Hands On Activities of the Landowner

Part of the beauty of having a woodland is known only by those who work their own land. There are many activities a landowner can carry out to help improve the health and vigor of a forest without needing expensive machinery or outside help. Some hands-on activities that may be applicable to your lands are:

- Planting trees and shrubs for erosion control, wildlife habitat, aesthetic improvements, and future timber production.
- Controlling invasive species that are present in your woodland.
- Cutting firewood for home-use or commercial sale.
- Pruning to increase production of high quality lumber.
- Pruning or shearing to obtain well-shaped Christmas trees.
- Cutting overgrown bushes to make meadows.
- Tapping sugar maple for maple sap production.
- Monitoring your woodland to assess its overall health. Regular walks through your woodland can tune you in to the beginnings of an insect or disease outbreak.
- Planting trees and shrubs to create shade for wildlife or other purposes.
- Cutting firewood for home-use or commercial sale.
- Pruning to increase production of high quality lumber.
- Pruning or shearing to obtain well-shaped Christmas trees.
- Cutting overgrown bushes to make meadows.
- Tapping sugar maple for maple sap production.
- Monitoring your woodland to assess its overall health. Regular walks through your woodland can tune you in to the beginnings of an insect or disease outbreak.

There are many activities you can carry out to improve the health and vigor of your forest.

Summary

A planned and managed forest can retain its natural beauty while producing a sustainable supply of lumber. Their wildlife habitats, recreation, and clean water. Managing one aspect of the resource does not eliminate the possibility of developing others if each is planned in consideration of the others.

Watershed Protection

A forest with its trees, plant cover, forest litter, and organic matter functions like a giant filtering system. It collects and stores water in its soil. Some of the stored water is taken up by the plants and trees to be used or transpired back into the air. The water-holding capacity of the forest is extremely important as it determines the quantity and quality of the waters released to nearby lakes, streams, and drinking water supplies. A diversity of tree age classes in a watershed results in different melting rates for snow, thus reducing erosion from spring melts.

Professional Assistance

Forestry guidance is available to Wisconsin landowners through a network of public and private sources. Local DNR foresters serving each county and private Cooperating Foresters are listed in the Directory of Foresters, available from your local DNR Service Center or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, 335 South Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. Additional information is available from groups such as the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committees, Wisconsin Family Forest chapters, and local wood cooperatives and landowner associations. Contact your local DNR Service Center, University of Wisconsin Extension office, or local Land Conservation Department to learn more. Or check out our web site and look for "Private Forestry": www.dnr.state.wi.us

Multiple Benefits

From Forest Management

Wildlife Habitat & Diversity

Pride of Ownership

Soil Conservation

Scenic Beauty

Watershed Protection

Personal Enjoyment

Forest Products

Education

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The primary goal of timber management is to maintain a sustainable production of high quality timber products, which will result in economic gain. However, this does not mean that other uses or objectives must suffer. Timber management operations can be designed to fulfill all of the goals identified in the management plan including wildlife management and aesthetic considerations.

A aesthetic consideration can be easily integrated into a management plan that includes timber harvesting and wildlife considerations. Special attention should be paid to the topography of the area and the trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roadways, lakes, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. Specifiations can be made for the logger concerning placement of roads and what amount of tree limbs and tops may be left-behind.

A management plan that calls for the creation of large openings to favor sun-loving trees and specific wildlife can be aesthetically pleasing coexisting over time. The clearing will appear more natural if the borders are curved and the shape is irregular. Leasing healthy, well formed individual trees or scattered groups of trees within the harvested area can lessen the visual impact. Large diameter white pine, oak, and maple can benefit the area aesthetically while providing food and habitat for wildlife.

Plantations too can benefit visually from advanced planning. Great diversity can be achieved by simply staggering the rows in curved patterns rather than straight lines can create a more natural appearance. A selective harvest of individual trees can be the easiest way to favor sun-loving trees and specific wildlife can offer aesthetic diversity.

A forest is a renewable source of wood that builds our homes and pulp that makes our paper. It is all of these at once and still retains its beauty when managed properly.

A forest management plan is based on your goals and desires and includes actions to be taken to achieve these ends. The plan itself is a concrete document that landowners and foresters can refer to for guidance while a property is being managed.

The first step in creating a forest management plan is an initial inventory of your property. An inventory describes the soil and timber types, estimates the volume of trees and regeneration present, evaluates wildlife habitat, locates available areas, and identifies historical, cultural, and natural resources that need to be protected. When combined, this information is the key to meeting these objectives in a forest.

Aesthetic considerations can be easily integrated into a management plan that includes timber harvesting and wildlife considerations. Special attention should be paid to the topography of the area and the trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roadways, lakes, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. Specifications can be made for the logger concerning placement of roads and what amount of tree limbs and tops may be left-behind.

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A forest is a renewable source of wood that builds our homes and pulp that makes our paper. It is all of these at once and still retains its beauty when managed properly.
Careful logging practices and good supervision of the harvest begins with you—the landowner. Sound planning and the planning of the following. It is up to you and your forester to determine the combination that best suits you and your land. Your objectives will probably include some combination of the following. It is up to you and your forester to determine the combination that best suits you and your land.

