Forest & Land Care Plan
for Wagram Woods & Orchard

Original draft 2024 by Nathan Crew, landowner, current for Jan. 2026

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OBJECTIVES

This Plan is meant as a practical long-term guide for the maintenance and conservative use of "Wagram Woods & Orchard", a 45-acre tract of agricultural (agroforestry) land in Wagram, NC, Scotland County parcel ID 03040205003. This Plan is also intended to serve as a forest management program to be implemented and to be updated yearly.

Objective goals of the owners (Crew family) for this tract of farmland are as follows.

1. **Whole tract**: To conserve the land permanently in its native health, abundance, beauty, and diversity of life while making it economically useful; to build and preserve the land's worth beyond financial value by improving the general local quality of soil, groundwater, air, natural recreational space, and a thriving ecology.
2. **Forest stands**: To practice sustainable forestry, using limited, selective, and careful logging in two stands to maintain a steady supply of high-quality wood for local use indefinitely through generations.
3. **Orchard**: To maintain a productive chestnut orchard indefinitely through generations.

LAND DETAILS & LOCATION

Wagram Woods & Orchard is located at the home of the owner/caretaker family, address 24181 Riverton Road in Wagram, NC. As of January 2026, roughly 36 acres are forested in total, with some woods interspersed alongside small open areas and fruit tree groves. This Plan allows only for Stands A and C to be logged (~20 acres +/-), with occasional timber sales to provide a small supplementary income over time. The orchard section and Stand B are described below, followed by a map and details of Stands A and C.

