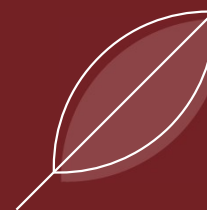
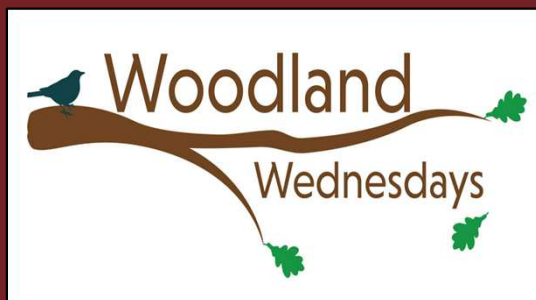


# YOUR FOREST, YOUR FUTURE: CRAFTING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

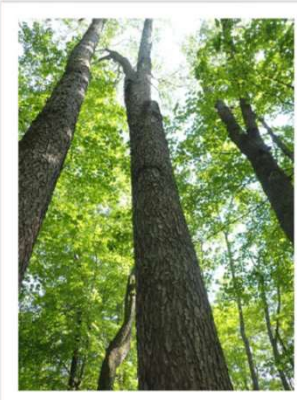


# OUTLINE

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- Why have a woodland stewardship management plan?
- What are your goals and why are they important?
- How to get a management plan prepared?
- Assessing your woodland?
- What are the components of the plan?
- Programs that require a professionally prepared management plan.

# WHY HAVE A WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN?



The Smith Property was dominated by black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) in many areas of the woodland. This species (above and right) offers a great wildlife food source with the cherries it produces in August. It also is a middle value timber species.

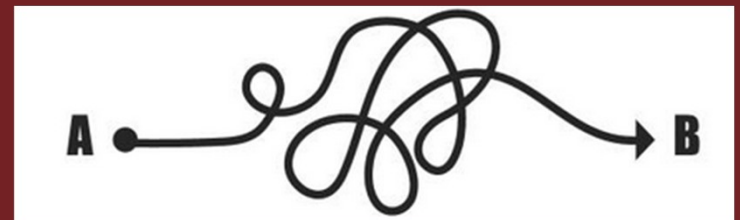
## Woodland Stewardship Management Plan

Smith Property 2025



## Why have a woodland stewardship management plan?

- Your goals will be identified and worked toward.
- A well-prepared plan will help guide purposeful effort.
- Outlines management that will be implemented in logical order.
- Time, funds, and other inputs are efficiently and effectively used.



## Who can benefit from a woodland stewardship management plan?

- Any landowner interested managing their woodland to achieve their goals.
- A plan is beneficial for any size acreage.
- The woodland can be any age(seedling to large saw timber).
- The woodland can be in any condition of health(pristine to highly impacted).

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND  
WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?



## What are your goals and why are they important?

- Goals can be general to very specific.
- They can be short term or long term.
- What do you want to achieve? What is important to you?
- Goals should be practical and manageable given constraints like time, resources and skill.
- They identify the focus of future management, improve decision making and permit measured progress.

Your goals could be.....



Recreation

# Timber Production



# Sugarbush/Maple Syrup Production





## Wildlife Habitat Management and Enhancement



# Wild Game Hunting



## Other Woodland Goals

- Improve woodland health.
- Restoration.
- Conservation easement establishment.
- Non-timber forest products.
- Wildlife watching.
- Ownership for family legacy or investment.



# HOW TO GET A MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARED?



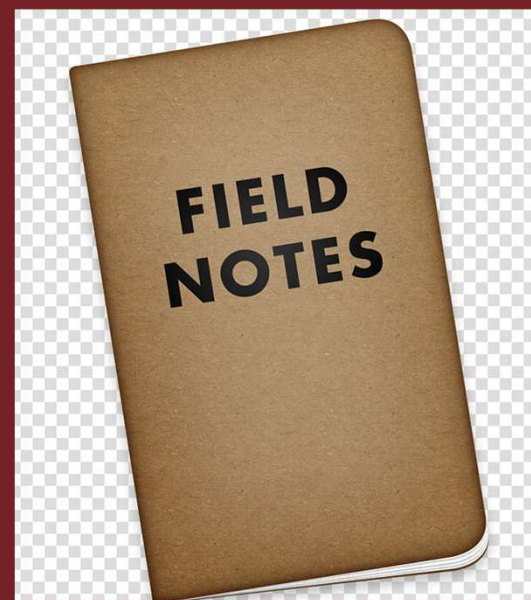
# How to get a management plan prepared?

