

MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NJ STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS 1/18/2018

1. Title Page

- 1a. Title for the plan e.g. *Forest Stewardship Plan for Jetson Farm*
- 1b. Owners legal name, mailing address, and phone number.
- 1c. Name of the Approved Forester with whom the owner prepared the plan.
- 1d. The property's address, total and forest land acreage, whether the owner intends to submit for farmland assessment, county(s) and municipality(s), and for each municipality, each block and lot numbers.
- 1e. Two certifications and signatures, one for the landowner and one for the Approved forester. See page 2.
- 1f. For properties under NJ Pineland's jurisdiction add the Stewardship pledge signed by landowner. See page 2.
- 1g. Space for the NJFS to record received date, date of notice of approval, start and end dates of the plan, and ID number.

2. Background and Goals

- 2a. Directions provided for ease of locating property for inspections (e. g. house number, distance from intersection etc.) and a statement to indicate if property is within the Highlands or Pinelands.
- 2b. History of the property including present condition, past ownership, change in land use, past forest management activities, and if applicable past plan type, reason past plan ended, past plan stand objectives/monitoring data/trends.
- 2c. Whether the property includes wetlands and/or associated transition areas, flood hazard areas or riparian zones, easements that could constrain forest management, and any other relevant factors.
- 2d. Long term goals of the property including ensuring the sustainability of the land and whether the property will be managed in coordination with other properties.
- 2e. Statement acknowledging owners obligation of monitoring and record keeping as well as a statement indicating proposed management will ensure sustainability and eliminate excessive and unnecessary cutting.

3. Property Overview

- 3a. Including, how the boundaries are marked, forest use (current and/or proposed), acreage, location of the forest on the property, topography, soil characterization, hydrology (resource value, TA and RZ widths etc.), infrastructure to cross a regulated area, ecology and biodiversity (including fire), state and federally listed threatened and endangered species*, threats to sustainability including pests, diseases, storms etc.
- 3b. Stewardship principles including carbon sequestration, cultural resources, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, timber, forest products, aesthetics. Agroforestry, and estate planning.

4. Forest Stands

- 4a. For each stand: A unique identifier, acreage, and a forest inventory including; species of the overstory and understory, forest type, stand structure (age class, DBH class, crown class), stocking level, volume, growth, site index.
- 4b. For stands prescribed treatment during the plan period: A stand and stock table, size class, vigor, density (in BA), status of biodiversity, status of regeneration, invasive species, damage causing agents, and litter cover.
- 4c. Desired future condition of each stand and relationship to the goals, set measurable objective(s) to achieve such goals.
- 4d. For each objective, parameters to be measured, how the parameters will be measured (including constraints or conditions to be observed), units to be recorded and a baseline value for each parameter.
- 4e. State if the stand will not receive management and if the stand will receive management: rationale (silviculture) and extent of prescription, whether the treatment could adversely impact or potentially impact a regulated area, State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species, or any cultural resource. Include any mitigation measures used to avoid impact.

5. Management Schedule

- 5a. Schedule shall be presented in table format in chorological order. The table shall indicate the stands in which the practices will carried out, the extent of the practice and the years or range of years in which the practice will take place.

6. Appendices

- 6a. A copy of the State and Federal threatened and endangered species searches*.
- 6b. Maps including Soils map, locator map, property map (including: physical features e.g. waterbodies, roads, trails, structures, wetlands or associated transition areas, flood hazard areas or riparian zones, easements, land uses, regulated crossings, boundaries, stands including labels etc.).
Such maps shall include: scale, at least one map on color photography, title, owners name and address, date prepared, north arrow, source, and legend.

* Information regarding the presence of federal threatened or endangered species which might be affected by proposed activities must be obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This information can be obtained from the USF&WS IPaC web application. Alternatively, a letter can be requested from the USF&WS NJ Field office at: Atlantic Professional Park, 4 East Jimmy Leeds Road, Galloway, NJ 08205, 609.646.9310. The Natural Heritage Database (NHD) information also needs to be included and addressed in the plan. Obtain the NHD from the Office of Natural Land Management, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625. Telephone: 609.984.1339
NJFS approval of a plan does NOT relieve the landowner from complying with other applicable Federal or State requirements. For other plan criteria or information please refer to N.J.A.C 7:3.

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1e. Certifications:

1. To be signed and dated by the owner: "I certify that I am the owner of the property or am authorized by the owner to make this certification. I have read the within forest stewardship plan and the information contained in the plan is true. To the best of my knowledge, the plan meets the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program rules at N.J.A.C. 7:3-5 and applicable Federal and State law. The owner agrees to implement the plan, as approved or as subsequently amended"; and
 2. To be signed and dated by the Approved Forester: "I prepared the within forest stewardship plan in consultation with the owner of the property. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the plan meets the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program rules at N.J.A.C. 7:3-5 and applicable Federal and State law."
- 1f. To be signed and dated by the owner: Pledge: *“As a forest landowner I believe the right to own land also carries the responsibility for stewardship of the natural resource in my care. I have read the attached ten-year Forest Stewardship Plan and agree to implement it to the best of my ability.”*