



NH TREE FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN

+/- _____ ACRES

PREPARED FOR:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

PREPARED BY: _____

The following plan outline has been formatted to assist you and your Forester in preparing an acceptable Tree Farm Plan revised to include the 2021 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification.

A New Hampshire licensed Forester must approve and sign the plan and in most cases will be actively involved in writing the plan.

Although Foresters volunteer their time to certify and reinspect Tree Farms, the creation of a new plan or an update of an existing plan will require a fee.

Signature (s) of Owner (s)

Signature of Inspecting Forester

Date

Date

Requirements and Guidelines for Tree Farm Management Plans:

In 1993 the American Tree Farm system began requiring written management plans for Tree Farm Certification. Minimum requirement standards and guidelines for these plans were established in 1999. Revisions occur every 5-6 years. This plan template is valid through 2026.

- Forest owner **must** have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.
- Management plan **must** be active, adaptive, and embody the landowner's current objectives.
- Management plans **must** include: clearly stated landowner's objectives, describe desired forest condition, include management activities aimed at reaching the desired forest condition and landowner's objectives, document a feasible strategy for activity implementation, and include a tract map accurately depicting significant forest related resources.
- **REQUIRED:** Where present, and relevant to the property, the plan **must** address the following resource elements: **Forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species, integrated pest management, and forests of recognized importance.**
- **SUGGESTED:** Where present, relevant to the property, and consistent with landowner's objectives, the plan preparer may consider, describe and evaluate the following resource elements: fire, wetlands, desired species (fish, wildlife and plant), recreation, aesthetic quality, conversion, biomass and carbon.
- Management plans incorporate several documents including, but not limited to, harvest plans, activity implementation schedules, permits, research, etc. For purposes of the American Tree Farm System, plan amendments may include letters, notes, and other forms of formal updates in addition to formal plan revisions.

Notes:

Property Information:

Town (s): _____ County: _____

Location (Road Name, Direction from Landmark, Rd. Jct., etc.): _____

Tax Map and Lot #: _____

Total Acreage: _____

Tree Farm Acreage: _____ (Forest Land – minimum of 10 acres)

Current Use Acreage (if enrolled): White Pine: _____ Hardwood: _____

All Other: _____ Unproductive land (including wetland): _____

Farmland: _____

Land Owners Goals and Management Objectives: Can include aesthetics; protection of water resources; harvesting of forest products for periodic income; recreational development; wildlife habitat enhancement; or other things of importance. With good planning, multiple objectives are usually compatible.

List below: Prioritize if you are able:

Past Woodlot History: Acquisition history & brief summary of forestry accomplishments (i.e. harvesting activities, access improvement, boundary line and maintenance, soil and water protection, wildlife habitat improvement).

Forest Health: General observations about forest health. Note what is being done if there are any problems. Specifically address pest problems and invasive species. Note if there are any present and what control measures are being considered or implemented.

Soils: What soil types are present and what are their general characteristics. A soil map is not required but is recommended. The information is readily available at:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Water: Note and map the water features on the property and discuss measures for the protection and enhancement of water quality.

Access Roads, Recreational Trails and Boundary Lines: (Discuss quality, maintenance, protection and future needs).

Special Sites: These areas include cultural and historic features and other unique characteristics such as stone walls, ledge outcrops, views, caves, large trees, vernal pools, nest, animal shelters, favorite spots, etc.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Become aware of any known or documented occurrences in your Tree Farm area and plan accordingly. A data check can be made through the NH Natural Heritage Program: <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb%5datacheck>.

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI): Consult with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (data check), the NH Division of Forests and Lands (NH Forest Action Plan – 2020), and/or the NH Fish and Game Department (NH Wildlife Action Plan) or other qualified natural resources professionals to determine if Forests of Recognized Importance are relevant to the Tree Farm. A FORI datacheck hit would show an “exemplary natural system” [note: SYSTEM not community]. An exemplary natural community is important as well but is not synonymous with FORI.

(Optional) Additional Landowner/Forester Input: Where Present and relevant to the property, and consistent with landowner objectives the plan preparer **may consider** The following resource elements: fire, wetlands, desired species (fish, wildlife, plants), recreation, aesthetic quality, biomass and carbon.

