

Goals for My Forest Land

Use this worksheet to list your forest land ownership goals. You will include this in your Forest Stewardship plan.

Developing goals is the most important component in any Stewardship Plan. All management decisions should be based on whether or not they meet the goals and objectives established by you, the landowner. Constructing three or four main objectives you wish to accomplish on your property will force you to examine what is important to you. Whether your primary goal is high quality timber production or wildlife habitat management, you and people who help you manage your property will benefit from an explicit statement of your interests.

Set your goal. Be specific. If you want extra income, decide how much and when you need it most – this year? Next year? Improving habitat for wildlife is often an important goal for many small acreage owners, but what species are most desired? Is hunting an important consideration or bird watching, etc.? Perhaps you are interested in improving the access in your forest for hiking or cross country skiing. Or maybe improving the overall visual aesthetic is what interests you most.

Whatever your objectives are, the goals you set should be as specific as possible. You may have more than one objective for your land. Managing for combined objectives can be challenging but often can be fairly easy to accomplish.

Listed on the next page are nine topics that may help you develop goals for your forest. Review these and add any others that are important to you.

- Remember, there are no right or wrong answers.
- Include all family members and partners who have an interest in your forest land. Discuss with them the goals you have in common.
- Be specific. If future income is a goal, specify how much money you want your property to produce and when. If wildlife enhancement is a goal, specify what species are important.
- Goals may be long or short term. There may be things you would like to accomplish in 5 years (thinning of small young trees or planting), some in 10 years (thinning or harvest of large trees dependent on markets), and some may be ongoing or planned for the distant future (estate planning).

The next three pages contain worksheets to help you articulate and weigh the importance of what you value on your forest property. This is a start to identifying your major goals for your forest and identifying specific objectives.

Sample Forest Stewardship Goals

Timber/Trees

- Avoid or reduce losses of timber to insects and disease
- Work with existing seedlings and saplings to create a healthy forest for the future
- Improve health and growth of largest trees
- Maintain and improve productive capacity
- Promote natural regeneration of Ponderosa pine from existing old growth trees Plant other types of trees if possible
- Develop a 3-story forest stand over most of the property
- Harvest firewood for home heating
- Harvest enough timber to pay for property improvements, maintenance, or taxes Plant tree seedlings in harvest areas for timber production
- Improve the health of the aspen stand

Fire

- Reduce or minimize fire hazard
- Reduce fire hazard around home site on the property

Wildlife

- Maintain habitat required by resident wildlife
- Promote forage and cover for small birds and mammals
- Minimize impacts on wildlife living in the area
- Attract elk to the property
- Attract turkeys to the property
- Improve bird habitat
- Provide snags for woodpeckers
- Promote good forage for white-tailed deer
- Develop habitat for moose which have been seen in the area
- Maintain hiding cover for wildlife
- Remove fencing or provide crossing locations to improve game movement

Range/Understory

- Control weeds if they are present
- Eliminate noxious weeds from the property without losing native plant diversity
- Maximize plant diversity
- Improve grasses and forb abundance in forested areas
- Fence property to keep out neighbors cows
- Develop small pastures for sheep forage
- Develop summer pasture for two horses
- Graze 204 yearlings from June to October for income and family meat
- Protect water resources and develop watering facilities for livestock

Residence

- Develop a home site with good access and a view
- Avoid introduction of weeds while developing the home site
- Prune and make home site more fire safe
- Evaluate buildings and make them more fire safe

Aesthetics

Maintain visual quality from highway and adjoining ownerships

Maintain a pleasant *park-like* forest

Improve view of lake and mountains from the home site property

Maintain visual quality on property

Avoid abrupt changes in visual quality, have changes occur gradually

Maintain a buffer strip along the road to screen the property and reduce traffic noise

Recreation

Develop a cross-country ski trail

Establish a picnic area for family reunions

Develop seasonal access on the property for recreation and management activities

Construct horseback riding trails on the property

Discourage trespassing by public

Allow for permitted use of forest for educational purposes

Revenue

Find a way to make an annual income from property

Make enough money from grazing and/or harvesting to pay property taxes

Plan to retire with income from sale of the property in 10-15 years

Establish a small 2 acre commercial apple orchard for income from roadside fruit stand Maintain or improve property value for future subdivision into 5, 10, and 20

acre building sites Obtain periodic income from the sale of posts and poles

Obtain annual income from wood products on a sustainable basis

Legacy

Pass forest on to our children as a source of future income for them

Other

Protect soil and water resources

Develop access to upper portion of property

Develop seasonal access to all of the property

Leave riparian areas in a pristine condition

Maintain riparian area in a stable condition

My Forest Stewardship Values

How important are each of the following forest values to you? This survey could be used with multiple partners in interest to compare and find which are the most important to all those involved.

	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Personal residence	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Vacation property	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Aesthetic enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Keeping it <i>natural</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Personal or sentimental attachment to land	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Income from grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Income from timber harvest	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Income from special forest products	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Income from recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Personal recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nongame wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Satisfaction from owning land	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A legacy for my children	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Real estate speculation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Long-term financial security	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Describe something on your property that makes it unique or special to you (a special tree, a heron rookery, etc.):

Goals for My Forest Land

Write your own goals in the spaces below. Sample goals as expressed by prior workshop participants are on pages 3-4. Place a 1 in the box next to your most important goal, a 2 in front of your next most important goal, and so forth. The headings are to spark ideas, feel free to change them to fit your own goals.

Timber (trees): _____

Fire: _____

Wildlife: _____

Understory Vegetation/Range: _____

Residence: _____

Aesthetics: _____

Recreation: _____

Legacy: _____

Revenue: _____

_____ : _____

_____ : _____

Limitations to my Goals

There may be limitations that will affect your realizing your forest property goals. Limitations may be biological, physical, personal or economic factors that get in the way of what you would like to do.

From what you already know about potential limitations, complete this form for your property. If you're not sure about limitations, don't worry. As this Stewardship Workshop continues, you will learn more about potential limitations to your goals.

BIOLOGICAL (Examples: tree species present, vigor of tree growth, good vs. poor soils, kinds of wildlife present)

PHYSICAL (Examples: road access to the property, steepness of the terrain, stream crossings, and sensitive areas)

PERSONAL/ECONOMIC (Examples: money, time, or equipment available; knowledge, skills, interests, physical strength and energy, family schedules)
