

Forest Stewardship Program

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY



LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

9/6/2019

Forest Stewardship Program

- Initiated in 1991 and funded by the U. S. Forest Service
- Administered by state forestry agencies like the WVDOT
- Designed to encourage private, non-industrial landowners to practice good forest stewardship



What is Forest Stewardship?

- The wise use and management of forest resources in a way that maintains and enhances the value of the forest for present and future generations



A woman with glasses and a black jacket walks towards the camera on a forest path. A man in a green cap and khaki uniform walks slightly behind her, looking at his hands. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and green undergrowth. Tall trees with yellowing leaves line the path.

Forest Stewardship Plans

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Forest Stewardship Plans

- A written document specific to a piece of forested property containing forestry related information about the property as well as general forestry information



Forest Stewardship Plans

Required information

- Landowner's objectives
- General property information
- Specific stand information
- Timber inventory
- Maps and tables
- Recommendations
- Proposed management work



Landowner Eligibility

- Landowner must own at least 10 acres of forest land to qualify
- Landowners must enroll their entire contiguous property into the program
- Must be owned by individual, group, association, private corporation or other legal private entity.
- Open land does not qualify for cost share assistance unless a planting plan is incorporated into plan



Landowner Options for Obtaining FSP

DOF Forester or Forestry Technician

- Free plan
- Acreage limits
- Time constraints



Landowner Options for Obtaining FSP

Consulting Forester

- Cost share assistance through DOF (75%)
- Reimbursement based on \$600 per plan/
\$6.50 per forested/planned acre
- Landowner must pay total up front,
then is reimbursed for 75%
- Plan oversight by DOF Service foresters



Forest Stewardship Plan Writer Certification

- Must be a Registered Professional Forester or Forest Technician with the state of West Virginia
- Must be certified by attending at least two training sessions each fiscal year sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Program **(July 1 – June 30)**



Consulting Forester Plan Procedure

Landowner Sign-Up

- Stewardship plan application
- State Vendor Registration Form
- W-9 federal tax form (get current form online)
- Choose consulting forester from statewide list
- Submit forms to DOF forester or technician responsible for that county



Consulting Forester Plan Procedure



Appendix B WEST VIRGINIA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PLAN APPLICATION

APPLICANT (PLEASE PRINT)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Street _____ Mailing _____ Address: _____
 _____ City: _____
 _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Code: _____
 _____ Telephone - Home/Work _____ Cell _____
 _____ E-mail _____
 Address: _____

PROPERTY INFORMATION

1. County: _____ 2. Property Location: _____
 3. Topographic Map Quadrangle (name): _____
 4. UTM's (or Longitude/Latitude) for Property: _____
 5. Total Property Acres: _____ 6. Estimated Forested Acres: _____
 7. Dend. Look & Plot No.: _____
 8. Are property lines marked? Yes _____ No _____ If not, are they known? Yes _____ No _____
 9. Will the owner or representative be available to accompany a forester on a brief reconnaissance? Yes _____ No _____
 10. Does the forest land have roads into and through it? Yes _____ No _____
 12. Has the property owner received previous forestry assistance? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, what? _____
 13. Have you ever sold timber or other forest products from your woodland? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, what? _____

LANDOWNER PRIORITIES (RANK FROM 1 TO 3 - 1 BEING HIGHEST PRIORITY)

_____ Timber Management (Growing timber products) _____ Soil and Water Conservation
 _____ Wildlife Management _____ Aesthetics
 _____ Recreation _____ Other (specify) _____

I hereby agree to implement, to the best of my ability, the Forest Stewardship Plan prepared for my property.

(Signature of Property Owner)

(Date)

I have contacted the following Consulting Forester/DOF LOA Forester to prepare my Forest Stewardship Plan.

(Name of Consulting Forester / DOF LOA Forester)

(Telephone Number)

(Company/Agency Name and Mailing Address)

MAIL THE COMPLETED APPLICATION TO YOUR LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE FORESTER FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PROPERTY IS LOCATED. SEE THE ATTACHED LISTING FOR THIS MAILING INFORMATION.

Privacy Notice: The West Virginia Division of Forestry collects and process certain personal information as needed for appropriate and voluntary business purposes. Personal information may be disclosed to other State agencies or third parties to necessary in the normal course of business or to comply with federal or state laws, including Freedom of Information Act requests. If you have questions about our use of personal information, please contact us at 304-535-2788.

Revised 1/13



Consulting Forester Written Plans (cont.)

- Charleston office sends purchase order request
- Landowner signs and dates purchase order request
- Approval letter from Charleston office **with invoice**
- Consultant has one year from date on approval letter to complete plan



Consulting Forester Written Plans (cont.)

