



Forestland Steward

Forestland Steward is a joint project of the CA Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Placer County Resource Conservation District, UC Cooperative Extension, and USDA Forest Service to provide information on the stewardship of private forestlands in California.

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Why do a forest management plan?

Healthy forests provide long-term benefits for everyone in California: fewer catastrophic fires, improved water quality and quantity, more and better wildlife habitat, healthier rural communities, increased carbon sequestered from the atmosphere... the list goes on and on. Because of these great benefits to society, several agencies would like to assist you in creating a forest management plan that will help you improve, enhance, and/or restore your forest.

Any serious endeavor starts with a plan. It is your a roadmap or blueprint, the first step to creating the forest you want. Consider the many advantages of having a forest management plan:

Defines your goals and objectives

Your goals and objectives are the basis of everything you do on your forest. (Note: goals are general statements of your vision; objectives are the measurable actions you take to reach those goals). The very act of articulating your goals and objectives will help clarify what you are trying to achieve. The process of writing them down will further define what you need to do, what it takes to implement your plans, and how to prioritize multiple objectives.

Functions as a business plan

Your forest management plan is also your business plan. Owning forested property is a type of business; there are financial considerations, taxes, expenses and income, and the necessity of keeping accurate records. The forest management plan lays out information that will help you make appropriate business decisions for your land.

Communicates effectively with professionals

A good forest management plan is the key to communicating with a host of professionals. Besides your Registered Professional Forester (RPF), you may need to share information about your forest with bankers, accountants, granting agencies, or any of a number of experts and specialists. Your management plan lays out the background of your forest, your objectives, and the steps you have taken or are taking to achieve those objectives. Your plan will show you are serious about forest management.



Your forest management plan is for you, the landowner. The forester should listen carefully to your ideas for the forest and help you achieve your goals.

Necessary for funding

The new forest management plan template (see page 3) is designed to be used not only for your own needs, but also for a number of cost-share programs, including CFIP and EQIP (see page 6). When your plan is approved, you will already have the information you need to apply for those programs. With minimum effort you can pull together an application and get funding to help implement your objectives.

Establishes a relationship with an RPF

A trusting relationship with an RPF is necessary for many of the activities done on forestland (see page 5). In addition, a long-term relationship with a forester will give you an expert to go to as questions or problems arise. If you don't already work with an RPF, the act of putting together your forest management plan will give you the opportunity to develop such a relationship.

Addresses forest succession

Have you thought about what will happen to your forestland when you are no longer able to manage it? There are a lot of financial, emotional, and management considerations when forestland passes to the next generation. Your forest management plan can help address some of those issues.

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The One-Plan Plan: A tool for landowners

Not only is there State and Federal funding available (see page 6) to help you create a forest management plan, but there is a new plan template as well. This plan is not only an educational document for you, it also meets the management plan requirements of a number of agencies that provide cost-share for forest activities. This plan can help you get funding for your projects!

The new template, dubbed the One-Plan Plan (officially the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan), will describe your forest and document your objectives and decisions. These are the first steps toward creating the forest of your dreams.

Using the One-Plan Plan, you will develop a forest management plan that can easily be adapted to the requirements of various cost-share programs. The One-Plan Plan is accepted by at least six forest-related agencies: California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Forest Service, National Tree Farm Association, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Having the Plan will also give you an advantage in the competition for funding from some of them.

What's in the Plan?

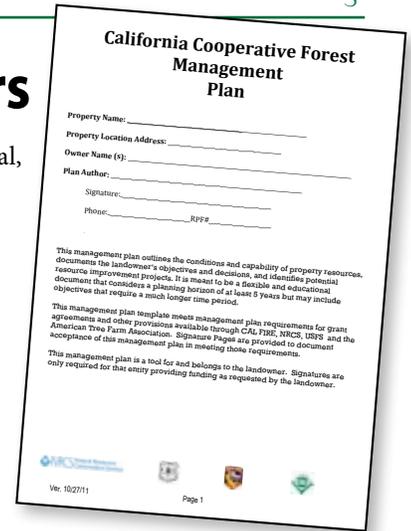
Stephen Smith, State Forester with NRCS, breaks it down, "Most landowners have three overarching goals: business, protecting themselves and the land, and stewardship."

The business side of owning forestland

requires understanding the land's potential, the markets, and other business aspects. Protection includes succession issues, taxes, liability, fire, and other risk factors. Stewardship is the big picture. It requires a shift from simply addressing property boundaries to looking at your land in a landscape context and making the connections to use science in land management decisions.

