

Section VII: Woodland Resource Action Plan

Plan Specifications and Appendix

*Woodland Resource Action Plans (WRAPs) are intended to provide a good description of the current and potential values of woodland, and a blueprint of activities to reach woodland owner’s objectives to maintain and improve their woods. **Bolded items below are minimum requirements** for approval for cost-share reimbursement. Other items may be suitable to include based on landowner needs and wishes. The checklist in the appendix to this document contains only the minimum required items.*

Cover page:

The following information must be clearly shown on a cover page: the **Landowner name, mailing address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address** if available; the **Plan preparer’s name, mailing address, telephone number(s), and e-mail** (if available), along with the **Plan preparation date**, and the **location of parcel** (at a minimum show the **town, county, and tax map and lot #'s**) The **Planning period** (minimum of 10 years) and the **expiration/renewal date of the Plan** must be stated. **Total acreage of the parcel and total wooded acreage must be shown on the cover page.*** The **plan preparer’s signature** must be included. The **landowner’s signature** is optional on the Plan itself, but is **required on an attached Stewardship Pledge**.

*The “total wooded acreage” is for Forest Stewardship Program reporting purposes, and may not be the same as the “classified forest land” acreage for Tree Growth Tax Law purposes.

Landowner(s) management goals and objectives:

A **statement of the owner’s management goals and objectives** must be included in the Plan, in a stand-alone section that is easily found.

Stewardship Pledge The Stewardship Pledge must be signed by the landowner and is considered a part of the Plan.

A **Schedule of activities to be implemented during the planning period** will summarize recommended activities by parcel, stand or other geographic location, as applicable. This can be a stand-alone page, or included with other pages. It is preferable to prominently display this section near the beginning of the Plan. **The column headings in the following template are required.** Exact format may vary, but plan readers should be able to easily find this information.

Template for Schedule of Activities:

<u>Activity name</u> (should be same as used in Prescription)	<u>Extent</u> of the activity (acres, feet, miles, etc.)	Recommended <u>time frame</u> (month, year, or range as	<u>Stand Location:</u> name or number (should	<u>Cost/income</u> :: + (expected to yield income above cost) -- (expected to be a net	(Optional) Priority: High. Medium, or
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section)		applicable)	be same as used in Description section and stand type map); or other location as applicable	expense) = (break-even) ? (unable to determine at this time) [At a minimum, use the symbols; may use text if preferred.]	Low

Maps:

At a **minimum**, one Forest type and stand map shall be prepared for the parcel, including the following **required items**:

- **property boundaries, correct to best of landowner/forester knowledge**
- **location of water bodies (incl. intermittent/ephemeral streams and stream channels that affect forestry activities) and non-forested wetlands**
- **forest stands, typed (at a minimum) SW/MW/HW**
- **non-forest land uses** (may be broken out to internal parcel lines, ledges and barrens, building areas, gravel or other mining areas, utility rights of way, roads, agriculture, and other, as applicable)
(NOTE: forested/wooded wetlands must typically be identified and described as forest stands, not considered “non-forest”, even if stocking is low);
- **wildlife habitat(s) (if any) designated by the DIF&W (this must correlate to the E&SWH item in the Legal Considerations section)**
- **specific locations where any area-based rules, regulations or other legal considerations** (for example, Statewide Standards or Shoreland Zoning) **affect timber harvesting and/or related management activities (this must correlate to the items in the Legal Considerations section)**

All maps must include:

- **north arrow**
- **preparation date**
- **legend**
- **map preparer or source**
- **map preparer’s signature (for the primary forest type/stand map)**
- **scale**

Land use cover typing on the Map must match the Stand Descriptions and Schedule of Activities. Additional maps showing soils information, general location in the landscape, community or watershed, or proposed activity locations are optional, and recommended for parcels where the amount of information makes a single map hard to read. These maps may be in electronic OR paper formats, or both. Map preparers who are not licensed surveyors are strongly advised to include a disclaimer such as “Not a legal survey” somewhere on the map.

In addition, federal reporting requires that the woodlands covered by Woodland Resource Action Plans be mapped in a Geographic Information System (GIS). This

information will be considered confidential, the same as any and all personally identifiable information (PII) in the WRAP. The polygons are being collected for federal reporting purposes only, and will be used in an aggregate form only.