- Once plan is completed consultant submits plan to local DOF forester or technician for review – checklist
- Once plan is satisfactory – DOF forester or technician signs Statement of Intent (SOI)
- Consultant delivers and reviews plan with landowner
- If both are satisfied, they both sign the SOI
- At that point LO pays Consultant for plan



Landowner Payment Procedures

Landowner must submit three documents to local LOA Forester:

1. Original copy of signed SOI (one of three)
2. Invoice of full payment to Consulting Forester
3. Invoice (sent with approval letter from state) signed/dated



Stewardship Plan Format

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY



LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

9/6/2019

16

Stewardship Plan Format

Forest Stewardship plan has two main parts:

1. Information specific to property
2. Supplementary material section

NOTE:

- Material can be added, but never subtracted
- Format must be according to operating plan



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Cover Page

- Identify as Stewardship plan
- County of property location
- Include landowner name, address, phone #, email
- Plan writer information
- Date plan written and expiration date



**A
FOREST STEWARDSHIP
MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE PROPERTY OF

WILLIAM CRAWFORD**

**Located in

MARION COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**Acres Planned: 86
Date Plan Completed: January, 2015
Date Plan Expires: January, 2025**

Landowner Address: 8034 North Byers Lane
Stonewood, West Virginia 26301
304-695-0505
usiwc@aol.com

Prepared By: Juergen A. Wildman
West Virginia Division of Forestry
Landowner Assistance Specialist
Marion County

Address: P.O. Box 40
Farmington, WV 26571
304-825-6983



LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

9/6/2019

19

Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Introduction letter

- Briefly explain the importance of forest management (most use provided example)

Statement of Intent (SOI)

- Signed by landowner, plan writer, plan reviewer

Table of contents

- Quick reference to specific plan sections



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Landowner objectives

- Identify primary management objectives and other resource concerns or desires
- Gather through personal conversation

Property location and access

- Landowner name, acreage, county, reference to major roads & towns, tax ID information
- Accessibility includes public and forest access roads



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Boundary and woodland description

- Briefly describe current woodland conditions:
 - Tree species
 - Timber conditions
 - Wildlife
 - Recreation
- Describe boundary conditions (fence, paint, etc.)



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Explanation of timber size class and forest types

- Brief explanation of site index and forest types on property

Topography and Soil Description

- Description of predominate soil types, slopes, aspects, elevations on property
- Identify potential equipment limitations and erosion problems that may limit forest management & timber harvesting on property



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Methods of reconnaissance, data collection and analysis

- Describe how timber cruise was conducted
- How timber is evaluated (international ¼ inch scale)
- Cruise intensity



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Summary of forest management needs & opportunities

- Briefly state what practices should be performed to meet landowner goals
- Should not duplicate detailed stand information
 - Timber
 - Wildlife
 - Soil & water resources
 - Threatened & Endangered species
 - Invasive species
 - Cultural and historic resources (archeological sites)
 - Forest health (insect diseases & pests)



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

The plan **MUST** include the following elements:

- Archeological, cultural and historic sites – do or don't exist on property
- Forest of Recognized Importance – property is or isn't
- Invasive Species & Integrated Pest Management
- Soil and Water Resources
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Wildlife



ARCHEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL & HISTORIC SITES



If there are:
cemeteries
ancient burial sites
other historic sites

If these resources exist on the property, a statement regarding their existence **MUST** be in the plan.



Forest of Recognized Importance

Forest of Recognized Importance are:
FORESTS THAT HAVE
A UNIQUE AND
POSSIBLY RARE
HABITAT.

- Could be for watershed protection



Forest of Recognized Importance (FORI)

Specifically, FORI possess one or more of the following attributes:

- **Globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentration of biodiversity values;**
- **Contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**
- **Provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection)**
- **Fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health)**

Examples: Red spruce forest, bogs, wetlands, shale barrens, caves (check with the WVDNR Natural Heritage Program).

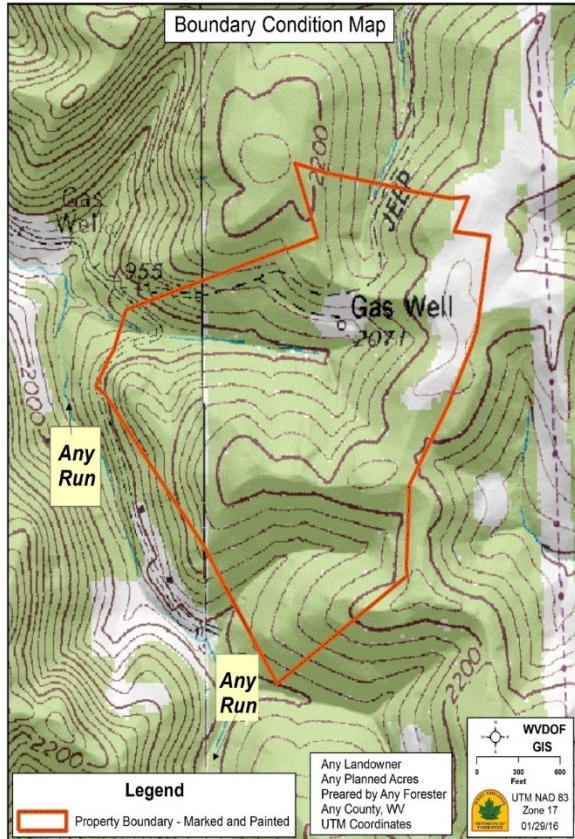
FORI does not have to cover the entire property. The property can contain a portion of the FORI on the larger landscape.



