

Landowner Goals, Site Constraints and Available Resources



- Introduction
- Why it is important to set goals and manage forests properly
- Setting your goals
- Limiting factors and constraints
- Example
- What is the next step
- Resources, Services and Funding



New York State Forests

- Total Land Area: 30.2 million acres
- Forested Area: 18.6 million acres or 61% of total area
- Privately owned forest: 14.4 million acres or 76% of forest land
- \$13.1 billion in direct output
- 488 million board feet of logs and 2.1 million tons of pulp



Forest Benefits

Forests provide critical ecosystem services essential to human life and a high standard of living (NYS DEC).

- Forest products
- Clean water and air
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Scenic beauty
- Recreational opportunity
- Carbon sequestration
- Open space
- Energy independence



Landowner Goals, Objectives, and Actions

- Goals
 - Should be established by the landowner.
 - Broad statements of conditions to achieve.
 - Think about these prior to meeting with a forester, but a professional can assist with fine tuning and identifying what is feasible
- Objectives
 - Specific statements of planned outcomes that are associated with goals.
 - Landowner/forester
- Actions/Activities
 - These should be guided by a forest management plan
 - Landowner/forester (woods walk/plan)

Setting Goals

- Why do you own your land?
- What do you use your land for now and in the future?
- Make a list of what you value about your property
- What improvements would you like to see? – Conditions, activities, etc.
- Prioritize the goals from what you think is most important to least important
- Use a resource devoted to help landowners navigate this

Why do you own your land?

- It came with the house
- I wanted privacy
- I like to watch wildlife
- I like to hunt on my own land
- I want to manage my property for.....



Top Ten Reasons Forest Owners Own Family Forests

1. Beauty and scenery
2. Family heritage
3. Privacy
4. Nature protection
5. Connected to home or cabin
6. Investment
7. Hunting or fishing
8. Part of farm or ranch
9. Hiking, snowmobiling and other recreation
10. Timber production



From: USDA USFS National Woodland Owner Survey

What do you use your property for?

-Start with broad categories

- Primary Residence
- Weekend Retreat
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Investment (timber/business)
- Future Development
- Other



What activities do you use your property for?

-More Specific

- bird watching
- biking
- hiking
- harvesting firewood
- harvesting wood products
- fishing
- camping
- horseback riding
- hunting
- boating
- nature walks
- wildlife observation



What do you want from your land in the future?

- Income
- Recreation
- Scenic Beauty
- Wood Products
- Wildlife



Wood products and other potential

- Commercial or personal use
 - Firewood, log products, other
 - What is the potential?
 - Consult a Forester
-
- Other potential?
 - Syrup
 - Mushrooms
 - Carbon



Recreational Potential

- Personal or Commercial
- Leasing land for hunting
- Installation of camps
- Campgrounds
- Liability?



Special Features on the land



Other items to consider

- What am I willing to invest in my property regarding time and money?
- What resources and equipment do I have available?
- Do I have financial goals?
- List any activities that will not be considered that may limit management activities (i.e. clearcutting, herbicide use, hunting, etc.)

Charting Your Objectives

Importance	High				Moderate				Low	
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Timber										
Wildlife										
Recreation										
Aesthetics										
Water Quality										
Ecosystem										
Certification										
Landscape Mgt.										
Long Term Own										
Coop Mgt.										
Perseve										
Easement										
Tax Programs										
Involvement	High				Moderate				Low	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

Examples of Goals

- Improve recreation
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Improve biodiversity
- Produce high-quality sawlogs
- Provide a periodic income
- Leave a well-managed woodlot to my kids
- Produce firewood
- Improve the hunting
- Improve the health of the forest



How the conversation starts between landowner and forester

- I need to have my land logged/timbered
- I'd like to see more deer
- I'd like to make some money on the woods
- I cut firewood and would like to continue that
- My family and I love to cross country ski and we'd like to improve the trails
- My grandfather planted those trees on the hill and I would like to know what to do with them
- I'd like to do the right thing
- I'd like to make sure my woodlot is sustainable

When the right questions are asked by a forester.....

- I would like to harvest the woodlot when I retire
- I have a woodworking business and will need enough logs to saw up for this reason
- The deer do not seem to bed on my property and I would like improve the habitat
- I love to walk the trails
- I'd like make some money if the woods needs to be cut
- Money is not a big issue to me. I would just like to manage the property properly
- I'd like to put camps in and charge the public to rent them

Goals that sometimes develop later in the ownership

- Education (i.e. workshops)
- Research (college donation)
- Land Trust/Easements
- Legacy to family



Accomplishing Goals

- The Tools
 - Management Planning
 - Silvicultural Practices
 - Trail and Road Work
 - Best Management Practices
 - Wildlife plantings