The One-Plan Plan is very comprehensive and covers all three areas. It first establishes baseline information of your property with a physical description and property history. It looks at current property

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The One-Plan Plan in a nutshell

1. Download the template at the CAL FIRE CFIP site (http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.php) or Placer County RCD (<http://www.placercountyrcd.org/forest/FuelsMgtPgm.php>). This web page has all the information you need, along with contact numbers to get more information.
2. Fill in the easy parts, such as history and location.
3. Contact your local CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) (http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/ForestAdvisorList.pdf) or NRCS office to apply for available funding.
4. Find a forester.
5. Work with your forester to create the plan.
6. Submit the plan for approval.
7. Submit required invoices to get reimbursed.

Why do a forest management plan? *(continued from previous page)*

Provides a legacy for the future

Your forest management plan is a document for posterity. Many forests are multigenerational, which makes it important to pass on your knowledge, intentions, and thoughts. The management plan includes the story of your land, what you have done or are in the process of doing, your goals and the land's potential, and as much information as you want to share with future owners. This allows those future owners to understand what you did and why, so they can continue your work.

It's a living document

You are never finished with your management plan; this is not a document that sits on the shelf. Your plan is a living document, designed to be consulted, changed, added to, and thoroughly used until you are ready to make a new one.

When you create a management plan, it's a big win for everyone. You learn about your forest and good stewardship, identify your goals and the steps necessary to reach them, and develop a long-term relationship with an RFP. You are then able to make your forest what you want it to be.

You are never finished with your management plan. It is a living document, designed to be consulted, changed, added to, and thoroughly used.



Don't be overwhelmed. Your RPF, along with your FAS and others, will help you develop the Plan.

Call the Helpline

New landowners will find a wealth of information on all aspects of forest management through the Forest Stewardship Helpline.

1-800-738-TREE
nscsaf@mcn.org

conditions, covering just about every aspect you can think of. Then it gets into the landowner's management objectives. These could include silvics (growing trees), pests/fire, wildlife, livestock, aesthetics, income,

family legacy, or other areas. Management plan implementation is where you discuss practices, plans, alternatives, do cost/benefit analyses, and run models. Then the Plan goes into specifics with information for each management unit and an activities schedule. Finally, you look at planned activities and the permits, CEQA/NEPA (California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Protection Act) documents, and professional assistance needed. The Plan requires a number of maps and other statements and documents in the appendices.

Don't be overwhelmed

If all this information seems overwhelming, don't worry. A plan like this is not something you are expected to do yourself. It was designed to be developed by a Registered Professional Forester,

who has the knowledge and training to gather all this information and come up with alternative approaches. The landowner's job is to share his or her goals/objectives and ideas with the RPF, and make the final decisions about alternatives and implementation.

Who can use the Plan?

Forest landowners are a diverse group with various goals, interests, and levels of knowledge. This Plan was designed to work for three general groups of landowners:

New landowners tend to be respectful of the land but don't have the knowledge to assess management issues. Forest stewardship is a complex area that requires a basic framework of knowledge over a broad set of topics. The Plan is designed to provide these landowners with an educational document that will help them assess the immediate issues on their land, and also encourages a relationship with a forester who can answer questions and provide support for implementing management activities.

Harvest veterans have done a harvest in the past, often for successional reasons. They have a lot of information available about their land in their Timber Harvest Plan (THP), but may be looking to make timber stand and wildlife improvements. The new Plan will take the existing data and turn it into a form the landowner can understand and build upon.

Ongoing forest stewards already have a management plan, often an NTMP (Non-industrial Timber Management Plan). This Plan will help them address landscape concerns, such as fuels and fire, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, upgrading roads, and even undertaking carbon inventories.

The big picture

Your property is not an island, it exists in a larger regional context. No matter what your goals for your forest, there are some larger issues that go beyond property boundaries, such as fire in the Sierra Nevada, water concerns along the Northwest Coast, invasive species in southern California, and a host of others. This forest management plan will also help you address these regional issues.

The One-Plan Plan is a great opportunity to learn about your forest using a template that has already been vetted by numerous agencies. And you can get funding to create it. Don't delay.

Pilot outreach program for Mendocino, Shasta, and Placer Counties

A new 3-year pilot program will reach out to forest landowners in three counties: Mendocino, Shasta, and Placer. These counties were chosen for a number of reasons, including the diversity of forest issues in these areas.

The goal of the program is to encourage landowners to learn how to actively manage, or steward, their land. The first step is to help them to create a management plan, since a plan sets the foundation for sound management. Much of the outreach and education will be done by UC Cooperative Extension using a variety of methods: traditional face-to-face, webinars, online courses, and other tools.

This project is funded by a mix of State and Federal funds.