

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

Forest Management Plan Conservation Activity Plan – Checklist

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<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 to assure consistency of information.

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 Descriptions – See UVA Manual Forms 4 & 5 for detailed information	
Landowner name, E911 address, phone	Stands by cover type and area (acres)	
Plan Preparer- name, address, phone	Stand History – past use	
Management Plan acres (total acres of plan)	Description of dominant vegetation/Natural Community types	
Plan start (approval date) and end date	Approximate Stand Age	
Signature by Landowner and County Forester	Stand Health – note problems such as insects, invasive plants , diseases	
	Site Quality – Capability, Site Index, Soils Information	
General Management Unit Information	Timber Potential – Basal Area (ft ² /acre) Total, Acceptable & Unacceptable Growing Stock	
Parcel location, town and county, boundary lines and surrounding properties	Quadratic Mean Stand Diameter (dbh)	
	Stems/Acre	
Biophysical Region	Regeneration data – species, size	
General property description, access system		
Landowner Goals/Objectives		
	Resource Concerns on Management Unit	
Resource Information Inventory	Soil erosion, water quality, plants/trees, pests, wildlife habitat, etc.	
Cultural Resources Description (NRCS and CF)	Management Recommendations	
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)	Integrated Resource Management – Address resource concerns while conserving important resources such as wetlands, rare species, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, etc.	
Fish and Wildlife Habitats existing and potential	Long range silvicultural, habitat or other objectives – Desired future conditions of each stand	
Important Natural Features – Viewscales, waterfalls, scenic areas, cliffs, etc.	Recommended Management Treatments – See UVA	
Riparian areas, streams, significant wetlands, and water bodies	<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 	
Recreation and aesthetic values and opportunities	Management or Treatment Schedule Table	
	Stand, Year, Activity or Management	

Management Recommendations (Cont.)	Maps	
NRCS Practices – When management recommendations are intended to be implemented through a NRCS Practice within 3 years, then specify in a separate heading the following:	Forest Management Plan Map (features clearly labeled or symbolized)	
	Aerial photo or Topographic Map	
	Legend, north arrow, and scale	
	Property boundaries Stand delineations (not required but recommended)	
Official Practice Name and Code #	Roads, water resources	
The amounts (acres, feet, or number) to be applied and location – stand and area within stand if applicable	NRCS Practices – Location of Practices described in the ‘ Management Recommendation – NRCS Practices ’ section specified above	
Schedule for implementation – month and year	Resource Inventory Maps – NRCS will supply to consulting forester prior to plan development to inform plan development	
Site specific specifications and/or job sheet – these are to be followed for successful completion of the practice for that site	VSWI - Vermont State Significant Wetlands	
	Biotics – Nongame & Natural Heritage Program Rare, T+E Species and Natural Communities	
	Deer Wintering Areas – State of Vermont	
Environmental Evaluation – CPA 52	Soils Map with Map Unit Symbols	
CPA 52 Form accompanies Forest Management Plan and has been reasonably completed by the Consulting Forester		

County Forester Notes:

Useful references for foresters:

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