Site Constraints

- Slope
- Soil Conditions



Site Constraints

- Water Features
- Regulatory Features
- Regulations
- Access



Site Constraints

- Current composition and size
- Woodlot history
- Timber Quality
- Acreage



Site Constraints: Wildlife Potential



Site Constraints/Management Challenges: Interfering Vegetation and Invasive Species

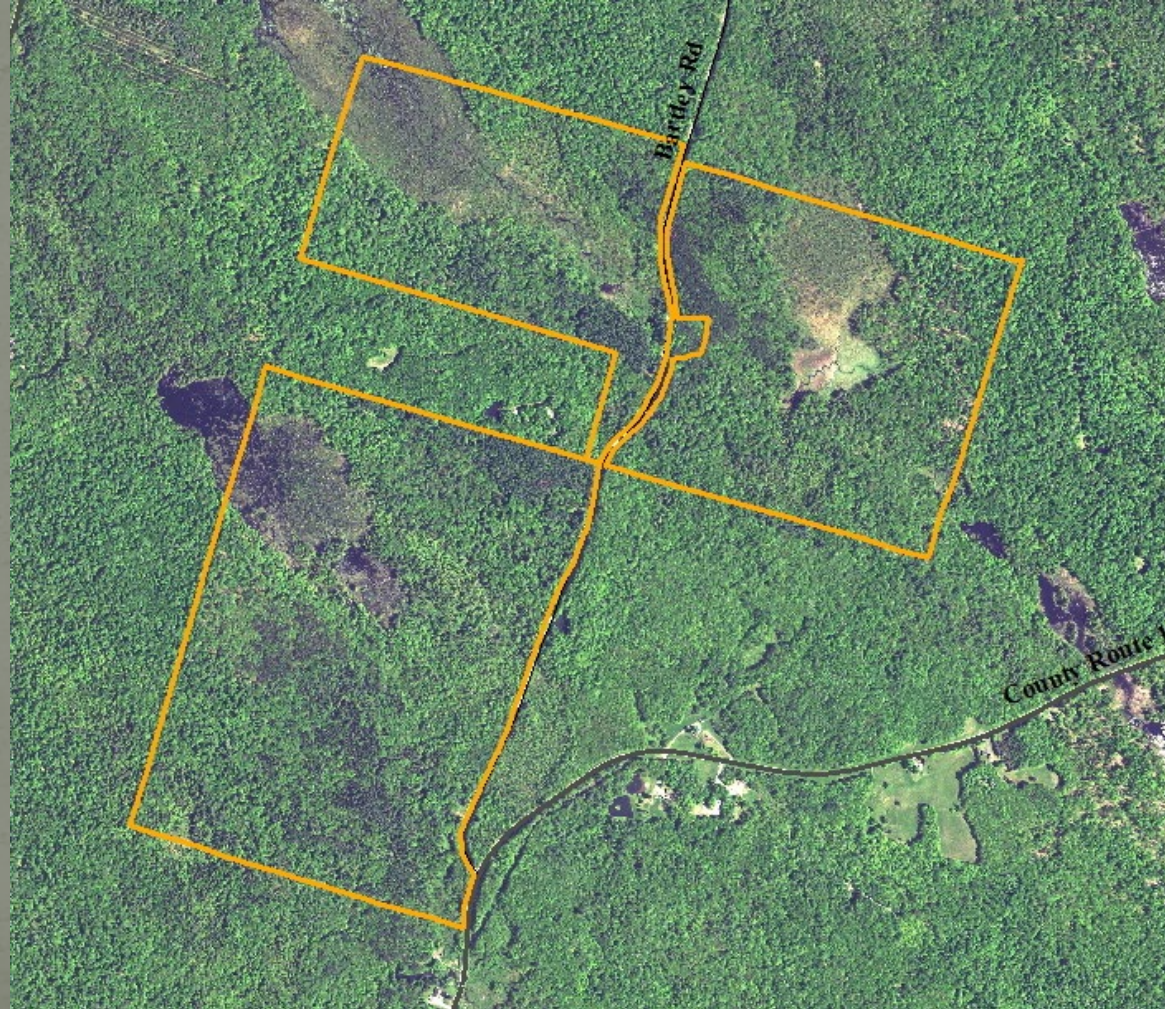


Other Constraints to Consider

- Financial limits
- Abilities (use of a chainsaw, manual labor, etc.)
- Time
- Ownership (lack of defined direction amongst multiple owners)
- Future ownership/legacy



Where do we start?



