

Forest Stewardship Program

James Starr, Forest Management 06/2003

Purpose of Forest Stewardship Program

...is to assist private forest landowners in more actively managing their forest and related resources; to keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for



present and future owners; and to increase the economic and environmental benefits of these lands.

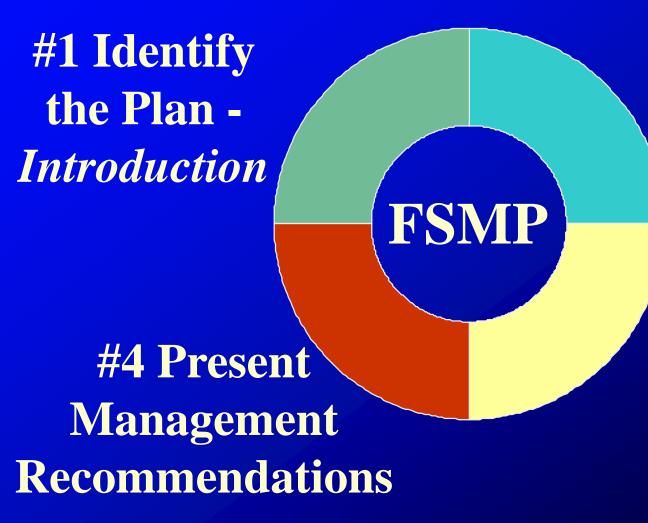
Forest Stewardship Management Plans



Plans identify and describe actions to protect, manage, maintain and enhance relevant resources (soil, range, aesthetic quality, recreation, timber, water, and fish and wildlife) in a manner compatible with landowners objectives.



Components of a FSMP



#2 Present
Management
Objectives

#3 Present
Baseline
Conditions



Components of a FSMP

#5 Supplemental Information

= Forest Stewardship Management Plan

Cover Page Includes:

- ◆Landowner's Name, Address, Phone Number
- ◆Plan Writer's Name, Address, Phone, E-mail, Signature
- ◆ Acreage in Plan
- ◆ Date of Plan

Additional Introduction Information:

- ◆Landowner's Objective Stated in Measurable Terms
- ◆ General Property Description
- ◆List of known Threatened & Endangered Species
- ◆Past and Current Use of the Land
- ◆ Cultural or Natural Heritage Features

- **♦** Soils Information
- ◆Maps with Boundaries, Cover Types, Water, Roads, and other Topographic Features
- ◆ Directions to Property

Optional Introduction Information:

- ◆Legal Description, Plat, Tax Book Information
- ◆Interaction of Site with Surrounding Land
- ◆List of Available Assistance Programs
- **♦** Easements or other Restrictions

#2 Present Management Objectives

- ◆ Identifying and presenting the landowner's goals and objectives is the single most important element of a successful plan.
- ◆ Landowner's interest, preferences, priorities, financial and philosophical commitment to forest stewardship and knowledge about natural resource management are identified.
- ◆ Landowner's expectations and abilities are considered.

Information Needed From the Landowner

- ♦ How does the landowner rank the 5 most important objectives on the application?
- ♦ How does the landowner rank their interest in managing for wildlife on

the application?

Information Needed From the Landowner

- ♦ What are the outputs desired?
- ◆ How will specific objectives be evaluated?
- ♦ What is the landowner's time frame for results?
- ◆ Are the landowner's financial expectations consistent with anticipated results?

Information Needed From the Landowner

- ◆ Are the objectives and outputs realistic for the property?
 - Quail range 1 mile
 - Cerulean warblers need 10,000 acres
 - Deer range 5 or more miles
- ◆ The landowner does not have to sign the application.



More Points to Consider



- ◆Take into account the current and future economic and environmental benefits.
- ◆Take into account the possible future restrictions due to additional regulations, population impact, and changing markets

#3 Present Baseline Conditions

Standard Outline Format provides a reminder list of items to be addressed in stand descriptions:

- Parcel Number
- Parcel Name
- Acres
- •Forest Type
- •Species Present
- •Age
- •Size
- Quality

- •Trees per Acre
- Growth Rate
- Soil/Water/wetland
- Topography
- Wildfire Hazard/Risk
- •Forest/Stand Health
- Pest or Disease
- Wildlife Habitat

- Unique NaturalFeatures
- History/NaturalHeritage
- •T & E
- Recommendation

Additional Field Considerations

- •Significance of stand due to location or other attributes
- Snags or Den Trees
- •Edge
- Mast Availability
- Browse

- Ground Cover
- Canopy Cover
- Canopy Layers
- Stand Diversity
- Noxious/NonendemicSpecies
- Accessibility

Soils



- ◆ Soil Series and General Pertinent Properties
- ◆ Drainage
- Associated Topography
- **◆**Equipment Restrictions
- ◆ Site Productivity



Fish and Wildlife







Fish and Wildlife

◆Plan will include a statement on Threatened and Endangered Species.



Fish and Wildlife

- ◆If T & E Species are present, then the landowner will be referred to the appropriate agency for specific information.
- ◆ Recommendations will include expected impact on wildlife, water, flora and fauna.



Water Quality



- ◆ Water quality will be addressed in a manner compatible with the landowner's objectives.
- ◆ All management recommendations will include water quality considerations.



Water Quality



- ♦ When timber harvest is recommended, specific BMPs needed to protect water quality will be included.
- ◆ Emphasis will be placed on
 - Streamside Management Zones
 - Stream Crossings
 - Road and Trail Locations and Stabilization



◆Forest Recreation by the Landowner, Family, Friends, and Neighbors





- ◆ Diversity of Habitat
- ♦ Visual Impact of Recommended Practices
- ◆Plant Species Favored because of Color,
 - Flower, or other Value.
- ◆Streams and Waterways



- ♦ Key Access Routes
- ◆ Areas in View by the Public
- ◆ Objects of Special Value to Landowner such as: Vistas, Bluffs, Old Home Sites, Unique Stands of Trees, Flowering Plants





♦ Hiking or Riding Trails

◆Picnic Areas, Tree Stands, etc.



Wetlands

Wetlands are subject to Federal protection and will be identified in the FSMP.

- ◆Roads and landings should be located away from wetlands.
- ◆Restrict timber harvest to times of the year when rutting and soil compaction are minimized.



◆Leave riparian buffers around wetlands.



- ◆ Avoid use of pesticides near wetlands.
- ◆Keep slash out of wetland areas.



Heritage Resources



The FSMP will identify all historical resources on the property. Considerations for protecting heritage resources:

◆Locations and will be included on the map.



Heritage Resources



- Cemeteries are protected by law.
- Plan recommended management practices to avoid disturbing historical sites.
- Consider conservation easements.
- Clean up old dumps.

#4 Management Recommendations



◆ Recommendations will be operational and action oriented.

#4 Management Recommendations

- ◆ Recommendations for each stand or management unit.
- ◆ Cost share possibilities
- ♦ 5-year time line





#5 Supplemental Information

- ◆ Stewardship Appendix
- ♦ Aerial Photo copies



- ◆Topographic and/or Soils Maps
- ◆ Additional Brochures and information.