

Landscape Management Plan FAQs

What is a landscape management plan (LMP)?

An LMP is a management plan written for an entire landscape as opposed to being written for individual properties. This plan provides descriptions of, and management recommendations for, all forest types within the designated landscape.

All landowners within the landscape of the LMP can subscribe to the plan – essentially using it as their own management plan.

The LMP is a tool to help increase family landowner engagement in forest conservation on their woodlands, provide technical assistance and resources to help them meet their goals, and better enable their participation in certification and assistance programs such as the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) cost share programs.

The LMP reduces the most significant barrier to landowner engagement: the need for an individual forest management plan.

The LMP meets the ATFS Standards of Sustainability, streamlining the Tree Farm certification process. The Virginia LMP will be written to meet Forest Stewardship, NRCS, and Use Value taxation program requirements.

Landowners still receive an individual plan of action, property maps, list of ownership objectives, and guidance from their forester that reflects their needs and motivations.

The LMP offers a mechanism for coordinating landscape-scale conservation priorities across small and family ownerships, which represent 62% of the forests in Virginia.

Why a landscape management plan in Virginia?

Pilot LMPs were developed for the Panhandle of Florida and for the Cumberland Plateau in Alabama. These have been popular with both landowners and forestry professionals. In fact, Florida is working on another LMP to cover additional parts of the state. The August Hyde Foundation, a Charlottesville-based conservation group, awarded ATFS \$100,000 to create and implement the LMP in Virginia.

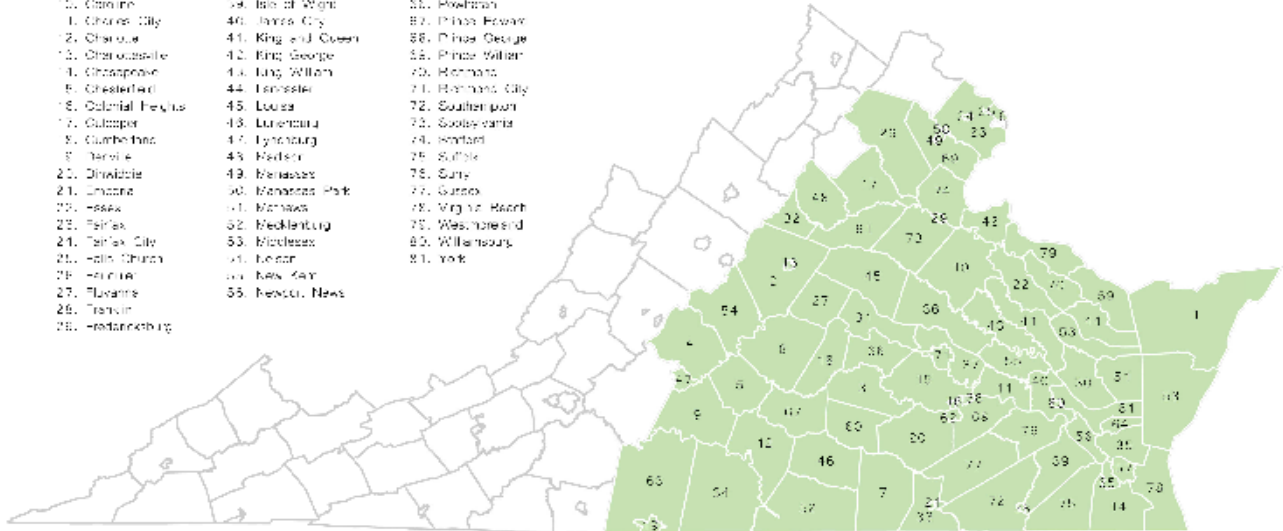
There is high demand for certified fiber in certain areas of Virginia. The LMP will streamline the Tree Farm certification process, increasing the number of certified Tree Farms in the commonwealth.

What counties in Virginia will it cover?

All counties east of and including Route 29. If this Virginia pilot is successful, additional LMPs will be written for the remainder of the commonwealth.