Hire a forestry consultant.

- Association of Consulting Foresters
- Society of American Foresters
- Ohio Division of Forestry – OFTL Professional forester list
- Natural Resource Conservation Service – technical service provider list



# ASSESSING YOUR WOODLAND



## Assessing your woodland.

Perform a site visit.

- Confirming and marking property boundaries is important (surveys, auditor office mapping tools, phone/GPS apps, talk with neighbors).
- Visit all portions of the woodland looking at current conditions.





Past land use is important to. (talk with previous owners, neighbors, review historical aerial images).



2025

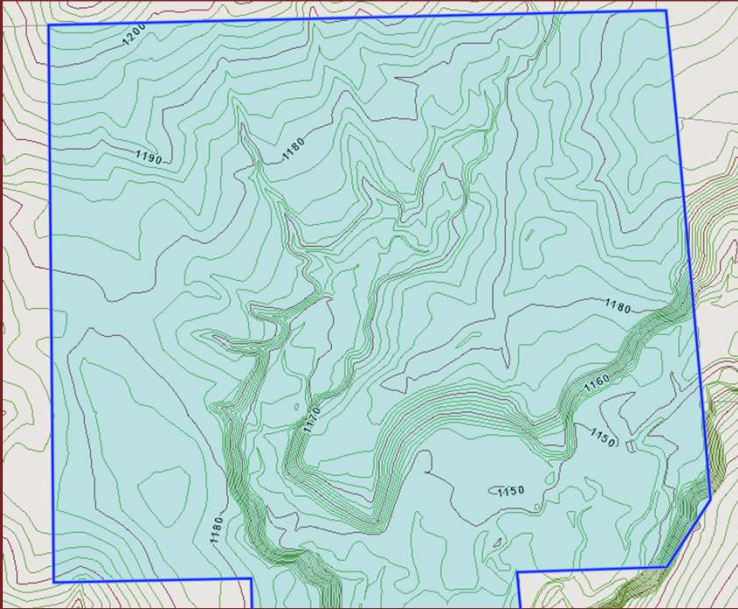


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## What information is collected?

- Different woodland stands are identified.
- Tree species found.
- Woodland health and stresses.





What information is collected?

- Topography.
- Past harvest or management history.
- Factors that may hinder goals.
- Site images.



# WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF THE WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN?



Woodland Stand Description & Management Prescription

| STAND DESCRIPTION                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Stand:                           | A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Size (acres):                                        | 2.4                                      | Dominant Overstory Size Class: | Medium saw timber |
| Topography:                      | Level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Aspect:                                              | South                                    | Primary Timber Type:           | Maple - Cherry    |
| Tree Species:                    | Red maple, sugar maple, black cherry, elm spp., black walnut, American sycamore                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Non-native Invasive Species:     | Honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, privet, burning bush, buckthorn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| General Description/Notes:       | This stand has limited tree species present and is dominated by maple. This limits wildlife habitat and timber prospects. Woody invasive plants are present in large numbers on the woodland floor. Grapevines are also in numbers that affect tree productivity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Regeneration Description:        | Regeneration is limited due to a more closed canopy and the invasive plants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Inventory Method:                | A visual assessment of stem density, canopy condition, tree form and a review of stress indicators was completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Stocking Level:                  | Under Stocked<br><input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Fully Stocked<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Over Stocked<br><input type="checkbox"/> | BA/acre (ft <sup>2</sup> /ac): | -                 |
| Recent Stand Management History: | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Stand Harvesting History:        | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Desired Future Condition:        | This stand needs more time to grow before a harvest is entertained. The biggest management concern is the woody invasive plants and grapevines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| STAND PRESCRIPTIONS              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |
| Invasive species control:        | <p>Honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, privet, burning bush, buckthorn</p> <p>These woody non-native invasive plants were found in this stand. Their control will give more physical space and sunlight for new desired native tree seedlings. Break down the infested areas into convenient and manageable sections focusing on the largest plants first as this will limit future seed production.</p> <p>Simply cutting these plants alone will not kill them but stimulate them to regrow with more stems. A cut stump treatment is recommended for larger stemmed plants first. Cut the stems with a chainsaw or brush cutter in fall to winter. Soon after, apply a 20% mix of Garlon 4 in basal oil to the stump.</p> <p>A foliar herbicide treatment is recommended in mid-summer through early fall for treatments of medium to smaller plants. A 3% mix of Garlon 4 or 2,4-D as well as a surfactant can be applied using a backpack sprayer</p> |                                                      |                                          |                                |                   |

