

# Management Plans

*Write a prescription to improve your land.*

A forest management plan is used to outline a landowner's objectives for a property, plan strategies to meet those objectives, and document forest activities. A comprehensive plan can include timber, wildlife, soil and water goals.

## Why Have a Management Plan?

Forest management plans are needed to:

- Ensure management activities comply with local, state, and federal regulations.
- Apply for tax incentives and financial assistance opportunities.
- Be eligible for certification programs.
- Aid in timing and planning of activities to maximize effectiveness.
- Ensure the landowner's heirs know what to do next and when.

## What should a comprehensive management plan include?

1. Property owners contact information
2. Property description
3. Property and management history
4. Forest management goals/objectives
5. Property maps
6. Special sites and species, if applicable
7. Stand level information (cruise data)
8. Management activity schedule and tracking (5+ years)

## Who can write my management plan?

Landowners can write their own management plan, however, consulting a professional is recommended. Timing of management activities, best management practices, and legal policies should always be considered. Consulting foresters, state-agencies, and non-profit organizations can help write management plans.

## Steps and Considerations

1. Think about your objectives. What do you want to get out of your property? Common objectives are income production, wildlife habitat, recreation, or long-term conservation. Tradeoffs occur for each priority.
2. Gather property line survey and tax parcel information.
3. Visit the county USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service office and enroll your property to get a farm number. The NRCS provides financial assistance opportunities for management plans to be written.
4. Contact a consulting forester. The SC Forestry Commission and the Society of Registered Consulting Foresters have a list of consulting foresters. Find a forester that understands your goals and has experience working in areas you are interested in. If income production from timber is an objective, a registered forester should be involved in writing the plan.
5. Ensure the plan is readable for others. This aids in legacy planning.

## Useful Resources

[Management Plans: A Planning Guide for Landowners - NC State Extension](#)

[Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Template- Purdue University Extension](#)

[Fundamentals of Forest Resource Management Planning - Clemson Extension](#)



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