Invasive species – MUST



SOIL & WATER RESOURCES



The plan writer **MUST** identify streams and other water bodies in all stands and maps.

The plan writer **MUST** adhere to Appendix E, Components of a Forest Stewardship Plan which outlines requirements regarding soil mapping and interpretation.



Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species

- Flat-Spired Three-Toothed Land Snail (T)
- Allegheny Woodrat (R)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (T)
- Indiana Bat (E)



Threatened & Endangered Species

Plan writers **MUST** include a statement as to whether or not T&E species exist on the property. *This cannot be based solely on the forester's observation.*

This MUST be determined by checking with WV DNR Wildlife Resources Section:

Send an **electronic/digital** version of the property map to: Brian.P.Streets@wv.gov

Ask if there are any records in the Natural Heritage data base of R,T&E species on this property

If T&E species do exist on the property – refer the landowner to the WV DNR, USFWS and/or include relevant information in the plan



WILDLIFE

- Plans MUST address those objectives to the degree of interest expressed by the landowner.



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

The plan **SHOULD** include the following elements:

- Aesthetic Quality
- Carbon Cycle
- Fire Management
- Recreation
- Wood & Fiber Production



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Stand management descriptions and recommendations should include:

- Acreage
- Site index
- Forest type/tree species
- Size class
- Age
- Stocking level
- Soil and water quality considerations
- Fire or pest and disease history
- Invasive species
- Recommended treatments



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

General Cruise Information Table

Must include the following in table format:

- Stand number
- Acres
- Total board foot volume (international ¼ inch scale)
- Total pulpwood volume (tons)
- Average stand diameter (inches at DBH)
- Average basal area (sq. ft. /acre)
- Trees per acre (stocking)



GENERAL INVENTORY INFORMATION*

Stand Number	Acre	Total Bd. Ft. Volume**	Total Cordwood Volume (Tons)	Avg. Stand Diameter (in.)	Basal Area Sq. Ft.	Stocking Trees/Acre
TOTALS:						

***** Total board foot volumes are based on the International ¼ Inch Rule for tree measurement***



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Stand summary table – stand info in table format

Must include:

- Stand number
- Acres
- Site index
- Cover type
- Brief stand description
- Gypsy moth hazard rating
- Recommended management activity



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Ten-year proposed activity schedule in table form

- Stand number
- Acres
- Year
- Activity



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

Soils Map

- Property boundary with soil types on property

Boundary Condition Map

- Indicate how boundaries are marked

Forest Type Map

- Identifies different stands and their forest types

Topographic Stand Map

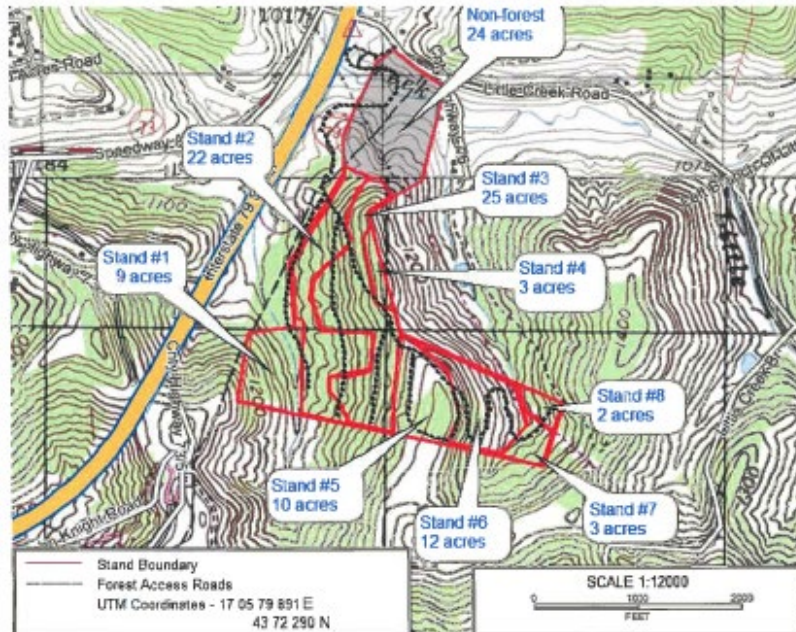
- Clearly defined stand boundaries on USGS topographic map



Stewardship Plan Format Requirements

TOPOGRAPHIC STAND MAP

Landowner: _____ Address: Stonewood, WV Farm Acres: 110
 Location: Little Creek/ Mt. Zion Road
 Date Planned: 12/14 By: Juergen Wildman Scale: 1" = 1000' County: Marion



Forest Stewardship Plan Advantages

- Overview of forested property with general and specific information
- Timber inventory
- Forest management recommendations
- Eligibility for Managed Timberland
- Eligibility for financial aid to initiate and complete non-commercial forest management activities through the EQIP program administered by NRCS