There are several options for plan writers to meet this requirement:

- a) A list of the latitude and longitude coordinates of the corners of the woodlands covered by the WRAP. The coordinates must be listed in a consecutive order around the perimeter of each parcel. The datum (NAD 83 or WGS 84) must be stated.
- b) Provide a polygon shapefile of the woodlands covered by the WRAP, with the following coordinate system: Datum NAD83, Projection UTM Zone 19N. The shapefiles must be attributed with sufficient information to uniquely identify the landowner with the woodlands in the plan.
- c) Provide a Google Earth .kml or .kmz file of the woodlands covered by the WRAP. Make sure to use an appropriate scale that clearly depicts the woodland on current aerial photography. Mark enough vertices in the polygon so the woodland is depicted accurately. Include sufficient information in the label so the land owner is uniquely identified with the woodland.

Other methods of meeting the GIS requirement may be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact Greg Miller at (207) 287-8121, or greg.t.miller@maine.gov, with any questions regarding these requirements.

General conditions of woodlot:

A statement (or statements) describing the type and current condition of physical evidence for each boundary line segment is required. The statement(s) must include an indication of need to establish and/or maintain the line segment, and the recommended activities to do so within the planning period. Line segments with similar conditions and recommended activities may be combined in a single statement. Recommendations for boundary line activities may be included here or in the Description/Prescription section, and should be identified in the Schedule of Activities.

Soils information, at a minimum must include a listing of the soils series, and their approximate extent/locations, found on the parcel. The section must include information on the overall suitability of each soil series for growing particular tree species or species groups. A separate map may be used to show the location of the soils series.

Operability: optimum seasons/conditions for forestry activities for the parcel as a whole, or for areas related to recommended activities. This information may be incorporated in the Soils section, or described separately in another section.

General property description and history, which must include topography, slopes, general hydrology (including streams/stream channels correlating with map), primary past land use(s), term of ownership (at least of the current owner), and recent harvests and/or natural disturbances. Additional items such as terrain, aspect, watershed location, etc. may be added.

Describe access related items including: condition of roads and trails both on the parcel and connecting to public road system; seasonal or other limitations to access; deeded or other rights of way, etc. The name of the nearest public or private all-weather road must be included.

An acreage listing including total parcel, all forest (may be broken into “classified” and “non-classified” forest for Tree Growth Tax Law (TGTL) purposes), all water bodies and all other non-forest land uses (may be further broken out as other water bodies, non-forested wetlands, ledges and barrens, building areas, gravel or other mining areas, utility right-of-ways, roads, agriculture, and other, as applicable). Figures should be calculated at least to the nearest acre, but may be shown as square footage if appropriate (roads, building areas, for example). This item will be particularly helpful for woodland owners who use the WRAP for TGTL purposes.

Stand Descriptions and Prescriptions:

Include a brief statement describing actual **field methods** used develop the Plan. Any terms or labels used for stand identification and/or typing nomenclature should be clearly defined either in the Plan itself or in a separate Glossary or Key.

Stand descriptions must include:

- **cover type** (minimum of SW, MW and HW- **Land use cover typing must match the Map and Schedule of Activities.**)
- **acreage** of the stand
- **dominant tree species and size classes**
- **relative stocking**
- **condition of understory/regeneration**
- **description of stand quality**, related to current and potential forest products.

An estimate of standing volume, with an indication of range of accuracy of the estimate, may be included. Other stand-specific information such as age, health, growth rates and relative volume and value of standing forest products (veneer or other saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, etc) may also be included.

Silvicultural Prescription(s) for the planning period (minimum of ten years) recommended to meet landowner's objectives, specific to each identified forest stand, including activities to regenerate, improve and harvest timber, as appropriate. If no silvicultural activities are recommended for any given stand for the planning period, the plan must explicitly state that. The prescription(s) must specifically identify the stand(s) for which it is written, matching the Map and Schedule of Activities, and be easily located by reference on the stand map. Silvicultural terms will be appropriately used and defined.

Prescriptions must include:

- the type and purpose(s) of the treatment,
- tree species affected/targeted
- some quantitative description of treatment intensity (e.g. number/spacing of trees removed or left, stocking target, percent crown closure) to describe how stand structure will change as a result of the prescription.

Prescriptions may also include a description of outcomes, such as expected volume and/or value yields.

Forest Health Assessment: A stand-alone section must describe the known presence or absence and, if present or imminent, the current or potential effects of:

- invasive plant & insect species;
- other (native) insects and diseases;
- damage from past weather events and/or equipment operation;
- other forest health items affecting landowner goals and objectives.