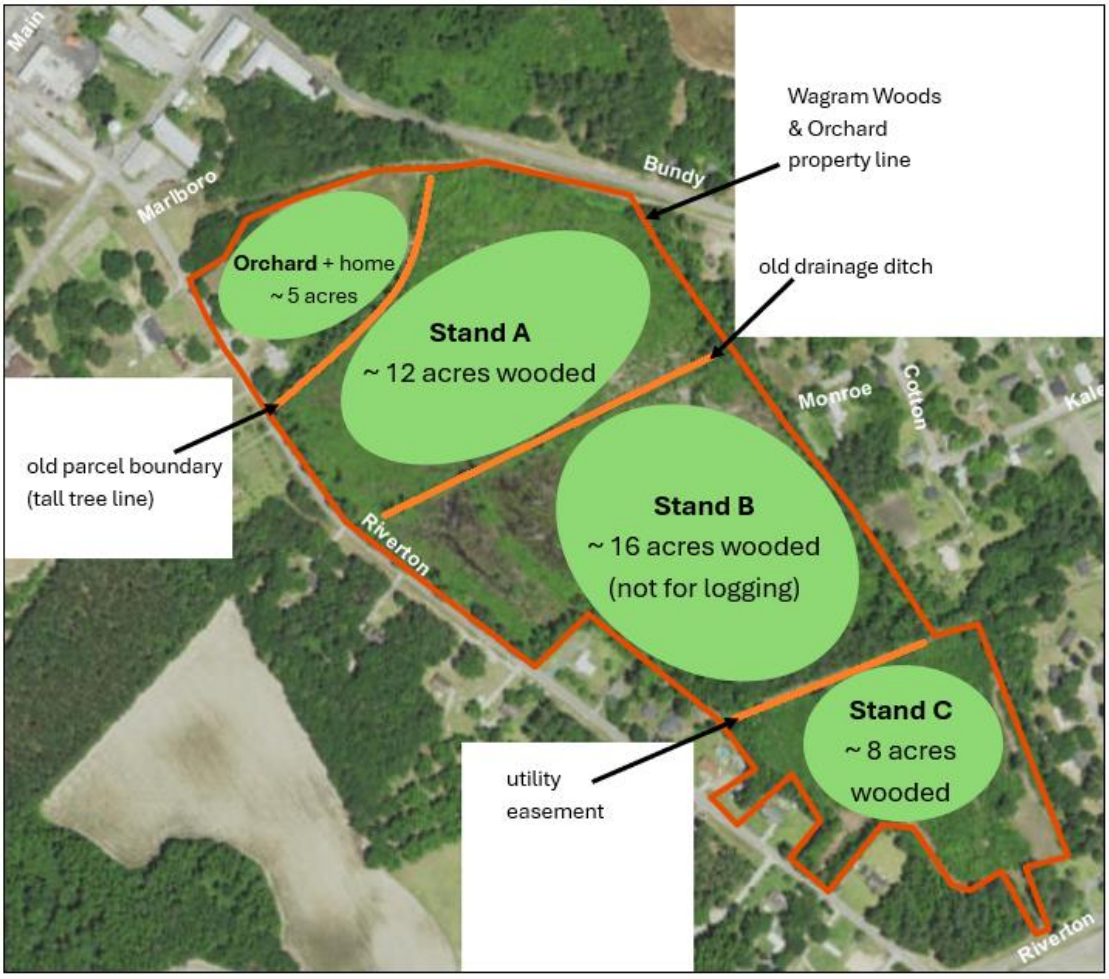
Orchard Description

About five acres of orchard sit nearest the caretaker family's house, mostly planted in chestnuts from 2023 onward. Horticultural food crops are the caretaker's primary income (from both woods and orchard) including fruits, berries, honey, tree nuts, herbs, garden produce, and value-added farm products. Orchard maintenance guidelines are detailed on page 5.

Forest Stand B Description

The forest section in the center of the tract (between the old ditch and the utility easement) is about 16 or 17 acres. This stand shall be maintained as mixed hardwood forest but never logged. It is set aside for conservation as native forest, with no significant soil disturbance other than a pond and walking trail.

Location Map



Stands A and C Descriptions and Timeframes

- **Stand A.** Approximately 12 acres (out of ~15) are wooded between the orchard and old ditch and make up Stand A. Stand A may be logged in 2075 and thereafter each 25 years.
    - Species: oak, sweetgum, maple, cherry, walnut, cedar, magnolia, holly, pine, etc.
    - Tree age/size vary with most saplings/seedlings regenerated after logging in about 2016. Largest chest-level circumference measured in 2025-2026: pine, 87 inches.
    - Condition: large range of diversity in quality and vigor of trees
    - Topography: mostly flat, with small ditches and pond; Soil: sandy loam.
- **Stand C.** Approximately 8 acres are wooded acres south of the utility easement and make up Stand C. Stand C may be logged in 2100 and thereafter each 25 years.
    - Species: sweetgum, oak, cherry, maple, cedar, holly, redbay, sassafras, pine, etc.
    - Tree age/size vary with most saplings/seedlings regenerated after logging in 2016 and limited clearings 2020-2022. Largest chest-level circumference measured in 2025-2026: oak, 98 inches.
    - Condition: large range of diversity in quality and vigor of trees
    - Topography: mostly flat; Soil: sandy loam

REGENERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Logging Stands A and C on schedule will be dependent upon contracting with a forester that commits in good faith to work in accordance with the land caretaker's guidelines of regenerative forest management detailed in this section. In our guidelines, we follow the spirit of some established agrarian principles resting on an understanding that "the connections and interactions among all the creatures in a thriving forest ecosystem are complex beyond the human ability to think…. And so humility is the primary virtue of good forestry. One must get the scale right, so as not to put too much at risk. One must not use too much power, or be in too much of a hurry."

