

ILLINOIS FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (IFMP) OUTLINE of REQUIREMENTS

for Illinois Forestry Development Act, USDA Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program, USDA
NRCS Programs, and American Tree Farm System Program
Forest Management Plans

October 2011

All items listed in this outline must be addressed and included in all Illinois forest management plans for the programs listed above. Plan content may be expanded as appropriate as long as all plans follow the order for the topics and content listed in this outline of requirements with the exception that the plan-writing forester's preference for arrangement of Section 5 *Detailed Stand Descriptions and Analysis* in relation to corresponding Section 6 *Detailed Stand Recommendations*. The attached universal Signatures and Approvals page in reference to the programs listed above will be used for each plan to assist other forestry partners.

1. Cover Page

- A. Landowner's name, address and phone number (e-mail optional)
- B. Plan preparer's name, address and phone number (e-mail optional)
- C. Plan preparation date
- D. Plan acreage
- E. Plan duration and plan expiration date

2. Signatures and Approval Page

3. Forest Management Goals and Resource Concerns

4. Property Location and Description

- A. General land description
 - 1.) Quarter section, section, township, range
 - 2.) Name of township and county
- B. Specify how to access property (include GPS coordinates)
- C. Adjacent land use to the north, south, east, and west of this property
- D. Land use and/or management history
- E. Acknowledgement of easements, legal land designations, or encumbrances

5. Detailed Stand Descriptions and Analysis

- A. Existing forestland
 - 1.) Stand # and acreage
 - 2.) Topographic features and aspect
 - 3.) Soils
 - a. Soil Mapping Units
 - b. Site Index
 - c. Annual timber productivity or yield (bf/ac or ft³/ac)
 - 4.) SAF Forest Cover Type, forest site type, or IL Nat. Community Type
 - 5.) Stand age class or structure

- 6.) Tree size classes and canopy position
- 7.) Invasive and/or exotic species
(Provide separate assessments for woody and herbaceous species)
 - a. Species present and relative size
 - b. Percent ground and/or canopy cover
- 8.) Advance regeneration and understory conditions
- 9.) Forest inventory data (Stand and Stock Tables)
 - a. Stand-level summary data
 - a.1. Trees/acre
 - a.2. Basal area/acre
 - a.3. Volume/acre
 - a.4. Quadratic mean diameter (QMD)
 - a.5. Stocking level
 - a.6. Percent stocking
 - b. Species-level summary data, by stand
 - b.1. Trees/acre
 - b.2. Basal area/acre
 - b.3. Volume/acre
 - b.4. Average diameter
- 10.) Timber quality and timber production assessment
- 11.) Timber harvest or forest practices history
- 12.) Active conservation practices or projects
- B. Afforestation or reforestation land (if applicable)
 - 1.) Stand or field # and acreage
 - 2.) Describe existing vegetative cover
 - 3.) Topographic features and aspect
 - 4.) Site limitations
 - 5.) Soils
 - a. Soil Mapping Units
 - b. Site index
 - c. Annual timber productivity or yield (bf/ac or ft³/ac)
 - d. Soil drainage class

6. Detailed Stand Recommendations

- A. Existing forestland
 - 1.) Stand-specific objectives
 - 2.) Narrative description of silvicultural treatments necessary to achieve stand objectives and desired future conditions
 - 3.) Appropriate quantified treatment targets based upon stand objectives, silviculture, and desired future conditions
 - a. Stocking or Density
 - a.1. Basal area to remove/retain
 - a.2. Avg. # of crop trees/acre to release/retain
 - a.3. Avg. # trees/acre to remove/retain
 - b. Desired species composition
 - c. Desired stocking percent
 - d. Exotic/Invasive species control measures and required treatment targets

- e. Underplanting specifications
 - e.1 Planting stock species
 - e.2. Planting stock type, source, and quantity
 - e.3. Location and Spacing
 - e.4. Site preparation
 - e.5. competing vegetation control and maintenance
 - f. Quantified wildlife habitat specifications
 - g. Advance regeneration specifications, composition, and quantity
 - h. Prescribed burning specifications or plan, if applicable
 - 4.) Timber harvest schedule and harvest projections
- B. Afforestation or reforestation land (if applicable)
 - 1.) Planting stock species
 - 2.) Planting stock type, source, and quantity
 - 3.) Planting stock size or specifications (other than required)
 - 4.) Planting method
 - 5.) Site preparation specifications and cover crop needs
 - 6.) Row spacing (between and within)
 - 7.) Vegetation control and maintenance
 - 8.) Post-planting care and management
 - 9.) Minimum performance standards
 - a. Survival of planted stock per acre
 - b. Suppression of grasses and weeds

