

Many landowners find it difficult to develop a management plan because they do not know where to start or what information they should consider including in the plan. Even if their plans are to have a professional forester assist them, it would be best to have the information ready to share with the forester.

This document is intended for illustrative purposes only for the landowner to use to have a starting place. While the document can be a template, it does not have to be developed in the order presented. Many landowners find the “history” section to be an easy beginning, and as a stepping stone to the other sections. The template as presented and completed would be considered a short to medium detailed management plan.

Mention of specific trees, soils, wildlife, weedy competition, etc. is for descriptive purposes only and is not intended to be used in any individual’s specific management plan unless it fits the landowner’s thoughts, goals, and understanding. There are certain specific information indicated in *bold italicized type* that each landowner will have to provide.

The Arkansas Tree Farm Committee provides this information as an educational tool and is not responsible for development nor implementation of any specific landowner’s management plan.

FORESTRY / LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

date plan established

Prepared by and for:

your farm name

reviewed by:

**ABC Forestry Consultants, Inc.
Somewhere, USA
123-456-7989**

OR

Prepared for:

your farm name

by:

**ABC Forestry Consultants, Inc.
Somewhere, USA
123-456-7989**

INTRODUCTION / GOALS

The purpose of this forestry / land management plan is to identify the resources of *[your farm name]* and to provide a plan for the next five years based on the landowner's objectives and goals.

The main objective is to actively manage timber as a source of revenue while enhancing the overall value of the property through wildlife habitat improvement, soil and water conservation, and recreational and aesthetic improvements. Timber and wildlife management recommendations will be developed along with a future cash flow and cost projection.

LOCATION

The *[your farm name]* is located approximately X miles north of Anywhere, USA in Section XX of Township X North, Range X West, Somewhere County. *[If you have GPS coordinates of a main entrance, you might include them here as well.]*

HISTORY

[Your farm name] has been in the family for over 100 years. It began as a cattle farm with a small acreage devoted to what was called “truck crops” or those vegetables sold on the roadside or in Anywhere, USA. Over the years both the cattle and truck crops were reduced and the land allowed to convert to native pines interspersed with hardwoods.

CERTIFICATION

[Your farm name] has been certified as sustainable through the *[list the system used along with any descriptive details as needed; for example American Tree Farm System]*.

TRACT CHARACTERISTICS

This 160-acre tract has been divided into three tracts (sections) of timber based on soil type and suitable trees. Each tract of timber has been inspected for volume, value, growth, stocking, merchantability, and features related to wildlife to determine the best recommendations. The tract also contains several wet areas that will not be harvested.

Future management activities will include timber harvests, prescribed burning, edge management, and wildlife management. These management activities will occur over a period of time to achieve our goals and objectives.

TOPOGRAPHY

Tract topography is typical of an Upper Coastal Plain region with minimal slopes except for where there are drains, branches, creeks, or springheads. During normal weather conditions those areas are generally wet during the wetter times of the year but other areas tend to dry out quickly. A topographic map is included on page *[insert the page number]* of this plan.

MAPS

[Provide as many maps as possible with page numbers. Ones to consider:

- 1. general location with driving or walking directions because not all family members may be familiar with them*
- 2. stand or tract maps*
- 3. soil type maps*
- 4. topographic map if not mentioned above]*

[Fictitious examples are provided at the end; actual maps may be available from the local Cooperative Extension Service, state forestry agency, NRCS, Google, Arkansas Game and Fish Mapper, or other internet providers.]

AESTHETICS

Silvicultural practices such as site preparation, harvesting, prescribed burning and other activities are not understood by the public, and as such can be considered as being unappealing. In order to reduce this perception on the *[your farm name]*, aesthetics will be considered in all activities. Concentration will be on visual buffers using strips of residual trees along roads, stream side management zones along waterways, removal of harvested trees and remaining debris as soon as practical, and sound limitation using buffers in critical spots.

While a prescribed burning plan will be developed to minimize fire movement and smoke infiltration into unwanted areas, changes in wind direction can create unexpected consequences. Buffers will be used to minimize this potential. However, contact with neighbors will also be used to afford them the opportunity to know beforehand that aesthetics will be considered in development of the burn plan. Similar contacts when other activities are planned will also be used.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soils provide trees with anchorage, water and nutrients. Soil is an important component of forest and woodland ecosystems as it helps regulate important ecosystem processes, such as nutrient uptake, decomposition, and water availability and ultimately wildlife habitat. As such, soil erosion on the tract will be minimized and any management that will improve soil characteristics will be considered.