Stand A Management

Regular caretaker tasks in forest Stand A include (but are not limited to) the following throughout each year:

- Monitoring for health and safety, watching for any disease, damage or encroachment
- Periodically thinning underbrush in select areas
- Managing ponds and wildlife to promote healthy biological conditions
- Organically supporting the wellbeing of the soil and forest floor
- Preserving open footpaths (with access to any food trees)
- Seasonally harvesting selected foods sustainably
- Periodically trimming or pollarding select trees

Stand C Management

Regular tasks in caring for forest Stand C include (but are not limited to) the following throughout each year:

- Monitoring for health and safety, watching for any disease, damage or encroachment
- Preserving open footpaths (with access to any food trees)
- Seasonally harvesting selected foods sustainably
- Periodically trimming or thinning in key areas

Logging Methods

For both Stands A and C, the same regenerative and sustainable logging methods are applicable. "***Worst-first single-tree selection***" is the standard for hardwoods (non-coniferous trees) as well as cedar and cypress: carefully remove the worst timber, leave the oldest and the highest quality, make only small openings in the canopy, avoid damage to remaining trees and forest floor, and leave the woods ecologically intact. Among hardwoods, cedars, and cypress, *only defective trees are to be selected for removal*: this means, without doing harm to the healthiest trees, loggers must take out only trees that are clearly stunted, diseased, leaning, damaged, otherwise inferior in conformation, or unlikely to survive well for the next 25 years. However, the "worst-first" standard shall *not* apply to pines; any pine may be eligible for removal, regardless of the tree's health and vigor. In all tree removals, thoughtful care must be taken not to reduce the established hardwood production capacity of the forest. In either stand, no more than 20% of standing trees shall be removed in each logging, with the standard goal for removal being about 10%.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Over time, the livelihood and farming inclinations of each generation living at 24181 Riverton Road will heavily influence the techniques of caring for Wagram Orchard. Regardless of work continuity or any lapse in farming activities, the forest edge delineating orchard from woods shall be maintained once or more each year. This may be done by either mowing or rotational grazing (not chronic overgrazing) of ruminant livestock such as sheep, donkeys or cattle.

Thinning of brush: Native grasses and shrubbery should be given leeway in general, although foreign invasives must be vigilantly kept down. In addition to periodic maintenance of forest edges and open areas, the ground underneath chestnuts and other food-bearing trees shall be kept accessible enough for reasonable comfort in harvesting.

Trimming: Simple tree-trimming habits may be implemented as needed. In addition, around the expected root zone of any food tree, caretakers shall keep out all young pines, sweet gum trees, and any other fast-growing competitive trees which may threaten to overshade or crowd around the food trees, especially taking care to eliminate any invasive foreign species (mimosa, etc.).

Pollarding: Oak, cedar, magnolia, sycamore, persimmon, holly, and some other native trees are desirable to have growing near a few food trees, especially in edge zones of more forested areas. However, if growing close enough to overshade a food tree, such neighboring trees should be pollarded every five years. The method of pollarding is this: To the height that can be safely reached on a 6- or 8-ft. step ladder, all leafy limbs are cut off the tree cleanly. Cuts are made vertically or diagonally, not level enough for rainwater to puddle on. Branches are removed from the immediate area of the tree.

Century Schedule

Pollarding is conducted in January of 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, and so on, every fifth year until the end of the century. At the end of the century, consideration may be made whether to continue pollarding each five years or to adjust into a 10-year rhythm.

This whole Plan, keeping the integrity of its principles and spirit, shall be updated into a similar 100-year land care plan for the years 2100 to 2200. That updated plan shall be written, kept and implemented by the caretaker family with stewardship of Wagram Woods and Orchard at that turn-of-century, and shall be followed by all successors during their respective times.

In essence, the basic rhythm laid out here is meant to continue indefinitely. This land's chestnuts and other trees are meant to grow for a millennium and more. The land shall remain to develop as both old-growth native woods and a mature orchard, where nuts, fruits, and other edibles are to remain the primary products in perpetuity.

Our intent is for this Plan (and its updates) to provide a benevolent scheduling cycle that is deliberately, thoughtfully adhered to and is faithfully renewed at the turn of every century, in good and responsible stewardship contributing to the increasing benefit of local communities.

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