Include any recommended actions to manage, control or monitor specific threats to forest health.

These items may additionally be incorporated into the stand descriptions and prescriptions, as appropriate.

Suggested reference to include: *For more information, contact the MFS Division of Forest Health and Monitoring at (207) 287-2431 or visit*

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/index.htm ; or contact your local MFS District Forester.

Best Management Practices for protecting water quality must be described, including measures specific to the recommended activities and/or recommendations to repair pre-existing conditions. If no specific best management practices are recommended for the planning period, a statement to that effect is required. For example, if an existing road or trail condition is or may be negatively affecting water quality, describe the BMPs recommended to correct the situation. Details such as culvert sizing or exact waterbar placement are optional.

Desired future conditions: A brief parcel, stand or compartment-specific statement of desired future conditions, as applicable to at least the planning period or beyond, which may include some or all of the following elements: future forest type, size class or age,

structure, forest products and grades, species composition, as well as desired recreational, wildlife habitat, aesthetic or other landowner-desired outcomes. This can be contrasted with the likely future condition if no action is taken; these can be the same, if appropriate. Other recommended activities, such as wildlife habitat practices or access improvements, may also be included here and on the Schedule of Activities. Alternative recommendations and/or constraints to implementation may also be included.

Legal considerations affecting forestry activities recommended in the Plan.

The Plan should not include laws in their entirety, but **must include or summarize the applicable parts of the laws that are pertinent to recommended forest management activities on the particular parcel.** This section may reference an appendix, other documents, publications and/or web sites, but at a minimum **the following items must be addressed:**

NOTE: This particular template for the Legal Considerations section is optional. Plan writers may cover these items in a different order or different sections of the Plan.

HOWEVER, ALL THE ITEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED AS INDICATED IN THE BODY OF THE PLAN, AND PRESENTED IN A READILY ACCESSIBLE WAY.

Suggested Disclaimer: The following statements regarding the applicability of various laws, rules and regulations are for the purpose of helping woodland owners conduct forest management activities, and do not represent legal advice.

- **Deed restrictions:** *Deed restrictions are encumbrances on the property and/or specific uses which are recorded at the county Registry of Deeds.
According to the best available knowledge of the landowner (or other sources if applicable), the property IS / IS NOT subject to deed restrictions which affect forest management activities. [If it IS, summarize the deed restrictions and their effect on forest management activities]*
- **Easements:** *Easements may include legally conveyed conservation/land use restrictions, utility lines, public rights of way, and the like.
According to the best available knowledge of the landowner (or other sources if applicable), the property IS / IS NOT subject to easements which affect forest management activities. [If it IS, summarize the elements of the easements that affect forest management activities]*
- **Tree Growth Tax Law (TGTL).** *TGTL is a statewide “current use” property tax program, administered by the local assessor (or Maine Revenue Service, Property Tax Division, for properties in the Unorganized Townships). Valuation of land classified as “forest” is based on its ability to grow timber instead of so-called “highest and best use.”*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

__ Yes, this parcel is, or is planned to be, enrolled in the TGTL. The primary landowner goal for the acres classified as forest land under this Plan is to grow trees to be harvested for commercial use. This Plan includes activities to regenerate, improve and harvest a standing crop of timber.

___ *No, this parcel is not enrolled in the TGTL* [Note: some properties may have woodlands enrolled in the Open Space or Farmland current use programs. If so, summarize any elements of those laws that affect forest management activities.]

For more information about the TGTL, go to <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/pubs/bull19text.htm> (or page in Plan appendix).

- **Forest Operations Notifications (FON) and Landowner Report: MFS Rules Chapter 26.** *These rules require that landowners notify the Maine Forest Service of planned timber harvesting. A FON is valid for up to 2 years and is not a permit. Each FON has a unique number which is used to track wood transport and marketing.*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

___ *No timber harvesting where a FON or Landowner Report would be required is recommended in this Plan.*

___ *A timber harvest is recommended; therefore, a FON must be submitted to the MFS prior to starting the operation. A Confidential Landowner Report of harvesting activities will be required at the end of each year from landowners who have an active/open Forest Operation Notification.*

Forest Operation Notifications can now be filed online using the Forest Online Resource Tool (FOResT). Landowners, Designated Agents, Foresters, and Loggers will need to create individual accounts in FOResT to participate in harvest notifications. Please visit https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/rules_regs/forest_home.html for instructions on how to complete a harvest notification using FOResT. Visit <https://mfs.forest.maine.gov/> to create your FOResT account and begin your notification.

The complete Chapter 26 Rules may be found at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_26_rules.pdf (or page in Plan appendix).

- **Clearcutting: MFS Rules Chapter 20.** *These rules regulate the establishment, arrangement and regeneration of clearcuts. Clearcuts are harvests which leave an area 5 acres or greater with less than a minimum stocking of trees.*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

___ *This management plan does not recommend any harvest activities which would result in clearcuts under the Chapter 20 definitions.*

__ This management plan recommends harvest activities which would result in clearcuts under the Chapter 20 definitions. [Summarize the activities and state the actions needed to comply with Chapter 20].

The complete Chapter 20 Rule on Clearcutting may be found at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_20_rules_05012014.pdf (or page in Plan appendix).

- **Water bodies and water quality.** Protection of water bodies and water quality occurs through different rules which vary with location and type of activity. Waterbodies typically include saltwater, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and nonforested wetlands. The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law, the Protection and Improvement of Waters Act and the Natural Resources Protection Act apply to all woodlands. BMPs should be utilized appropriately to comply with these regulations. The rules highlighted below regulate timber harvesting and related activities within/near water bodies.

For this property, the applicable jurisdiction is:

__ This parcel is located in a municipality that has adopted Statewide Standards (SWS) for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas. These standards are administered by Maine Forest Service (MFS Rules Chapter 21.) [Note: in some cases (“Option II” towns) Code Enforcement Officers and MFS share enforcement responsibilities.]

__ This parcel is located in a municipality that enforces its own Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (SLZ), through the municipal Code Enforcement Officer. In such towns, Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) standards, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection also apply. [Note: municipalities that enforce their own Shoreland Zoning Ordinance may adopt SWS at a later date. Check status when activities take place.]

__ This parcel is subject to Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) standards regarding timber harvesting in shoreland areas. The LUPC standards are administered by Maine Forest Service (MFS Rules Chapter 27).

[Summarize the applicable rules that affect forest management activities. If there are no recommended activities subject to SWS, SLZ, or LUPC rules, so state.]

The complete MFS Chapter 21 Rules may be found at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_21_rules_effective_01012016.pdf (or page in Plan appendix).

The complete MFS Chapter 27 Rules may be found at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_27_rules.pdf

(or page in Plan appendix).

Note: Activities involving cutting trees for reasons other than timber harvesting (e.g. clearing vegetation for development or associated with residential uses, or conversion to agriculture) are regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection and the local Code Enforcement Officer, or the LUPC.

- **Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) standards: MFS Rules Chapter 27 (optional for woodlots in areas not subject to LUPC jurisdiction).** These rules regulate timber harvesting and related activities in unorganized and deorganized areas, in both shoreland and other Protection Sub-districts.

Indicate one of the following conditions:

___ **No portion of this property is subject to LUPC standards for timber harvesting and related activities.**

___ **All or some portions of this property (shown on the map) are subject to LUPC standards for timber harvesting and related activities. These standards are administered by the Maine Forest Service. The following Protection subdistricts are found on the property: [List the sub-districts and summarize the standards that apply to this Plan.]**

The complete MFS Chapter 27 Rules may be found at

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_27_rules.pdf

(or page in Plan appendix).

Note: Cutting trees for reasons other than timber harvesting and related activities (e.g. clearing vegetation for development) is regulated by the LUPC.

- **Essential or Significant Wildlife Habitats (EWH, SWH) as designated by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIF&W).** EWH or SWH may or may not have regulatory impacts on forest management activities, depending on whether they have been legislatively adopted and mapped (as for example seabird nesting island habitats).

Indicate one of the following conditions:

___ **According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] there are no Essential or Significant Wildlife Habitats identified by DIF&W on this parcel**

___ **According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] the following Essential or Significant Wildlife Habitats identified by DIF&W occur on this parcel, but there are no limitations on the activities**

recommended in this Plan based on their occurrence. [Summarize the Habitats.]

__ According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] the following Essential or Significant Wildlife Habitats occur on this property:

[Summarize the Habitats and the rules and/or other considerations that apply.]