Virginia Landscape Management Plan Counties

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| 1. Accomack | 30. Gloucester | 57. Norfolk |
| 2. Albemarle | 31. Goochland | 58. Northampton |
| 3. Amelia | 32. Greene | 59. Northumberland |
| 4. Amherst | 33. Greensville | 60. Nottingham |
| 5. Appomattox | 34. Halifax | 61. Orange |
| 6. Arlington | 35. Henrico | 62. Orangeburg |
| 7. Brunswick | 36. Henric | 63. Page |
| 8. Buckingham | 37. Henric | 64. Page |
| 9. Campbell | 38. Hotwell | 65. Patrick |
| 10. Caroline | 39. Isle of Wight | 66. Powhatan |
| 11. Charles City | 40. James City | 67. Prince George |
| 12. Charlotte | 41. King and Queen | 68. Prince George |
| 13. Charlottesville | 42. King George | 69. Prince William |
| 14. Chesapeake | 43. King William | 70. Richmond |
| 15. Chesterfield | 44. Lancaster | 71. Richmond City |
| 16. Colonial Heights | 45. Louisa | 72. Southampton |
| 17. Culpeper | 46. Lunenburg | 73. Spotsylvania |
| 18. Cumberland | 47. Lynchburg | 74. Stafford |
| 19. Danville | 48. Madison | 75. Stafford |
| 20. Dinwiddie | 49. Manassas | 76. Surry |
| 21. Dinwiddie | 50. Manassas Park | 77. Sussex |
| 22. Essex | 51. Mathews | 78. Virginia Beach |
| 23. Fairfax | 52. Mecklenburg | 79. Washington |
| 24. Fairfax City | 53. Middlesex | 80. Williamsburg |
| 25. Falls Church | 54. Montross | 81. York |
| 26. Fauquier | 55. New Kent | |
| 27. Fluvanna | 56. New News | |
| 28. Franklin | | |
| 29. Giles | | |
| 30. Goochland | | |



Who writes the landscape management plan?

A private forestry consulting firm. ATFS has issues a RFP for the LMP. The company that can best meet the needs of Virginia's LMP will be hired to write the plan.

Who is in charge of updating/changing the landscape management plan?

The Virginia Tree Farm Foundation (VTFF) will own the LMP. This means VTFF is responsible for keeping the plan up to date with new ATFS Standards of Sustainability (updated every 5 years), and changing Stewardship and NRCS requirements.

What are the landowner benefits of using a landscape management plan?

- If the landowner's goals align with the goals in the LMP, they do not need to have an individual plan written for them
- Saves landowner time and expense of getting an individual plan
- Automatically upgrades their plan to meet new/changing Tree Farm Standards – no more rewriting individual plan or filling out addendums

- Automatically qualifies them to be Tree Farm certified
- Automatically qualifies them to participate in Stewardship Programs
- Automatically qualifies them for NRCS cost share programs
- No searching for a plan if they are selected for an audit
- Qualifies them to enroll in county Tax Use programs – resulting in reduced property taxes
- More time to work with a forester to implement activities associated with their objectives and LMP

How do foresters benefit from using a landscape management plan?

- Simplifies paperwork
- Provides a landscape-level perspective
- Provides easy to digest guidance they can provide to the landowner
- More time to spend helping landowners implement the plan
- More time to develop a personal relationship with the landowner
- More income generated from helping landowners implement their plan
- Less time in the office
- No worry about storing large management plans for clients or trying to locate them come audit time

How does Virginia benefit from using a landscape management plan?

- More sustainable forestry activities are implemented on the ground
- Forest health is improved on a larger scale
- Allows for landscape level habitat management
- More Tree Farm Certified land = more certified fiber
- Ultimately, a more sustainable forest resource

Who can use the landscape management plan?

- All landowners in the LMP coverage area (public, private, corporate)
- Landowners using the LMP are NOT required to become Tree Farm certified or enroll in any other programs
- Landowners using the LMP are not subject to inspections unless they are Tree Farm certified

How do landowners participate in the landscape management plan?