Soils in the *[your soil type]* series are most prevalent on the property. The *[your soil type]* series consists of *[description of your soil]*. These soils have *[you can describe in general the slope, surface runoff, internal drainage, permeability, moisture hold capacity, color, depth, etc. If you are not familiar with the important soil characteristics, information can be obtained from your consulting forester, state forestry agency, local Cooperative Extension Agent, or NRCS' Web Soil Survey]*. The table below list the different soil types on the *[your farm name]*.

Soil Name	Vegetative Community	Slope in Percent	Drainage	Site Index*	Moist soil color
Ruston fine sandy loam	southern pine / some hardwoods	3-8	well	Loblolly-84 Slash-91 Longleaf-76	dark grayish brown
Smithdale fine sandy loam	southern pine / pasture	8-12	well	Loblolly-86 Slash-85 Longleaf-69	dark grayish brown
Malbis fine sandy loam	southern pine / some hardwoods / pasture / crops	1-5	moderately well drained	Loblolly-90 Slash-90 Longleaf-80	dark grayish brown
Guyton complex	hardwoods / some southern pine	frequently flooded	poorly drained	Loblolly-95	grayish brown

*Average height of dominant and co-dominant trees at age 50

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The key ingredient to intensive timber management especially in a naturally regenerated stand is an aggressive thinning regime. The goal and purpose of our management scheme is to grow the largest marketable sized trees in as little time as possible because the bigger trees are more valuable. When timber is harvested, it will always be marketed and not just sold.

Therefore, timber management activities over the next five years will involve first thinnings to remove poorly formed and diseased trees and prescribed burning to continue the control of hardwood competition and fuel hazards. Thinnings will take place in years *[add years you expect to thin]*.

The sooner this objective can be met, the annualized return that will be realized will be greater. Therefore, our plan is to have all of the diseased and suppressed trees taken out and to leave enough space for future growth. On second thinnings more concern will be placed on leaving only the best crop trees which will provide the healthiest, most profitable stand.

Prescribed burning is an important tool in forest as well as wildlife management. For forest management, burning reduces and ultimately eliminates woody species in stands so that pines in those stands have little competition. Burning also eliminates hazardous fuel in case of future wildfires. Early season burning (December to February) will be done to renew vegetation for wildlife and reduce hazardous fuel. Late season burning (March to May) will be done for light to heavy control of hardwoods and will be used to promote understory growth.

Burning will be carried out by certified burners who properly prepare smoke management plans, follow those plans as closely as possible, and abide by *[enter your state]* best management plans and smoke management plans. The preparation of a smoke management plan may be used to afford some limit of liability by law if a problem occurs. Prescribed burning will be done *[in general describe pattern and number of acres]* on the *[your farm name]*.

Timber Stand descriptions and recommendations:

Stand #1 - [predominate trees types, age, acres]

Description

This stand is otherwise known in our family as the *[name you use]*. *[Describe previous history of stand, stocking rate, height, and diameter if known if known. Any special area or low productive areas should be explained.]*

Recommendations

[Describe management activities to be conducted such a site preparation, competition control, thinning, final harvest, etc.]

[Describe how the management activities will help meet the goals established for the land and timber.]

Stand #2 - [predominate trees types, age, acres]

Description

This stand is otherwise known in our family as the *[name you use]*. *[Describe previous history of stand, stocking rate, height, and diameter if known if known. Any special area or low productive areas should be explained.]*

Recommendations

[Describe management activities to be conducted such a site preparation, competition control, thinning, final harvest, etc.]

[Describe how the management activities will help meet the goals established for the land and timber.]

Stand #3 - [predominate trees types, age, acres]

Description

This stand is otherwise known in our family as the *[name you use]*. *[Describe previous history of stand, stocking rate, height, and diameter if known if known. Any special area or low productive areas should be explained.]*

Recommendations

[Describe management activities to be conducted such a site preparation, competition control, thinning, final harvest, etc.]

[Describe how the management activities will help meet the goals established for the land and timber.]

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife management on this tract will feature species such as bobwhite quail, white tailed deer, and wild turkey. Although management recommendations will focus on enhancement

of the property for game species, management recommendations are provided for other game species and non-game species as well.