- **Threatened or Endangered Species:** *Federal and/or State Endangered or Threatened Species are designated by the US Department of the Interior and/or the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, and may have protections regarding their habitats and/or restrictions on certain activities near these habitats at certain times of the year.*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

__ According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] there are no Federal or State Threatened or Endangered Species known to inhabit this property

__ According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] the following Federal or State listed Threatened or Endangered Species are known to inhabit this property, but there are no limitations on the activities recommended in this Plan based on the ESA. [Summarize the species known to inhabit the property.]

__ According to [cite source of information (MNAP, Beginning with Habitat, other)] the following Federal and/or State listed Threatened or Endangered Species are known to inhabit this property, and the following limitations on the activities recommended in this Plan are in effect:

[Summarize the Federal and/or State Threatened or Endangered Species known to inhabit the property and the rules and/or other considerations that apply.]

- **Liquidation Harvesting (LQH): MFS Rules Chapter 23.** *This rule regulates timber harvesting on land sold or offered for sale within 5 years of purchase.*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

__ No LQH is recommended in this Plan.

__ A timber harvest is recommended in this Plan that may be regulated by the Chapter 23 Rules.

The complete MFS Chapter 23 Rules may be found at

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/rules_and_regs/chap_23_rules.pdf
(or page in Plan appendix)

- **Local ordinances:** *A number of municipalities have adopted ordinances (other than Shoreland Zoning) that affect timber harvesting. It is always a good idea to check with town officials before proceeding with timber harvesting.*

Indicate one of the following conditions:

__ The property is subject to the following restrictions under the [ORDINANCE NAME] for [NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]. [SUMMARIZE THE RESTRICTIONS and ACTIONS NEEDED TO COMPLY]

__ At this time, there are no local ordinances regulating forest management activities on the property.

Regulations can change, and it is the responsibility of the woodland owner to comply with the regulations in effect at the time any forest management activities are conducted. The landowner should engage a private consulting forester to oversee the implementation of these activities as appropriate to ensure compliance.

Long term resource considerations:

The following items **must** be addressed, as required by the National Forest Stewardship Program Standards. The Standards state “the extent to which management plans address these elements will depend upon their prevalence on the property and their importance with respect to the woodland owner’s objectives.” The appendix for Section VII includes a series of sample statements which may be used to meet the minimum standards for these items of the Plan. Plan writers can add to or replace the statements with their own version, as long as all the items are addressed.

Wetlands**Woodland legacy planning information**

Historical, cultural & archaeological sites, other special sites: This item may be addressed by describing any locations in the woodlot with special significance to the landowner or the community, such as scenic views, special trees or stands, or cemeteries, headstones, etc.

Protection from fire**Soil & water quality protection****Biodiversity**

Fish & wildlife issues: This item may be addressed by describing any landowner-identified interests, such as deer habitat or stocking fish in ponds.

Monitoring

Recreational opportunities: This item may be addressed by describing landowner’s stated recreational goals and/or activities, if any.

Aesthetic quality**Carbon sequestration and climate resilience****Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)**

Agroforestry. If agroforestry practices such as silvo-pasture, alley cropping or windbreaks are relevant and important to the woodland owner, they may be included either in the stand descriptions and prescriptions, or as a separate section. For more information on agroforestry check with the [National Agroforestry Center](#), or your local USDA Service center.

APPENDIX for SECTION VII

Check-list of required elements:**__ Cover page:**

- Landowner name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail**
- Plan preparer's name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail**
- Plan preparation date; planning period; plan expiration date**
- Location of parcel--town, county, tax map & lot #s**
- Plan preparer's signature on cover page and map**
- Total wooded acreage**

__ Statement of the owner's management goals and objectives**__ Schedule of Activities to be implemented during the planning period**

- Activity name,**
- extent,**
- stand ID,**
- recommended time frame**
- cost/income indicator.**

__ Map(s)

- Location of water bodies**
- Wildlife habitat identified by DIF&W, if present**
- Forest land: cover types/ stands**
- Non-forest land**
- Specific areas where any legal considerations affect timber harvesting and/or related management activities**
- (all maps): north arrow, preparation date, legend, preparer's name, preparer's signature (on type map), and scale**

__ Spatial information: List of coordinates of vertices of woodlands OR GIS shapefiles OR Google Earth .kmz or .kml files OR other format agreed upon with Landowner Outreach Forester

__ General conditions of woodlot:

- Condition of boundary lines**
- Soils information**
- Operability of ground**
- General property description and history**
- Access**

