

## Forest Management Plans



### ***What is a forest management plan ?***

It is an orderly written document outlining the how you will achieve your property management goals.

It involves deciding how to use / manage your woodlot by evaluating its potential in consideration of the specific objectives of landowner, and then making plans for reaching these goals.

In its simplest form, a management plan is a **blue print** for your woodlot.



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### **Why have a forest management plan ?**

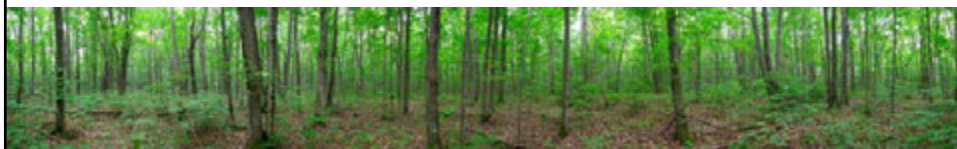
Good management practice...

Requires that you think about what you want to do on your property and learn about the different management options that will help you achieve your objectives;

An important part of developing a plan involves preparing an inventory of your forest;

Most landowners have limited time and money to spend on their forest, and that means you must make careful use of the resources that you do have.

Required for MFTIP, Forest Certification, EOMF Certification



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



Prepare one plan! A comprehensive resource management plan that will meet all your personal objectives - recreational, business activities, and tax needs (MFTIP).

A good landowner friendly guide to use is the "A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas".

Is a simple – straight forward planning guide

Planning guide used for the MFTIP program.

The management plan template in the guide is available in electronic format.

Website < [ontario.ca/MFTIP](http://ontario.ca/MFTIP) >

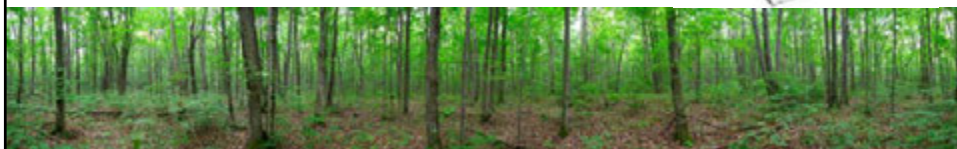


## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### Main components of a management plan...

1. Property description and location;
2. Management history and landscape importance;
3. Objectives and strategies;
4. Resource inventory;
5. Schedule of activities; and
6. Record, monitor and plan update.



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### 1. Property Description & Location

Legal description (lot, concession, township, etc.), acreage, and contact information about the legal owner

Maps (aerial photos) indicating the location and showing the physical features of the woodlot.

- MNR - Land Information Ontario (LIO) : Make A Map
- County websites
- Google Maps

For example, show property boundaries, fence lines, survey posts, forest compartments (types of forest cover), and other natural (wetlands, streams) and physical features (roads, trails).



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*

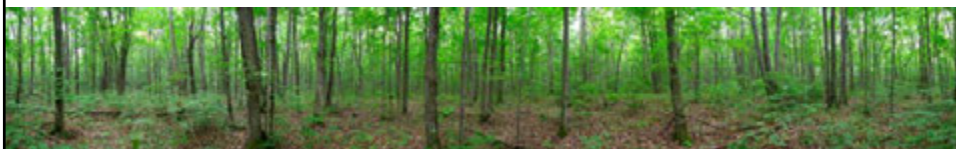


### 2. Property History & Landscape Importance

History - provide a description of the development of the property (i.e., past owners, survey, details regarding boundaries, etc.).

Include activities that have taken place on the property relevant to the management plan you are preparing. For example - past harvesting operations, wildlife projects, tree planting, road or trail construction, etc.

Landscape importance - take a look at how your woodlot fits into the surrounding landscape.



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### 3. Objectives and strategies

Set your **objectives** for the management and development of the woodlot over a period a 10 year period.

Set realistic objectives! Remember Mother Nature didn't make all woodlots equal!

When finalizing objectives must assess your financial resources, availability of time, knowledge and physical characteristics of your property.

Identify the **strategies** on how you will achieve your objectives



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### 4. Resource Inventory

Four main inventory components include: forest cover; physical features; wildlife; and vegetation

For example, a basic forest cover inventory would include:  
species composition, ages, heights, stocking, density (basal area), site class,

Enhanced forest inventory may include:

estimate of quantity (volumes);

estimate of quality (Acceptable / Unacceptable Growing Stock by products - saw log, pulp, etc.);

soils; and future growth & yield projections;

ecological land classification





## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



### 5. Schedule of Activities – what you plan to do

Provide a description of, and the timing for, the activities to be carried out on the property in the plan.

- sustainable forestry under good forestry practices;
- fish-wildlife habitat projects, restoration projects, recreation;
- trails-roads, nature appreciation, infrastructure, monitoring.

When preparing your schedule you should always be able to answer - **what, why, where, when** and **how much** about each activity.

If you can not, then you need to go back and check to see if you are being consistent with your management plan and that your objectives are realistic.



## Forest Management Plans - *continued*



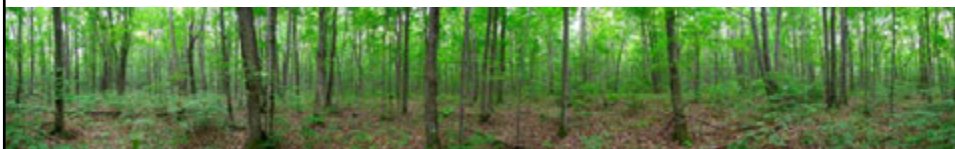
### 6. Record, Monitor & Plan Update

#### Record your activities

- record details of activities, costs associated with operations completed, trees planted, areas thinned, revenues generated from your forest, inventories completed etc.
- all are simply 'good business' practices
- information can be used to update the property history

**Monitor** - a measure success/failure of meeting objectives.

**Update your plan** on a regular basis (e.g., 10 year planning cycle) or when significant events, changes take place.



## Information - Publications



MNR – Forest Publications  
 The Forest Shop  
 Eastern Ontario Model Forest - EOMF  
 LandOwner Resource Centre  
 Ontario Woodlot Association

A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas  
 A Silvicultural Guide to Managing Southern Ontario Forests  
 Ontario Tree Marking Guide  
 Making Cents Out of Forest Inventories  
 Extension Notes Series



## Seek Assistance



### Forest Consultants and Professional Expertise

- Forest Services Directory for Landowners [www.ontariowoodlot.com](http://www.ontariowoodlot.com)
- Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA)
- Managed Forest Plan Approvers (local forest consultants)

### Woodlot Owner Related Associations

- Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA)
- Forests Ontario
- Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association
- Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario

