

Forest Management Plan

Vermont Conservation Activity Plan Checklist 106



Definition

A forest management plan is a site specific plan developed for a client, which addresses one or more resource concerns on land where forestry-related conservation activities or practices will be planned and applied. This plan has the same general requirements as the Forest Stewardship Plans. Provide a schedule of activities over at least a 10 year period.

Digital Property and Stand Boundaries

Landowners must establish digital GIS property boundaries with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at the USDA Service Center. This will typically be completed at time of application or soon after. Consulting foresters often determine and map property boundaries during plan development and are asked to provide maps or GIS shapefiles (where available) to the landowners or NRCS. This will help improve the quality and accuracy of NRCS GIS files which will be used for planning conservation practices in the future. Digital Stand boundaries would also be helpful but are not required.

Cultural Resources

During development of the forest management plan the consulting forester will note features, including the location, of potential historic value. Examples of cultural resources of interest that may be found in woodlands include residential

and barn cellar holes or stone foundations, stone lined wells, sugar arches, old mill structures and dams, and animal enclosures. Animal enclosures may resemble stone walls but will be three or four sided structures and may be 400-1600 square feet (20x20 feet - 40x40 feet) in size. Stone walls do not need to be described in the plan. Recommendations will be made to conserve these features to the extent possible during road building and harvests.

Important Wildlife Habitats

NRCS will provide information regarding Vermont significant wetlands, deer wintering areas and uncommon, rare or threatened and endangered species and natural communities to assist in plan development. Also, State significant habitats including heron rookeries, vernal pools, and bear scarred beech stands encountered during inventory should be noted with recommendations for conservation.

Finally, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be followed. VT NRCS and the USFWS have a programmatic agreement in place which has evaluated the potential effects of all conservation practices. Foresters will follow the VT Fish and Wildlife Department Forest Management Guidelines for Indiana Bat Habitat when they are within potential Indiana bat range. The managements specified within will be recommended and provided as an alternative to the landowner. If the landowner does not want to follow the guidelines and selects practices to implement that could be detrimental to the bat, it is likely that those specific practices will not be funded by NRCS. Other federal species that may need to be protected through the forest management plan is the Northeastern Bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*) in Southeastern Vermont.

See the VT NRCS Website for more information including towns where species are found -

http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Conservation_Planning/RMS_Planning/ESA_Compliance.html

<i>For:</i>	<i>SPAN # if known:</i>
<i>Tract# if known:</i>	<i>FPR Approved By:</i>
<i>Written By:</i> <i>Title:</i>	<i>County Forester Signature:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Checklist – The plan will include all items below under the major SHADED headings. County Forester will approve that the Forest Management Plan elements have been met and then forward to NRCS Field Office for final certification and payment. Items that do not apply (e.g. T+E species where none are found) will be labeled as ‘NA.’ This Checklist is also meant to be a reference to consulting foresters showing what must be included in the NRCS Forest Management Plan. Note that numerous GIS maps will be provided by NRCS to the consulting forester **PRIOR TO PLAN DEVELOPMENT** to assure consistency of information. It is expected that this information be used to help develop this CAP forest plan. This plan is intended to include narrative descriptions for the landowner. We will not be accepting plans in the pre 2010 UVA Manual table format. Unless item is specified with ‘(NRCS)’ it is required to be completed or supplied by the **Consulting Forester (CF)**. The plan will be approved, when completed, by the County Forester.