__ Stand descriptions:

- Field methods statement**
- Cover type, acreage**

- Dominant tree species**
- Size classes**
- Relative stocking**
- Understory/regeneration conditions**
- Description of stand quality**

___ **Stand prescriptions for each described stand:**

- Type & purpose(s) of the treatment**
- Trees species affected/targeted**
- Quantitative description of treatment intensity**
- If none, so stated**

___ **Desired future stand conditions**

___ **BMPs**

___ **Forest health assessment--presence/absence of:**

- Invasive plant and insect species**
- Other (native) insect or disease conditions**
- Damage from past weather events and/or equipment operation;**
- Other forest health items affecting landowner goals and objectives.**
- Activities to manage, control or monitor forest health**

___ **Legal considerations (must address all items in body of the plan)**

- Deed restrictions**
- Easements**
- Tree Growth Tax Law**
- Forest Operations Notifications (FON) and Landowner Report**
- Clearcutting**
- Water bodies and water quality**
- Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) standards (optional for woodlots in areas not subject to LUPC rules)**
- Essential or Significant Wildlife Habitats**
- Threatened & Endangered Species**
- Liquidation Harvesting**
- Local ordinances**

___ **Long term resource considerations:**

- Wetlands**
- Woodland legacy planning information**
- Historical, cultural & archaeological sites**
- Protection from fire**
- Soil & water quality protection**
- Biodiversity**

- Fish & wildlife**
- Monitoring**
- Recreation**
- Aesthetic quality**
- Carbon sequestration and climate change resilience**
- Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)**

__ **Stewardship Pledge**

Long-term resource considerations, sample statements (*in italics*):

Wetlands: *Both forested wetlands and other kinds such as open marshes, bogs or beaver ponds provide habitat, flood control and scenic beauty. For more information, see the book Natural Landscapes of Maine, available from the Maine Natural Areas Program, 207-287-8044 or <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap>; or contact your local MFS District Forester.*

Woodland legacy planning information: *Your land is part of your legacy. Planning for the future of your woods after you are no longer involved is an important part of good stewardship. Woodland legacy planning could, in fact, be the most important step you take as a landowner—not just for your own benefit, but for the benefit of your family, your community and of course for the land itself. Who will own your land and how will it be used? What will your legacy be?*

For more information from the U.S. Forest Service about conservation-based legacy planning, go to www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml.

You may also want to contact the Maine Woodland Owners: 207 626-0005; contact@mainewoodlandowners.org; or visit the Legacy Planning page of their website at <https://www.mainewoodlandowners.org/legacy-planning>. You can purchase the booklet entitled “Creating A Legacy-A Guide to Planning Your Land’s Future” from MWO, at <https://www.mainewoodlandowners.org/store#!/Creating-a-Legacy-A-Guide-to-Planning-Your-Lands-Future/p/43784141/category=2796143>

Historical, cultural & archaeological sites, other special sites: This item may be addressed by describing any locations in the woodlot with special significance to the landowner or the community, such as scenic views, special trees or stands, or cemeteries, headstones, etc. The following statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item:

Stone walls and old cellar holes or foundations are often found in woodlands, as remnants of previous settlement and agriculture. High and dry areas near water bodies may have been pre-historic or Native American dwelling sites. Most properly conducted forest management activities will not harm these resources. Construction of roads, trails or landings, however, could potentially disturb significant sites. If you are interested in finding out more about the history of your woodland, contact the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) at (207) 287-2132 or visit www.maine.gov/mhpc. Tree Farmers are encouraged to contact the MHPC to meet the current Tree Farm Standards.

Protection from fire: *Wildfire is rare in Maine, but can be quite devastating when it occurs. There is a lot you can do to reduce the risk of a wildfire on your woodlot and near your home. For more information on how you can make your home “[Firewise](#),”*

please visit www.maineforestservice.gov or call the Division of Forest Protection at 207-287-4990. Please be careful with all outdoor fires and observe all the open burning laws. If you see a wildfire or smell smoke during a high fire danger day, please call 911 or the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-750-9777.

