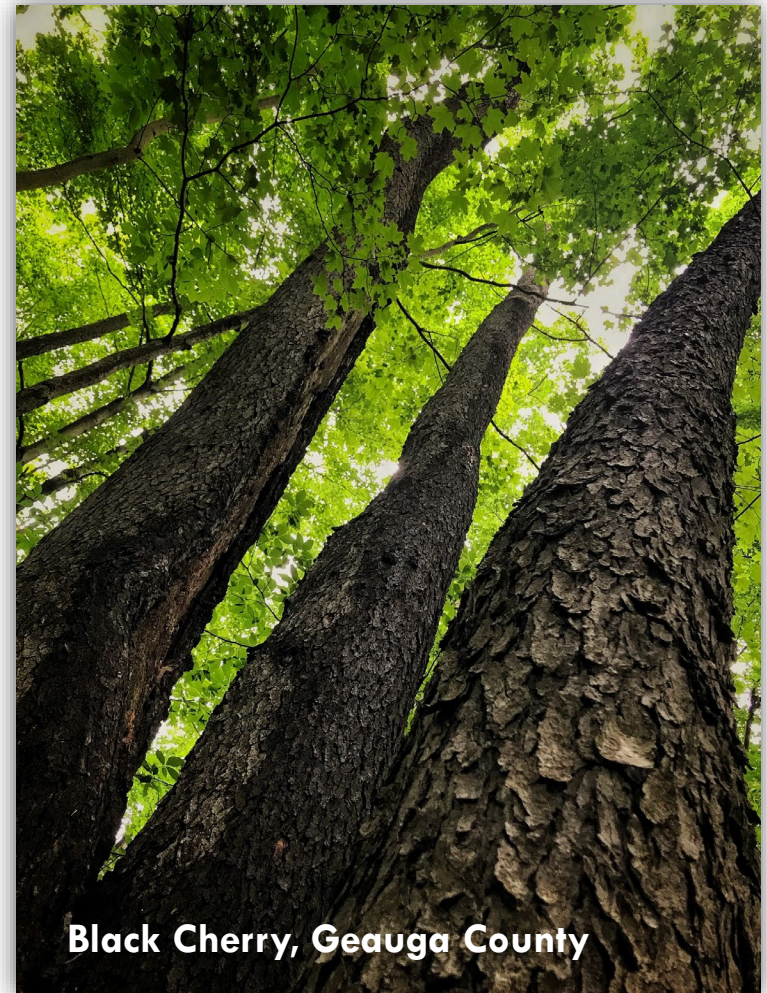
 Parks & Managed Areas



Western Reserve
Land Conservancy
Lead a people a community

Land Protection Project Types

- Conservation Easements
- Agricultural Easements
- Creation of Public Parks
- Conservation Buyer Program



Easements



- Voluntary agreement between the landowner and WRLC
- Permanent
- Limits most but not all development
- WRLC monitors/defends in perpetuity
- Typically donated but sometimes purchased
- 20 acres or greater
- Substantial income tax and sometimes property tax benefits

Common Easements Myths...



Tulip Poplar, Lake County

- ❑ WRLC owns the property (not true)
- ❑ Allows public access (not true)
- ❑ No hunting (not true)
- ❑ Oil & gas prohibited (not true)
- ❑ Farming is prohibited (not true)
- ❑ No homesites (not true)
- ❑ Timbering is prohibited (not true)

Types of Forestry Management

- ❑ Commercial timber sales
- ❑ Species specific wildlife
- ❑ Habitat specific
- ❑ Maple sugar production
- ❑ Scenic views / fall colors
- ❑ Old growth forest
- ❑ Young successional forest
- ❑ Hunting
- ❑ Invasive species removal



Eastern Cottonwood, Lake County

Easements & Forestry

- For landowners with forestry reservations in their easements
- Long-term Forest Management Plan developed by professional forester
- Timber Harvest Plan developed with landowner, professional forester, and WRLC staff
- Utilizes best available forestry BMPs
- Designed to maximize the sustainability and profitability of the forest



American Sycamore, Lake County

Easement Forestry Goals



Eastern Hemlock, Ashtabula County

- Fulfill the goals of the Forestry Management Plan
- Complete a good cut
- Focus on single tree and small group removal
- Eliminate diameter limit cutting, overcutting, high grading, and clear cutting when unnecessary
- Strategically locate log landing areas, skid roads and stream crossings
- Remove and fix ruts, sawdust piles, and any waste products or unused material
- Set in motion another quality cut in the future

Final Things to Consider

- The landowner has full control over the type of cut and it's timing
- WRLC receives no proceeds from the cut
- Taxes on the sale of the timber can be sheltered by correctly timing the sale with the implementation of a conservation easement
- WRLC staff is available to assist with the development of the management plan and help the landowner monitor the cut
- The ultimate goal of the easement language is to ensure a good cut and that a future cut is profitable



Cucumber Magnolia, Lake County

Thank You!



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