Forest Management Plans

- A forest management plan is a document which guides forest management decisions in order to accomplish establish **landowner's goals** on a property
- Developed by a forester



Items included in a plan

- Landowner goals
- Property description
- Management history
- Description of natural resources

Soils, water, wildlife, recreation,
recreation, aesthetics, timber

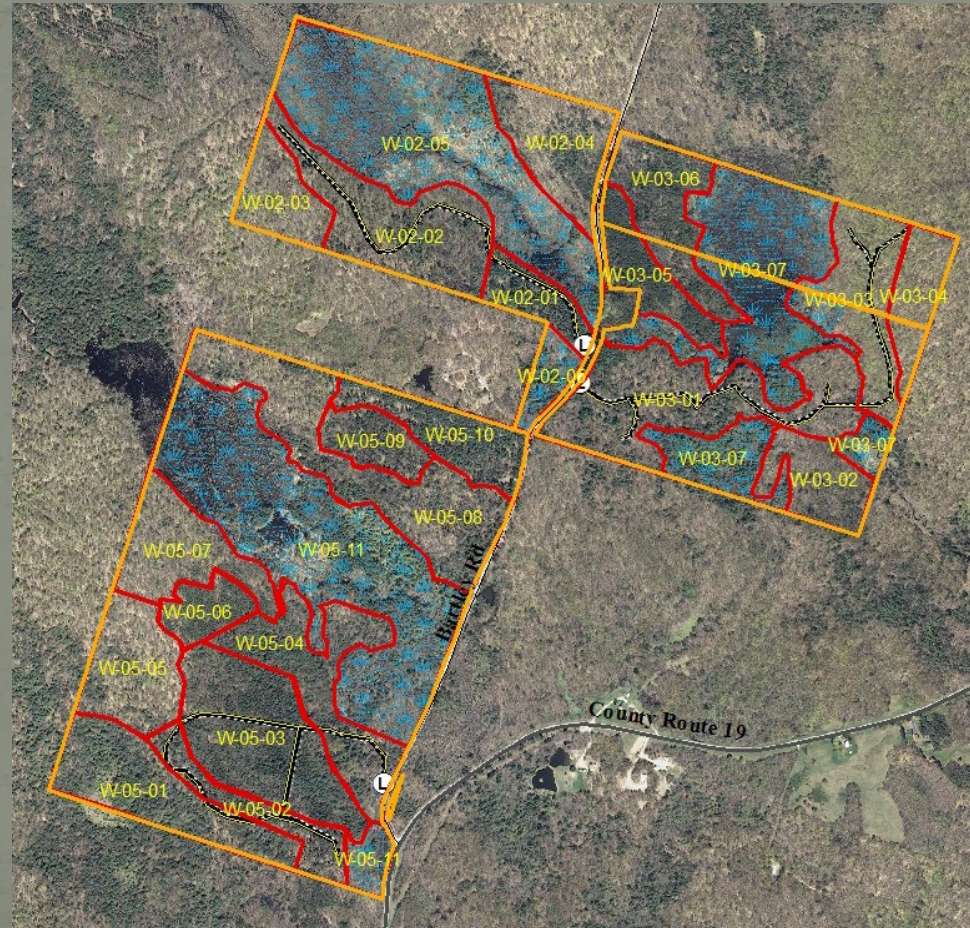


Items included in a plan

- Environmental review results
 - Wetlands/classified streams
 - Rare/Endangered Species
 - Cultural finds
- Forest Health/Challenges
- Management Recommendations
- Management Schedule
- Maps: forest stand, topo, wetlands, soils, etc.



Now We Know Where to Start



Example Goal: Produce Periodic Income Through Timber Harvesting

- Objective: Conduct commercial harvests in stands above 80% R.D. if operable.

Actions: Commercial thinning in stand 2 in 5-10 years
Shelterwood harvest in stand 4 in 10-15 years

- Objectives: Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) in inoperable stands.

Action: TSI in stands 1, 3, and 5 in 5-10 years

Which is the goal? Good silviculture or produce firewood?



Available Resources



Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Agriculture
- Water Quality and General Technical Assistance
- Forestry
- Environmental Education
- Invasive Species



Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Foresters are limited within District, but most have some level of forestry
- Depends on expertise in the office and capacity

Technical Assistance

Management Plans

Forestry Workshops

Gateway to assistance

Invasive Species

Gateway to funding

Tree Program

Forestry funding through Ag Grants

Tree Planting

Urban Forestry

Soil and Water Conservation District Funding

- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM- for farms)
- Climate Resilient Farming (CRF-for farms)
- Potential Administrators of Regenerate NY (RNY- State Program)
- Potential tree planting or forestry related funding opportunities
- Best to call and have a conversation to see what your District offers

Other Resources

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funding
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Funding
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):
 - Private land foresters
 - Regenerate NY funding
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC):
 - Family Forest Carbon Program
- Tree Farm, NY Forest Owners Association (NYFOA)



Other Resources

- Cooperating Forester List – NYS DEC
- Consulting Foresters
- Mills



As future generations walk into the forest.....
What do we want them to see?



Thank you! Any Questions?

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