7. Conservation Opportunities, Constraints and Concerns

- A. Recreation and aesthetics
 - 1.) Address landowner's goals and objectives
 - 2.) Visual impacts (aesthetics) or recreational use impacts resulting from applied management activities (if any)
- B. Air, soil, and water quality conservation
 - 1.) Review existing issues
 - 2.) Prescribe site-specific Illinois Forestry Best Management Practices necessary to conserve soil and water quality
- C. Wetland protection
 - 1.) Presence and location of possible wetlands on the property. The IFMP is not an official determination of wetlands (See instruction under – 10. D.)
 - 2.) Management activities necessary to protect streams, ponds, or Wetlands
 - 3.) Prescribe site-specific Illinois Forestry Best Management Practices necessary to conserve wetland functions and features
- D. Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity
 - 1.) Address landowner's specific goals and objectives
 - 2.) Consistent with IDNR State Wildlife Action Plan
- E. Forest health and protection
 - 1.) Detection and/or management of existing and eminent insects and diseases
 - 2.) Implications of relevant or existing invasive/exotic species
 - 3.) Physical or environmental aspects
 - 4.) Livestock management and/or exclusion recommendations if applicable

- F. Threatened and endangered species
 - 1.) Search accepted federal and state databases for T&E species
 - 2.) Explain records or facts of existing and likely T&E species
 - 3.) Management implications or constraints of existing T&E species
 - 4.) Management for federally listed species requiring habitat protection
- G. Identify and Protect Special Sites
 - 1.) Summarize findings from field reconnaissance with regard to special sites including those of unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological, or ecological characteristics
 - 2.) Provide protection and mitigation measures from planned forest management activities for documented special sites

8. Planned Management Activity Schedule (of all required forestry practices)

- A. Prioritize all practices from all stands over 10 years in a table format
- B. Use one table row for each unique treatment in order of treatment priority
- C. Use table format and include information under specified column headings
 - 1.) Year treatment needed
 - 2.) Stand
 - 3.) Treatment description
 - 4.) NRCS practice code
 - 5.) Treatment units
 - 6.) IFDA requirement? (yes or no)
 - 7.) IFDA Cost-share program eligibility? (yes or no)
 - 8.) IFDA Cost-share program rates
 - 9.) Treatment completion date

9. Important Considerations Specific to IDNR Program (Include in Plan)

- A. Management Plan entitles owner or subsequent owners, pending availability
 - 1.) Eligible for technical assistance from the IDNR forester
 - 2.) Eligible for no-cost IDNR state nursery stock, pending availability
 - 3.) Eligible for cost-share funds to help implement planned practices
- B. Management Plan requires owner or subsequent owners
 - 1.) Afforested/reforested areas must maintain minimum stocking level of 300 live, desirable trees per acre during establishment
 - 2.) Repay all cost-share monies if property is decertified
 - 3.) Never remove IDNR state nursery stock with the roots attached
 - 4.) Approve timber harvest marking or operations with your IDNR Forester if not specifically outlined in approved plan
 - 5.) Modify the plan or practices within plan period only with approval by both the landowner and IDNR Forester and documented in writing
 - 6.) Return biennial review letter to retain participation in IFDA program
 - 7.) Protect plan acreage from wildfire
 - 8.) Exclude any plan acreage accessible to livestock unless approved
 - 9.) To implement this plan according to the activity schedule and not contingent upon state or federal funding
 - 10.) Notify IDNR within 30 days of address or ownership changes

10. Important Considerations Specific to USDA-NRCS Programs (Include in Plan)

- A. All practices installed under NRCS programs and assistance must achieve IL NRCS Practice Standards and Specifications as posted in the Illinois FOTG Section IV
- B. All practices installed under NRCS assistance must be maintained throughout the practice life to avoid repayment of program dollars
- C. Forest Management Plans (FMP) funded for development under NRCS-EQIP must meet all Client and NRCS Field Office deliverables stated in the FMP CAP-106 Criteria as posted in the Illinois FOTG Section III
- D. For plans that indicate the presence or absence of wetlands, the following statement will be included: *“The IFMP is not an official determination of wetlands. If plans exist to make an area possible to plant a crop, inquiry should be made at the local USDA Service Center to determine the impact on eligibility for USDA benefits. If any activity that constitutes a discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands or other waters, request for a jurisdictional determination from the local office of the Corps of Engineers should be made prior to starting the work.”*

11. Plan Maps (copy-ready on 8.5 x 11 inch paper)

- A. Property map
 - 1.) North arrow and legend
 - 2.) Map with landowner name, township, county, and scale
 - 3.) Depict property and stand boundaries, roads, fields, water, and features
 - 4.) Aerial photo having minimum scale of 1" = 660' or 1:7920
 - 5.) GPS coordinates location
- B. Soils map
 - 1.) North arrow and legend
 - 2.) Map with landowner name, township, county, and scale
 - 3.) Forest areas and soil mapping units, roads, fields, water, and features
 - 4.) Aerial photo having minimum scale of 1:16,000 or larger
 - 5.) GPS coordinates location
- C. A combined Soils & Property Map using larger, 1"=660' scale may be used.

12. Appendices

- A. Glossary of technical terminology
- B. Documents cited in the body of the plan
- C. Forest inventory data or report

IFMP Outline of Requirements developed August 2011 by P. Deizman (IDNR)(editor), W. Conn (NRCS), R. Wagoner (ATFS), and J. Hayek (Univ. of IL) based on review, consideration and coordination of: previous Forest Stewardship Plan standards for the Illinois Forestry Development Act; US Forest Service Forest Stewardship Standards and Guidelines; USDA-NRCS 106 CAP Forest Management Plan Criteria; AFF American Tree Farm System Sustainability Criteria..