

NH NRCS Forest Management Plan Checklist for TSP's

Guide Sheets and Forms (Schedule of Operations Form, Cultural Resources, Example CPA-52)

Several Guide Sheets are available at: http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=NH

efotg Directions-Click on a county, Open Section III -Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria/ Forest Management Plan Criteria Activity Code 106

Background and Site Information

- 1 Landowner information – name, address, operation, size
- 2 Location and plan map of parcel
- 3 Documentation of existing practices
- 4 Past harvest history

Client Objectives, *which may include these considerations and others*

- 1 Expected income
- 2 Forest stand improvement
- 3 Wildlife habitat/riparian areas
- 4 Access (only to areas with planned practices within 5 yrs)
- 5 Recreation (doesn't justify forest trails practice)
- 6 Controlling Invasive Plants (address before TSI)
- 7 Pollinator Habitat and Protection

Existing Conditions

- Resource assessment results (condition of trails and landings, erosion, wetland/stream impacts, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, stocking rates, wildlife areas, and others that may be needed) include all resource concerns noted on a map.
- Identify resource concerns based on an inventory to assess these concerns and opportunity for treatment. The inventory will typically include forest management unit and stand boundaries, site index, basal area, species, size class, wood product potential, soil conditions, slopes, topography, aspect, natural and cultural features, roads, risk of insect and disease infestation, fish and wildlife species and habitat elements, noxious and invasive species, water quality and other important features as applicable.
- Forest management plan map (stand map) – boundaries, fields, scale, north arrow, stand boundaries, appropriate map symbols.
- Soils map – legend, interpretations <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Future Management Options

- Document recommendations for long term (10-20+ yrs) and short term objectives (1-5 yrs). Goals such as stocking, basal area, species composition, wildlife, pollinator habitat, invasive plant control, wetland restoration, recreation, roads, trails, landings etc. should be located on a stand map where practices/activities are recommended to meet future goals.
- Identify recommendations the landowner wants to implement in the next 1-5 years on a plan map (USGS topo preferred). Include: when the practice will be applied (month and year), and the extent (acres or number) that will be applied. (NRCS Plan of Operations Form). The following list of practices is available for your consideration.

- Access Control (472) (Each) (heavy metal gate)**
- Conservation Cover (327) (Acres) (seeding down trails & landings)**
- Critical Area Planting (342) (Acres) (difficult planting sites which require matting)**
- Early Successional Habitat Development (647) (Acres) (bronto, chainsaw, brushhog, mowing)**
- Forest Trails and Landings (655) (Linear Feet) (12 foot width)**
- Forest Stand Improvement (666) (Acres) (crop tree release, thinning)**
- Pest Management (595) (Invasive Plants) (Acres) (include species and % cover)**
- Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643)**
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391) (Acres) (Include Species to be planted)**
- Stream Crossing (578) (Each) (specify location and width of stream, not type of crossing)**
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (Acres) (Scarification for white pine)**
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (Include species to be planted)**
- Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) (Each) (apple tree release)**
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (Acre) (mast tree release)**
- Wetland Enhancement (659) (live stakes & seeding for removal of wetland trails)**

NH Natural Heritage Bureau-Submit a data request using the data check tool for the property and request Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals Data.

https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/

Cultural Resources- For plans where “Ground Breaking Practices are Planned” – these include large scale plantings with plowing or container stock, re-grading roads, creating new roads and trails, stream crossings etc.

The following are NOT ground disturbing: Timber Stand Improvement, Invasive Plant Control (Pest Management), Tree and Shrub planting (bare-root plantings).

Obtain a cultural resources review form from NH eFOTG fill out the first 3 sections for the property and include this form with the plan provided to the field office. For questions contact NH Cultural Resources Coordinator via email donald.richard@nh.usda.gov

An Environmental Evaluation (EE) (CPA 52) - estimated environmental effects for practices which are to be implemented in the short term (1-5 yrs) should be clearly documented on the EE (CPA-52 form). An example form for a typical NH plan is available. Practices which have short term and/or long term negative effects such as forest trails, stream crossings, and impacts to wetlands need to be documented as such on the EE. This doesn't mean we can't do the project but that we clearly understood the levels of impacts before implementation.

3. Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the Forest Management Plan and discussion with the landowner to explain the findings and various sections. Copies may also be distributed to UNH Cooperative Extension at the request of the landowner or through a partnership agreement with NRCS.

4. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office: Complete Hardcopy and Electronic copy of the client's plan (MsWord copy). Schedule of Operations Digital Conservation Plan Map with stand boundaries, management units, features, and structural practices located. Digital Soils Map. CPA 52. Cultural Resources Review Form. Determination of Findings from NH Heritage Bureau