Roads:

[Describe management activities related to roads and roadsides that will impact wildlife and wildlife habitats]

Fallow Openings:

[Describe management activities related to open spaces left in the woods that will impact wildlife and wildlife habitats]

Planted Food Plots:

[Describe management activities related to food plots that will impact wildlife and wildlife habitats. Especially describe why they will be located where they are.]

Food plot planting guide

Plant Species	Specific plant	Timing	Rate, lbs / acre	Planting Depth	Wildlife targeted	Soil type
Grasses		Mar-May	12-20	1/2 - 1"	Q, D, T	Well-drained uplands
		May-June	15-20	1 - 1 1/2"	Q, D, T	Well-drained uplands
		Apr-June	35-50	1/2 - 1"	Q, T	Well-drained uplands
Legumes		Apr-June	60-90	1/2 - 1"	D	Moderate to Well-drained
		Mar-June	5-10	1/2 - 1"	D	Well-drained sandy to silt loams
		Sep-Nov	5-10	1/4 - 1/2"	D, T	Well-drained
		Sep-Nov	20-25	1/4 - 1/2"	D, T	Well-drained upland clay
Cereal Grains		Sep-Nov	75-120	1/2 - 1"	D, T	Well-drained to Moist
		Sep-Nov	50-100	1/2 - 1"	D, T	Moderate to Well-drained
		Sep-Nov	85-115	1/2 - 1"	D, T	Well-Excessively Well-drained
Other		May-June	25-50	1/2 - 1"	D, T	Well-drained

Forest Management Practices:

[Describe management activities related to normal management activities such as prescribed burn, thinning, release, fertilization, and final harvest that will impact wildlife and wildlife habitats.]

For wildlife management, burning creates new, green growth which provides browse, seed, and insects that many wildlife species feed on. Unburned strips approximately 30-40 yards wide running the length of the property or within each stand can be helpful in establishing a quail population. The corridor should be left unburned for several years in order to establish thick cover. Outside the corridor along the edges there should be some type of cover planted so that the quail can have easy access to other areas without being exposed to predators.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS / SCHEDULE

[Describe important activities need on each stand within the next 5 years with anticipated date, cost, and net return each year.]

Activities Schedule				
Activity	Stand No.	Date	Income or Cost	Annual Net Return
<i>Release</i>	?	????	????	????
<i>Fertilization</i>	?	????	????	????
<i>Disk firelines & prescribe burn</i>	?, ?, ?	????	????	????
<i>Thinning</i>	?	????	????	????
<i>Professional compensation</i>	?	????	????	????
<i>Food plots established</i>	?	????	????	????
<i>Disk firelines & prescribe burn</i>	?, ?	<i>next year</i>	????	????
<i>Fertilization</i>	?	<i>next year</i>	????	????
<i>Thinning</i>	?	<i>next year</i>	????	????
<i>Professional compensation</i>	?	<i>next year</i>	????	????
<i>Food plots established</i>	?	<i>next year</i>	????	????
<i>Continue for 5 years</i>				

MAPS

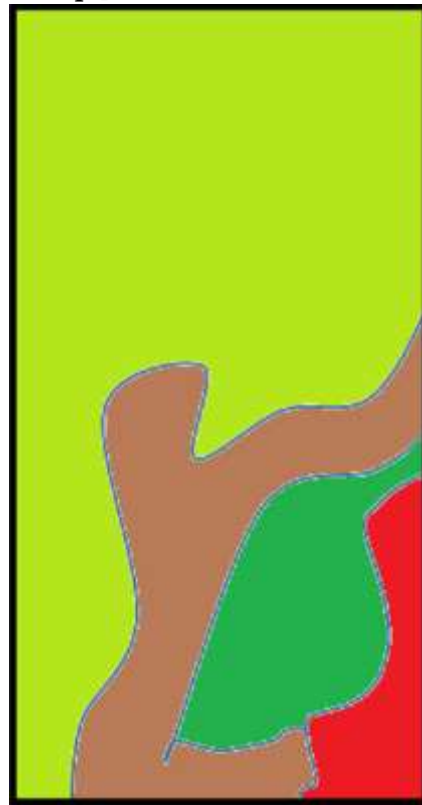
[Example topographic map]







[Example aerial photo map]



[Example tract / stand map]



-  = stand one
-  = stand two
-  = stand three
-  = non productive land

[Example soil map with soil type abbreviations]