FOREST STAND DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESCRIPTIONS STAND INFORMATION SHEET(s)

Stand Description:

(one sheet for each stand)

Stand # _____ Acreage: _____

Forest Type: The predominant tree species occurring in the stand (see glossary for examples).

Species Composition: (list by individual species)

Size Classes: seedling, sapling, poles, sawtimber (see glossary).

Stand Density: Stocking levels – (understocked, adequately stocked, overstocked).

Regeneration: (seedlings less than 4.5' tall) – Species and relative abundance.

Tree Quality and Stand Health: (note insect, disease or presence of invasive species)

Wildlife Habitat Features: (cavity trees, cwd=coarse woody debris, snags, mast, forest openings, wetlands, deer yard, browse, etc.)

Operational Constraints: (Terrain, Wetness, Access, Distance)

Special Sites:

Stand Information – Cont.

Stand # _____

Stand Prescription: Recommended management activities or treatments to achieve desired forest condition and landowner objectives.

Timber: Give specific silvicultural recommendations, scheduled treatments, consequences, and long range goals.

Wildlife related: Include management and/or protection of significant habitat features, or components.

Recreation, Water, Aesthetics, Other:

Forest Management Activity Schedule for next 10 years: (Include road and boundary line maintenance):

Stand #	Year	Acres	Treatment

Tree Farm Records...

Record harvest (the type, i.e., clearcut, selection, shelterwood, etc.); reforestation (planting, natural or seeding; hardwoods or softwoods); timber stand improvement (non-commercial); protection activities (from fire, insects, disease, etc.); wildlife activities (creating snags, building brushpiles, revitalizing habitats, food plots, etc.); road and trail development and maintenance; wetland restoration; streambank improvements; boundary line maintenance, etc.

Date	Stand	Practice (activity)	Acres	Volume	Product

Maps to include in plan:

- Required - Tract Map with Stands and necessary features
- Location sketch on USGS topographic or SCS soils map*

Other (useful):

- Property Map showing Boundaries (Town Tax Map, Survey)
- Current Use Map
- Soils with Nontechnical descriptions
- Aerial photo

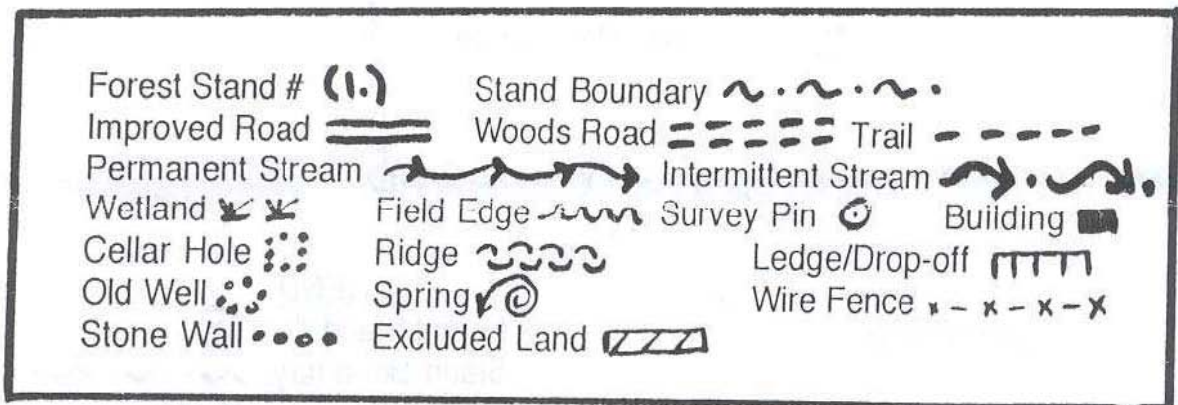
*Necessary part of NH Wetlands permit application when proposed forest management activity crosses any wetland or surface water.