Cover Page	Stand Information – Refer to 2010 UVA Manual – See pages 35-40	
Landowner name, E911 address (and property address if different from mailing address), phone	Forest Stands Numbered and acres	
	Stand History – past use, treatments, disturbance, etc	
Plan Preparer- name, address, phone	Site Class – Productivity, Site Index, Soils info. Describe soils and their characteristics in relation to forest management potential	
Management Plan acres (total acres of plan)		
Plan start (approval date) and end date	Stand Description – Cover type, Dominant Vegetation & Natural Community if known	
Signature by Landowner and County Forester. County forester signature not required for private TSP. If the property is in UVA it will still need to be reviewed by the County Forester for UVA purposes.	Age Class Structure – Even or Uneven Age	
	Quadratic Mean Stand Diameter (dbh)	
	Total, Acceptable & Unacceptable Growing Stock – Basal Area (ft ² /acre)	
General Management Unit Information	Stems/Acre	
Biophysical region, parcel location, town and county, boundary lines and surrounding properties	Regeneration data – qualitative description of density/species in seedling/sapling class	
General property description, access system	Forest Health – note problems such as insects, invasive plant species (categorize infestation and general location within stand), diseases, browsing, etc	
Resource Information Inventory		
Cultural Resources Description (NRCS and CF)	Resource Concerns on Management Unit	
Rare, threatened and endangered species or natural communities – Review of NNHP database and NRCS ESA Review (NRCS with CF using information attained from NRCS in plan)	Soil erosion, water quality, plants/trees, pests, wildlife habitat, etc.	
	Management Recommendations	
Fish and Wildlife Habitats existing and potential opportunities for management/enhancement	Integrated Resource Management –How will planned management impact resources such as wetlands, rare species, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, etc.? Prescribe managements in ways that consider and improve these resources.	
Important Natural Features – Viewscales, waterfalls, scenic areas, cliffs, etc.		
Recreation and aesthetic values and opportunities		
Riparian areas, streams, significant wetlands, and water bodies and measures to enhance or protect functions and values	Long range silvicultural, habitat or other objectives – Desired future conditions of each stand	

Management Recommendations (Cont.)	Maps	
Recommended Management Treatments – See UVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even-Age Mgmt – present stand age, rotation age, residual basal area • Uneven-Age Mgmt – desired diameter, cutting cycle, residual basal area 	Forest Management Plan Map (features clearly labeled or symbolized)	
	Aerial photo or Topographic Map (NRCS can provide base map with property boundary outline if needed. (jpeg, pdf or hardcopy).	
10 Yr. Management or Treatment Schedule Table Stand, Year, Activity or Management	Legend, north arrow, and scale	
Recommended NRCS Practices – These practices are contingent upon NRCS review, programs funding, etc. Use a separate table in the forest plan to capture these recommended practices.	Property boundaries and Stand delineations	
	Roads, water resources	
	NRCS Practices – Location of Practices described in the ‘ Management Recommendation – NRCS Practices ’ section specified above	
Official Practice Name and Code #	Resource Inventory Maps – NRCS will supply to consulting forester prior to plan development to inform plan development	
The amounts (acres, feet, or number) to be applied and location – stand and area within stand if applicable	VSWI - Vermont State Significant Wetlands*	
	Deer Wintering Areas – State of Vermont*	
Schedule for implementation – month and year	Nongame & Natural Heritage Program Rare, T+E Species and Natural Communities*	
Environmental Evaluation – CPA 52		
Consulting Foresters are no longer required to complete - NRCS will complete prior to payment	Soils Map with Map Unit Symbols*	
	*combine on one map if possible. If it is too cluttered, make a separate soils map. All data layers regardless of whether or not the resource is present on the property will be displayed in the legend. This will signify that the presence of the resource has been evaluated at the GIS level.	

Starting in Fiscal Year 2012 (starts October 1st 2011) NRCS will be requiring that forest conservation activity plans be certified by a private Technical Service Provider (TSP). This will replace the current system in place where the plans are certified by the local county forester. Information about becoming a TSP can be found at <http://techreg.usda.gov/>. You can also contact Sandra Primard at sandra.primard@vt.usda.gov for further details.

County Forester Notes:

Useful references for foresters:

VT FPR Division of Forestry Use Value Appraisal Program and 2010 Manual
http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_useapp.cfm

VT Interactive Map Viewer – View and Create Digital Maps with Aerial Photography
http://maps.vermont.gov/imf/sites/VCGI_basemap/jsp/launch.jsp

NRCS Soils Information including Soils Fact Sheets for all Vermont Soils –
http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/Soils/so_databases.html

National NRCS Web Soil Survey – Create soils maps, interpretations, and more –
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

VT NRCS Practice Web Page – Includes standards, specification sheets and job sheets
http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Conservation_Practices/Index.html

VT NRCS Technical Notes – Vernal pools, grass seed for wildlife, & trees and shrubs for projects
http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Technical_Notes/TechNotes_Index.html