A forest management plan is a document that describes the objectives and actions to be taken to achieve those objectives. The plan itself is a concrete document that landowners and foresters can refer to for guidance while a forest is being managed.

Wildlife

Animals such as deer, birds, and small mammals depend on forests for food and shelter. In order to attract an abundance of wildlife, a forest must have a diverse range of species, optimum food, and cover to favor sun-loving trees and specific wildlife. A management plan that calls for the creation of large openings along with mature stands of trees, will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. Thinning will weaken, decrease, or poorly-formed trees from a stand will allow the remaining healthy, well-formed trees to grow faster once they have more light and space.

Aesthetic considerations can be easily integrated into a management plan that includes timber harvesting and wildlife considerations. Special attention should be paid to the topography of the area and the trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roads, trails, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. Special attention should be paid to the topography of the area and the trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roads, trails, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand.

Forest

Forest management which includes these species reaps both economic gain. However, this does not mean that other uses or objectives must suffer. Timber management operations can be designed to fulfill all of the goals identified in the management plan including wildlife management and aesthetics.

A landowner’s fear of destroying their forest by harvesting trees is understandable but generally unfounded. All active or recently active, timber harvesting operations will appear messy to the uninitiated for a short period of time. This phase passes quickly as the forest responds to the management prescription. Well-managed timber harvesting is designed to mimic natural disturbances such as windstorms or fire. The removal of trees at the rate they will grow to replace those that have been felled. A forest would not be a forest without the characteristics found to be most desirable. Smaller trees can be removed to improve the visibility within the stand and create more growth light. Small openings dominated by one or less species can be thinned to give other species an opportunity to thrive thereby increasing the diversity within the stand. Small openings produced by removing groups of trees can create a mosaic of age classes within the forest.

Planning too can benefit visually from advanced planning. Great variety can be achieved by simply staggering the trees or alternating rows of different tree species. Also, laying out the rows in a curving pattern rather than straight lines can create a more natural appearance.

A selective harvest of individual trees can be an effective way to favor specific species. Forests dominated by one or two species can be thinned to give other species an opportunity to thrive thereby increasing the diversity within the stand.

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The Forest

Consider a lifetime afternoon spent in your backyard. What characteristics of the forest are most important to you? The scenic beauty of the setting? The wildlife it attracts or recreates it provides? The timber and firewood you can harvest for your fireplace? Perhaps you care about the protection offered by your forest. Tree acts as a windbreak from winter storms and noise buffers from traffic. They filter water, water supply and protect our soil from erosion while improving air quality and providing habitat for wildlife. A forest is a renewable source of wood that builds our homes and pulp that makes our paper. It is all of these at once and still retains its beauty when managed properly.

Forestry supplies people with products we need to survive and others we desire to be more comfortable. Foresters provide us with wood, paper, lumber, firewood, recreation, clean water, sporting goods, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and much more. Without each of these, our life style would change greatly.

Fortunately, forests are renewable. Tree seedlings will flourish after each harvest and young trees will grow where older trees once stood, as long as the harvest is properly planned. The best way to maintain or conserve the health and productivity of forests is to manage them following a plan. Along with assuring forest regeneration, a management plan can protect all of the pieces that make up a forest including the trees, soils, water, wildlife, plants, and public. Good planning and properly applied management practices are the keys to meeting these objectives in a forest.

A forest management plan is based on your goals and desires and includes actions to be taken to achieve these goals. The plan itself is a concrete document that landowners and foresters can refer to for guidance while a management plan can be very simple or quite complex depending on which animals you would like to have on your land and the condition of your forest. Style would change greatly.

A management plan that calls for the creation of large openings to favor sun-loving trees and specific wildlife can offer aesthetically pleasing scenery over time. This cycling will appear more natural if the borders are curved and the shape is irregular. Learning well forested individual trees or scattered groups of trees within the harvested area can lessen the visual impact. Large diameter white pine, oak, and maple can benefit the area aesthetically while providing firewood and habitat for wildlife.

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A selective harvest of individual trees can be the easiest way to favor specific wildlife. Many of the characteristics of your forest will remain unchanged as you go as you select trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roads, trails, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. The best way to maintain or conserve the health of your forest, and also to provide a habitat for wildlife. The primary goal of timber management is to maintain a sustainable production of high quality timber products, which will result in economic gains. However, this does not mean that other uses or objectives must suffer. Timber management operations can be designed to fulfill all of the goals identified in the management plan including wildlife management and aesthetic considerations.

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Good management begins with sound planning and the planning begins with you—the landowner—and your forester.

Wildlife

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Forest Timber Aesthetic

The Forest

Your objectives will probably include some combination of the following. It is up to you and your forester to determine the combination that best suits you and your land.