Forest Type Map

Can be: Tax map, survey map, etc

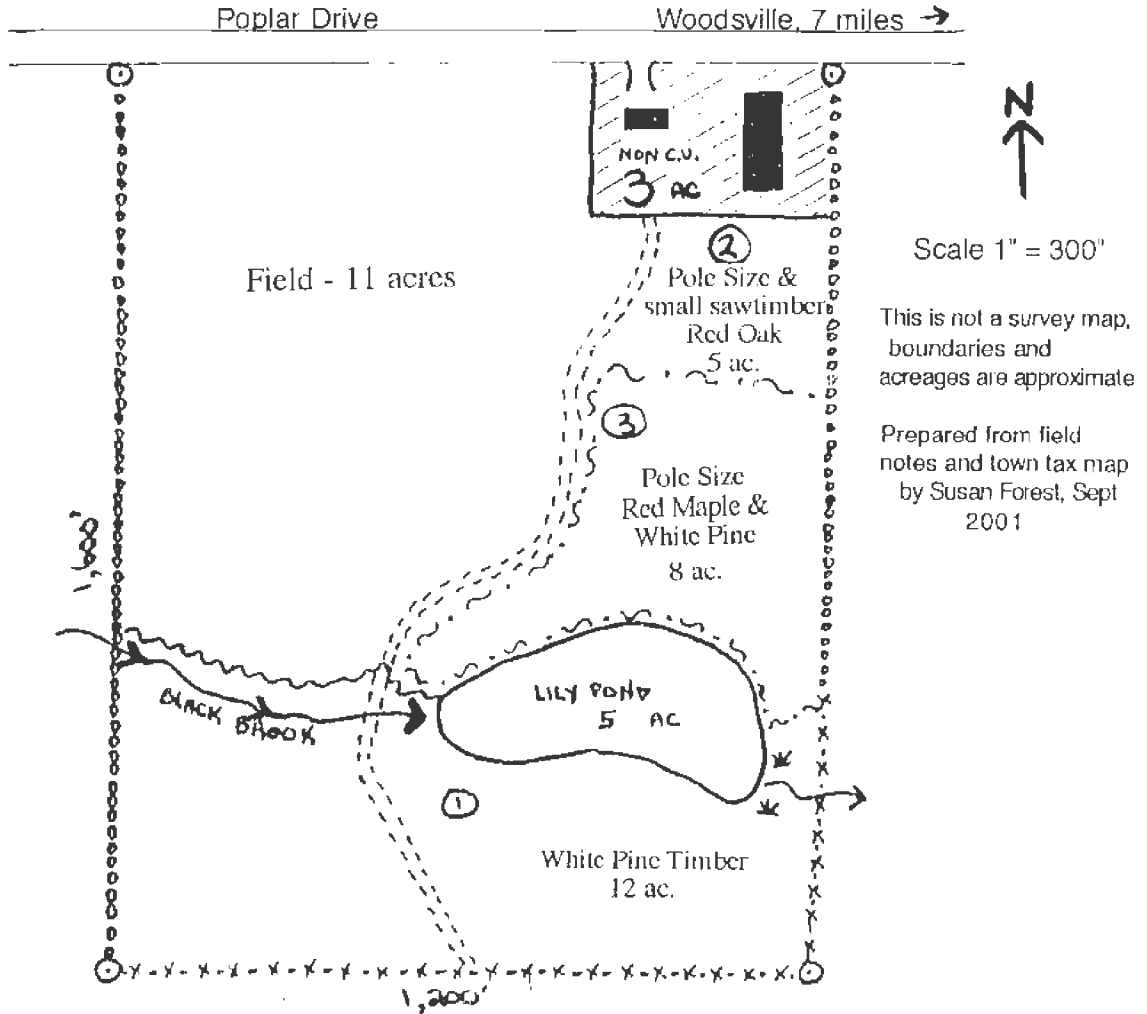
Required on Map:

- *1. Forest stands – approximate acreages
2. Fields, wetland, water courses
3. Perimeter bounds (wall, fence, blazes, etc.) include distances and bearings if known.
4. Buildings
5. North Arrow
6. Map Scale
7. Major Roads and Trails
8. Date, Source, Map Preparer, Landowner Name and Address
9. Special Sites
10. Legend: Map symbols as needed (see examples below)



* Note: If map is for current use, indicate forest type (White Pine, Hardwood, Other), any unproductive lands, and any excluded areas (buildings, curtilage, etc.)