# Components of a woodland stewardship management plan

- Description of landowner goals.
- Summary of woodland conditions.
- Woodland stand map.
- Tree diameter class.
- Determined woodland acreage.

Diameter Class: is measured at 4.5 feet above the ground. (DBH – Diameter at Breast Height)

Sapling trees 1" to 4.9" DBH.

Pole timber is 5" to 10.9" DBH.

Small Sawtimber is 11" to 14.9" DBH.

Medium Sawtimber is 15" to 22.9" DBH.

Large Sawtimber is 23" DBH and up.



## Components of a woodland stewardship management plan

- Soils map/report.
- Timber harvesting history(help or hurt goals).
- Recommended management for future.



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

## Components of a woodland stewardship management plan

- Activity schedule that prioritizes recommended management.

Woodland Stand Specific Prescriptions:

| 10 Year Activity Schedule |       |                           |                 |                             |                |               |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Stand                     | Acres | Prescription              | Year to Perform | When to Perform Rx (season) | Stand Priority | Appendix Page |
| A                         | 2.9   | Invasive species control: | 1-4             | Mid to late summer          | 1              | 14            |
| A                         | 2.9   | Timber harvest:           | 7-10            | Dry or frozen soil          | 2              | 32            |
| B                         | 8     | Invasive species control: | 1-4             | Mid to late summer          | 1              | 14            |
| B                         | .5    | Grapevine control:        | 5               | Fall to winter              | 2              | 10            |
| B                         | .5    | Pre-commercial thinning:  | 6               | Fall to winter              | 3              | 18            |
| B                         | 12.1  | Timber harvest:           | 7-10            | Dry or frozen soil          | 4              | 32            |

YOU HAVE A MANAGEMENT  
PLAN,  
NOW WHAT



# IMPLEMENT!

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## Follow the Plan!

Woodland health can worsen if the right prescriptions aren't followed.

### PRESCRIPTION

### UNINTENDED RESULT

1. Low to medium invasive plants numbers were not controlled prior to a timber harvest.



1. Post harvest the invasive plants numbers have increased and are now very heavy.

2. Unrecommended high grade timber harvest was implemented.



2. The woodland now has poor quality trees and undesired species for the future.

3. Grapevines were not controlled in a stand prior to a crop tree release.



3. The grapevine numbers have increased and are damaging desired trees.

4. A recreation trail was installed with out regard to topography limitations.



4. The trail now continually washes out after rain events causing soil runoff.

PROGRAMS THAT REQUIRE A  
PROFESSIONALLY PREPARED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN



## Ohio Forestry Tax Law (OFTL)

- Administered by the ODNR Division of Forestry.
- Tax incentive program offering 50% off property taxes on wooded acreage.
- Landowner implements management for timber growth and eventual commercial harvest.
- Must have minimum of 10 acres of woodland.
- Sustainable timber harvest with BMP's required.



## Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)

- Administered by each county auditor's office.
- Tax incentive where land value is taxed on agricultural use.
- Timber is the agricultural product.

- Landowner implements management for timber growth and eventual commercial harvest.
- Must have minimum of 10 acres of woodland /agricultural acreage.



## American Tree Farm System (ATFS)

- Administered by the American Forest Foundation
- Woodland landowner recognition program.
- 10 acres of woodland required.
- Must follow sustainable management practices and standards.
- Access to professional assistance, publications, trainings, landowner community.



## Picture References:

- The Daily Yonder
- Lake George campsites
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio State Parks
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wayne National Forest



THANK YOU



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