Soil & water quality protection: *Activities in the woods that involve roads, log landings, and yarding or recreational trails, can sometimes contribute to rutting, soil movement and pollution of the watershed. Improperly conducted logging operations can also cause damage. Use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) greatly reduces this risk. For more information, see the booklet entitled “Best Management Practices for Water Quality,” available from the MFS by calling 1-800-367-0223 or visiting www.maineforestservice.gov ; or contact your local MFS District Forester.*

Biodiversity: *Forested landscapes are homes for more than just trees. No one parcel can provide habitat for all species. However, maintaining or improving existing woodland communities is a desirable goal. Elements of ecological structure such as snags, downed woody material, cavity trees, etc., can enhance biodiversity and a variety of wildlife habitat. For more information, contact the Maine Natural Areas Program at 207-287-8044 or visit <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap>; or contact your local MFS District Forester.*

Fish & wildlife issues: *This item may be addressed by describing any landowner-identified interests, such as deer habitat or stocking fish in ponds. The following sample statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item: There are no (other) specific landowner goals or concerns regarding fish or wildlife. As part of managing according to Stewardship Principles, maintaining a healthy functioning forest will contribute to maintaining healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat. For more information, contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw; or contact your local MFS District Forester.*

Monitoring: *You, your family and/or designated representatives are encouraged to stay engaged with your woodlands. This can take the form of regularly scheduled boundary line maintenance, recreational activities such as hunting or hiking, or following up after completing silvicultural activities to check results. Keeping in touch with your land can help prevent theft or trespass. It can also be rewarding on many levels. Consider keeping a photographic record of the changes your woods go through before, during and after harvests and other management activities. One way to do this is with a picture post. For more information, visit www.picturepost.nh.edu . For more information about monitoring your woods, contact your local MFS District Forester.*

Recreational opportunities: *This item may be addressed by describing landowner’s stated recreational goals and/or activities, if any. The following statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item:*

It is always a good idea to get landowner permission before engaging in recreational activities such as hunting, hiking or ATV or snowmobile use on someone else's land. Maine's Landowner Liability Law gives landowners a high degree of protection when other people use their land. For more information contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw and click on the Quick Link for the Landowner Relations Program/Outdoor Partners.

Aesthetic quality: *Maintaining the beauty of your woodlands may be of high importance to you, as it is for many landowners, especially near dwellings, along trails and special areas. Stewardship can include activities undertaken to create or protect aesthetic qualities. In addition, the visual impact of forestry activities such as timber harvesting can communicate a lot about caring for your woods. Efforts to maintain a harmonious woodland appearance usually pay off in a greater acceptance of silvicultural practices. For more information on logging aesthetics contact the Sustainable Forestry Initiative at (207) 622-9288 or visit www.sfimaine.org.*

Carbon sequestration and climate change resilience: *Among the many benefits provided by forests, removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in trees may have increasing significance in the years to come. As climate change increases the likelihood of severe weather events, the migration of both beneficial and invasive species and new risks to forest health and productivity, good woodland stewardship is the key to preparedness. For more information, check out the Climate Smart Land Network at <http://climatesmartnetwork.org/>*

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI): *FORI are globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological values. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. There is no state or federal government regulation of FORI on private lands.*

How do you know if your woodland is a FORI? There is no central clearinghouse for information on FORI. However, in Maine the best resources are the [Maine Natural Areas Program](#) and the [Maine Historic Preservation Commission](#). If you are interested in finding out more, you or your forester can send a location map to either of these agencies to get information related to FORI in your area.

Most FORI in the U.S. that are globally, nationally or regionally significant have already been identified and protected by state or federal government or have been put under a conservation easement by an environmental nonprofit organization. So you're more likely to be near a FORI than to have one.

Tree Farmers and other woodland owners may incorporate the following statement in their forest management plan to meet the current Tree Farm Standards.

“After careful consideration and research, the Maine Tree Farm Committee has determined that **NO Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) Currently Exist in the State of Maine.”** This statement should clarify misunderstandings about FORI and remove the uncertainty surrounding the subjective nature of the

term's definition. The Committee has adopted this statement as of August 1, 2018.

Things that *might* qualify as FORI: Yellowstone National Park, the Everglades, or the watershed that supplies drinking water for a major metropolitan area, such as New York City.

Things that are ***not*** FORI (in Maine): Canada Lynx habitat, deer wintering areas, fens and bog ecosystems, the watershed that supplies drinking water for the City of Portland.

The MTFC has reviewed the qualifications for FORI and potential locations in Maine, and we have determined that currently there are none here. Please be aware, this could change, as National Tree Farm Standards and definitions are updated. If you have any questions or concerns about addressing FORI, please contact the Maine Tree Farm Committee Chair at chair@mainetreefarm.org.