Forest Type Map
 Property of Forest Steward, East Overshoe, NH
 ± 44 acres



<u>Forest Type</u>		
<u>Stand</u>		<u>Acres</u>
1	White Pine	12
2	Red Oak	8
3	Mixed wood (Red Maple/Pine)	5
..	Wetlands/pond	5
	Farmstead	3
	Farm Land	11
	Total Acres:	44

LEGEND

Forest Stand #	①
Stand Boundary	~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Excluded Land	▨
Brook	~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Stone Wall	•••••
Wire Fence	x • x • x • x • x
Woods Road	- - - - -
Survey Pin	⊙
Wetland	~ ~ ~
Field Edge	~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Building	■

Glossary of Forestry Terms

Basal Area	Sum of the cross-sectional areas (at 4.5 ft high) of all trees on an acre. A measure of stand density or crowding.
BMPs	Best Management Practices – The proper methods for the control and dispersal of water and runoff on truck haul roads, skid trails, and log landings to minimize erosion and reduce sediment and temperature changes in streams.
DBH	Diameter at breast height, 4.5 feet above the ground.
Cavity Tree	A living tree with a hollow cavity large enough to shelter wildlife. Also called a den tree.
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris – Dead and down woody material in various states of decay (logs, stumps, limbs, and upturned tree roots). A valuable component of wildlife habitat.
Forest Type	<p>A distinctive association or community of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. They are named for the predominant tree species occurring in the type. Common forest types in NH include white pine; northern hardwoods (sugar maple, beech, yellow birch); spruce-fir; red oak; hemlock; and aspen-birch. In some areas two types blend together into a mixed wood type (i.e. pine-oak or spruce fir – northern hardwood). Excellent reference:</p> <p>NOTE: If this plan is used to qualify for the NH Current Use Forestland with Documented Stewardship category, forest land must also be classified as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. White Pine – Makes up majority of stocking (greater than 50%)2. Hardwood – Any combination of red oak, sugar maple, yellow and white birch.3. All Other – Tree species not included in (1) and (2) above make up majority of stocking. (i.e., hemlock, spruce-fir, red maple, beech).
Forests of Recognized Importance	Globally, regionally and nationally significant large forest 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.
Mast	The seed and fruit of a tree or shrub. Hard mast includes nuts; and soft mast includes catkins, berries and other fruits.
Prescription	A course of action to effect change in a forest stand.
Regeneration	Seedlings established in the understory, either naturally or by planting (artificial regeneration).
Silviculture	The culture of forest grown trees for the production of timber, improvement of wildlife habitat and other benefits. In practice, silviculture deals with the way a forester mark stands of trees for cutting.

Glossary of Forestry Terms – Cont.

Silviculture Treatments	Clearcut, shelterwood, single tree selection, group selection are systems designed to regenerate stands. Thinning, improvement cutting and T.S.I. are intermediate treatment in stands.
Size Classes	Trees are classified by size into four classes: <u>Seedlings</u> Trees less than 4.5 feet tall and less than 1 inch in diameter <u>Saplings</u> Trees 1-4 inches in diameter and at least 4.5 feet tall. <u>Poles</u> Trees between 5-10 inches in diameter. <u>Sawtimber</u> Trees larger than 10 inches in diameter.
Snags	Dead, standing trees. Snags are valuable to many wildlife species as sites for feeding, nesting or perching.
Special Sites	Those areas offering unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological value. Special Sites include: A. Historical, archaeological, cultural and ceremonial sites or features of importance to the forest owner. B. Sites of importance to wildlife such as rookeries, refuges, fish spawning grounds, vernal ponds and shelters of hibernating animals. C. Unique ecological communities like relic old-growth, springs, glades, savannas, fens and bogs; and D. Geological features such as terminal moraines, cliffs and caves.
Stand	Stands are the basic unit of forest management and are the means of describing any forest. Stands differ from one another in terms of species composition, tree age, density of stems (stocking), soil conditions, aspect, and most commonly past land use.
Stocking	An indication of the number of trees in a stand as compared to the optimum number of trees to achieve some management objective. (i.e. overstocked, adequately stocked, under stocked).
Understory	The plants and shrubs that grow on the forest floor, including tree species that have not grown large enough to enter the main canopy.
Vernal Pool	Small, temporary wetlands that form in the spring from rain or snowmelt. They are important to many wildlife species, but especially critical to amphibian reproduction. Because the pools are seasonal, fish are not present as predators.
Uneven Aged	A stand of trees that contain at least 3 well defined age classes, 20 or more years apart.
Even Aged	A stand of trees where most of the trees are the same age (within 20 years) or in the same size class.