Forest Stewardship Management Plan
Forest Stewardship Management Plans

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

#1 Identify the Plan - Introduction

#2 Present Management Objectives

#3 Present Baseline Conditions

#4 Present Management Recommendations
Components of a FSMP

#5 Supplemental Information

= Forest Stewardship Management Plan
#1 Identify the Plan – Introduction

Cover Page Should Include:

- Landowner’s Name, Address, Phone Number
- Plan Writer’s Name, Address, Phone, E-mail, Signature
- Acreage in Plan
- Date of Plan
#1 Identify the Plan – Introduction

Additional Introduction Information:

- Landowner’s Objective Stated in Measurable Terms (i.e.)
- General Property Description
- List of known Threatened & Endangered Species
- Past and Current Use of the Land
- Cultural or Natural Heritage Features
#1 Identify the Plan – Introduction

- Soils Information
- Maps with Boundaries, Cover Types, Water, Roads, and other Topographic Features
- Directions to Property
#1 Identify the Plan – Introduction

Optional Introduction Information:

- Legal Description, Plat, Tax Book Information
- Interaction of Site with Surrounding Land
- Easements or other Restrictions
- List of Available Assistance Programs
Identifying and presenting the landowner’s goals and objectives is the single most important element of a successful plan. (This is Your Plan)

Identify landowner’s interest, preferences, priorities, financial and philosophical commitment to forest stewardship and determine landowner’s knowledge about natural resource management.

Know the landowner’s expectations and abilities.
Discuss with 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?
Discuss with 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?
Discuss with 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

Take into account the current and future economic and environmental benefits
#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 Natural Features
- History/Natural Heritage
- 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/Invasive Species
- Accessibility
Soils

- Soil Series and General Pertinent Properties
- Drainage
- Associated Topography
- Equipment Restrictions
- Site Productivity
Fish and Wildlife

- Evaluate each stand for wildlife habitat, especially for any species desired by the landowner.
Plan should include a statement on Threatened and Endangered Species.
Fish and Wildlife

- If T & E Species are present, provide necessary resources or appropriate agency in case landowner desires more specific information.

- Recommendations should include expected impact on wildlife, water, flora and fauna.
Water Quality

- Address water quality in a manner compatible with the landowner’s objectives.
- All management recommendations will include water quality considerations.
Water Quality

- If timber harvest is recommended, include specific BMPs needed to protect water quality.

- Emphasis should be placed on
  - Streamside Management Zones
  - Stream Crossings
  - Road and Trail Locations and Stabilization
Recreation and Aesthetics

- Forest Recreation by the Landowner, Family, Friends, and Neighbors
Recreation and Aesthetics

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

- 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
Recreation and Aesthetics

- Hiking or Riding Trails
- Picnic Areas, Tree Stands, etc.
Wetlands

- Subject to Federal protection and should be identified in the FSMP.
- Keep roads and landings away from wetlands.
- Restrict timber harvest to times of the year when rutting and soil compaction are minimized.
Wetlands

- Leave riparian buffers around wetlands.
- Avoid use of pesticides near wetlands.
- Keep slash out of wetland areas.
Heritage Resources

The FSMP should identify all historical resources on the property.

- Determine locations and include on the map.
- Cemeteries are protected by law.
#4 Management Recommendations

- Recommendations for each stand or management unit should be operational.
- Include necessary steps for accomplishing the goals.
- 5 & 10 year time line
- Cost share possibilities and Agencies
#5 Supplemental Information

- Stewardship Appendix
- Aerial Photo copies
- Topographic and/or Soils Maps
- Additional Brochures and information not covered in the appendix but of interest to the landowner.
Definitions Checklist:
http://www.dof.state.va.us/mgt/stewardship-plan.shtml

Available Assistance Programs and Easements

Sample Plan:
http://www.dof.state.va.us/mgt/fsp-example.shtml
Check List

- Stewardship Plan
- Cooperators
- Programs
- Easements
- Relationship with Your Forester
This is just the Beginning