1. Conservation: Landowners fear of destroying their forest by harvesting trees is understandable but generally unfounded. All active or recently active, timber harvesting operations will appear many years later to their immediate effects. This phase passes quickly as the forest responds to the management prescription. Well-managed timber harvests are designed to mimic natural disturbances such as winds and wildlife damage. The removal of young trees will give rise to those that have failed. A forester works with landowners to determine the best harvesting schedule to meet your objectives while maintaining or enhancing the health and vigor of your forest.

2. Recreation: Some timber improvement practices are especially compatible with aesthetic improvement. Pruning produces knot-free timber while increasing visibility within a stand. Thinning weak, diseased, or poorly-formed trees from a stand allows the remaining healthy, well-formed trees to grow faster once they have more light and space. Good management begins with sound planning and the planning begins with you—the landowner—and your forester.

3. Wildlife: When you become involved in the inventory of your forest, you will attract all of the birds that are native to your area and the trees that will remain standing, as well as areas that are visible from roads, trails, or streams. The remaining trees will directly affect the viewing corridors and variety within the stand. The best way to maintain or conserve the health and productivity of forests is to manage them following a plan. Along with assuring forest regeneration, a management plan can protect all of the pieces that make up a forest including the trees, soils, water, wildlife, plants, and public. Good planning and properly applied management practices are the keys to meeting these objectives in a forest.

4. Aesthetics: A forest management plan is based on your goals and desires and includes actions to be taken to achieve these goals. The plan itself is a concrete document that landowners and foresters can refer to for guidance while a management plan can be very simple or quite complex depending on which animals you would like to have on your land and the condition of your forest. Style would change greatly.

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Managing for Wildlife

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A planned and managed forest can retain its natural beauty while producing a sustainable supply of timber. Wood, wildlife, recreation, and clean water. Managing one aspect of the resource does not eliminate the possibility of developing others if each is planned in consideration of the others.

Professional Assistance

Forestry guidance is available to Wisconsin landowners through a network of public and private sources. Local DNR foresters serving each county and private Cooperating Foresters are listed in the Directory of Foresters, available from your local DNR Service Center or:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
135 South Webster St., P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
(608) 267-7494

Additional information is available from groups such as the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, Wisconsin Family Forest chapters, and local wood cooperatives and landowner associations. Contact your local DNR Service Center, University of Wisconsin Extension office, or local Land Conservation Department to learn more. Or check our web site and look for “Private Forestry”:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/owners

Hands On Activities of the Landowner

Part of the beauty of having a woodland is known only by those who work their own land. There are many activities a landowner can carry out to help improve the health and vigor of a forest without needing expensive machinery or outside help. Some hands-on activities that may be applicable to your lands are:

Education

Professional Assistance

Watershed Protection

Multiple Benefits From Forest Management

- Planting trees and shrubs for erosion control, wildlife habitat, aesthetic improvements, and future timber production.
- Controlling invasive species that are present in your woodland.
- Cutting firewood for home-use or commercial sale.
- Pruning to increase production of high quality lumber.
- Pruning or shearing to obtain well-shaped Christmas trees.
- Cutting evergreen boughs to make wreaths.
- Tapping sugar maple for maple sap production.
- Maintaining your woodland to assess its overall health. Regular walks through your woodland can tune you in to the beginnings of an insect or disease outbreak.

There are many activities you can carry out to improve the health and vigor of your forest. Regular walks through your woodland can tune you in to the beginnings of an insect or disease outbreak. There are many other things you can carry out to help improve the health and vigor of your forest...

From Forest Management

Summary

A forest with its trees, plant cover, forest litter, and organic matter functions like a giant filtering system. Water is collected from rain and snowfall and stored in the ground or slowly percolates into lakes and streams. Some of the stored water is taken up by the plants and trees to be used or transpired back into the air.

The water-holding capacity of the forest is extremely important as it determines the quality and quantity of the waters released to nearby lakes, streams, and drinking water supplies. A diversity of tree species in a watershed results in different melting rates for snow, thus reducing erosion from spring melts.

Forest management practices that minimize soil disturbances and prevent debris from washing into water bodies while keeping the forest in a healthy growing condition are the best means of protecting a forest watershed.

Healthy forests protect our water resources. Planned management keeps our forests healthy.
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There are many activities you can carry out to improve the health and vigor of your forest.

Summary

A planned and managed forest can retain its natural beauty while producing a sustainable supply of timber, fuel, wildlife, recreation, and clean water. Managing one aspect of the forest does not eliminate the possibility or desirability of developing others if each is planned in consideration of the others.

A professional forester can help you inventory, analyze, and evaluate the potentials of your forest. You can then decide what your opportunities are and what you want from your forest. The forester can then help prepare a management plan, which includes those practices most feasible in helping you achieve your objectives while still protecting and improving your forest land. Use the expert knowledge of the trained individual. You will find that these people will appreciate the opportunity to share with you in exploring the complexities of the forest community and how, through wise use, it can yield the variety of things you may envision for it.

You can take the first step in establishing and meeting your objectives by developing a management plan with the help of a professional. Contact a forester in your area. Taking the initiative is up to you—the landowner.

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