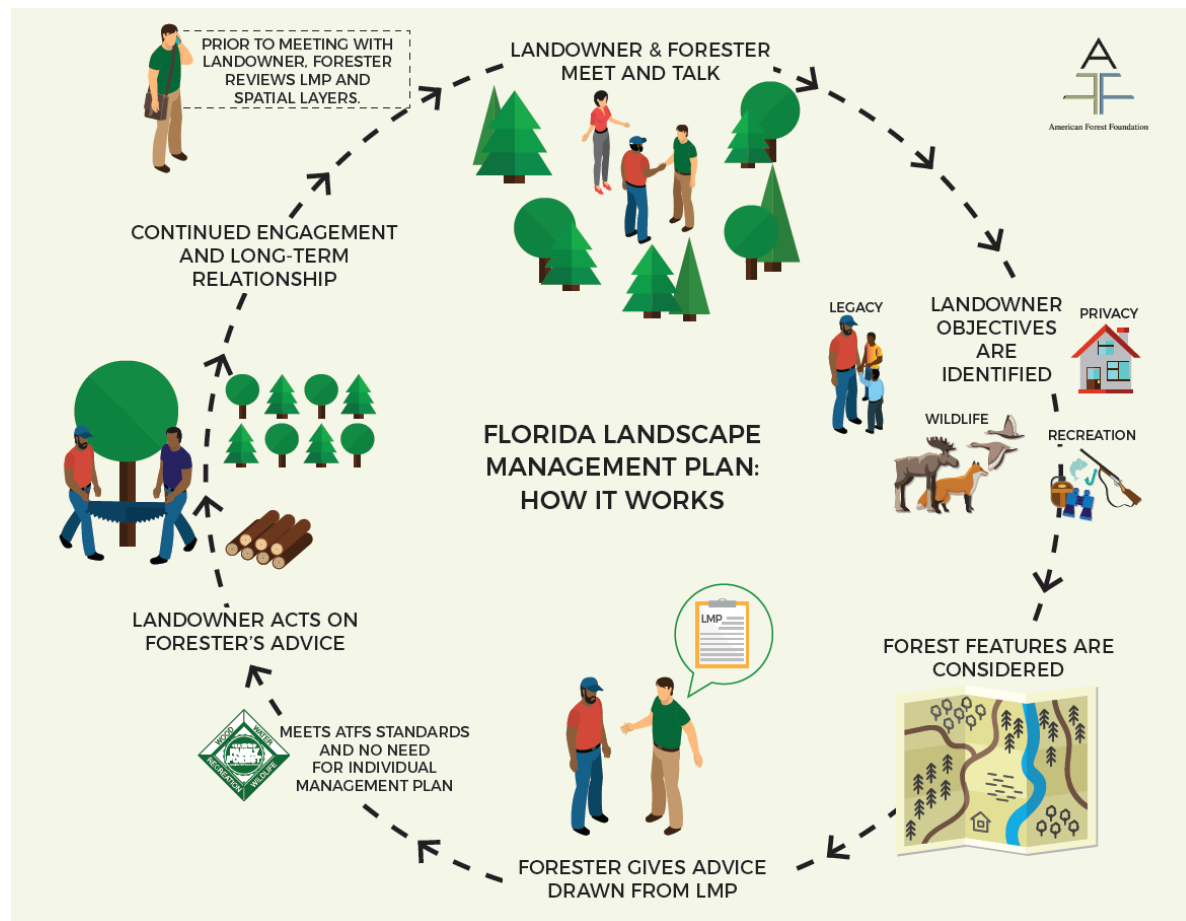
- Upon establishing a relationship with a forester, the landowner and forester would walk the property together, assess the forest condition and gain an understanding of the landowner's objectives and goals for the property. The forester would then use the LMP as a reference in the advice he or she provides to the landowner with regard to stewardship activities and management.

- If the landowner is interested in going on to participate in ATFS, Forest Stewardship, or NRCS programs, and the forester is a qualified ATFS inspector, FSP forester, or a TSP, they can then complete the associated paperwork for ATFS, program materials for FSP, and paperwork for NRCS programs.
- Use the attached Document “A Forester’s Guide to Implementing the Florida Landscape Management Plan” to guide your work with landowners (a Virginia version is in development)

What does the landowner receive from their forester?

- Exactly what these documents look like is up to the VTFF
- Link to the on-line LMP (or thumb drive with LMP)
- Maps of their property/soils/timber types
- List of their ownership goals
- List of action items to implement the plan
- On-the-ground assistance to implement the LMP

How is the landscape management plan implemented?



Graphic courtesy of the American Tree Farm System:
<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/lmp-northern-florida>

What is the timeline for implementing the landscape management plan in Virginia?

- August – September 2019 – consultant selection
- September – December 2019 – Consultant drafts plan, data collection, outreach to landowners and foresters
- December 2019 – January 2020 – Draft plan review by stakeholders
- February – April 2020 – Inspector, facilitator, and forester training
- May 2020 – Implementation and outreach to landowners
- January 2021 – updating and plan maintenance

What is my role in this as a Regional Tree Farm Chair?

- Educate your inspectors about the LMP and how to use it
- Educate landowners in your Region (outreach materials will be provided)
- Communicate regularly with your inspectors to identify any issues with the LMP and notify the VTFF if these occur