



Management Planning For the Woodland Owner

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A woodland management plan is a written document designed to help woodland owners achieve ownership goals. The plan will help set priorities, provide the necessary information for sound decisions and develop a schedule of actions to bring the woodland under management.

The landowner's needs, the size of the woodland tract and the amount of available financial resources will determine the complexity and the management plan's format.

Management plans need not be complex but should be accurate enough to define and schedule the cultural practices needed to obtain your goals. Expense incurred should be directly proportional to the amount of detail in the plan. However, without such a plan, management is a matter of guesswork.

Planning Steps

The management plan is the product of a systematic planning effort. It becomes the link between planning and effective use of the woodland resource.

Determine landowner's goals and objectives —

For example, goals may be to guarantee a revenue by managing for timber or livestock forage. Aesthetic values and wildlife protection are examples of non-revenue ownership goals.

Gather woodland resource information —

Woodland resources such as timber inventories or forage amounts will need to be documented. These inventories are usually determined by using maps, aerial photographs and on-the-ground surveys. During the inventory, land areas will be identified that possess similar characteristics (Fig. 1). These wood-

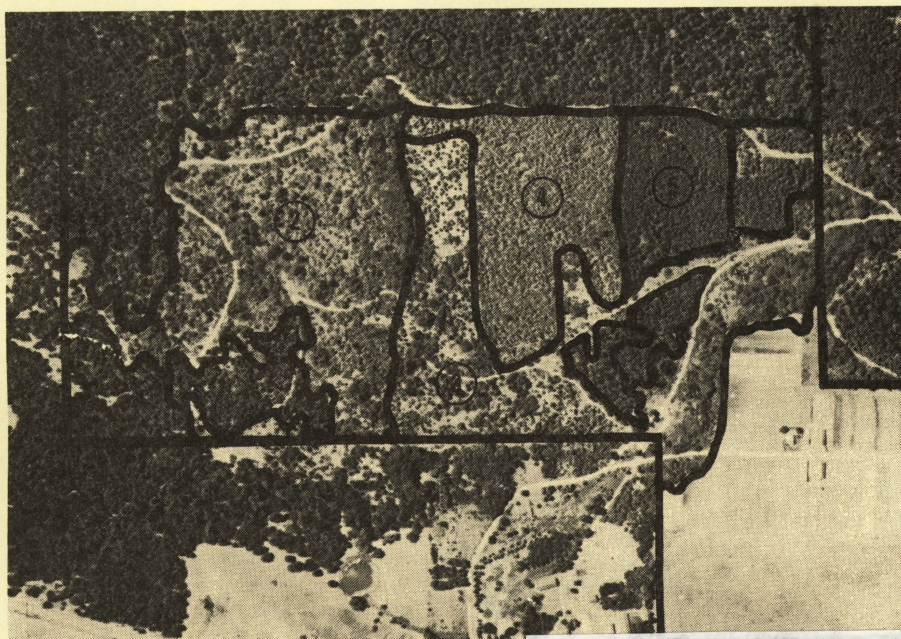


Fig. 1. Aerial photographs are an integral part of the action plan. Homogeneous areas or stands have been indicated for cultural practices.

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Table 1. Action plan for John Smith's woodlot.

Stand	Timber type*	Age in years (Age class)	Acres	Current action	+ 5 year action	+ 10 year action
No. 1	DF/PP	100 (even-aged)	33.2	Design and build access roads	Shelterwood harvest	Regeneration survey and road condition survey
No. 2	DF/PP	5 to 60 (uneven-aged)	22.1	Cruise	Salvage cut	Selection harvest
No. 3	DF/PP	5 to 60 (uneven-aged)	17.5	Cruise	Salvage cut and plant openings	Selection harvest
No. 4	PP	30 (even-aged)	10.2	No action	No action	Commercial thinning (small sawlog)
No. 5	DF/PP	15 (even-aged)	8.9	Precommercial thinning	Growth evaluation survey	Commercial thinning (posts, firewood, etc.)

*DF - Douglas-fir; PP - ponderosa pine

land areas will be managed as units for the plan's duration. These units become the basis for decisions and future actions. Professional assistance from a forester may be required to conduct the inventory.

Alternative goals — Once the resource inventory is completed, alternative goals may be considered.

Writing the Management Plan

The planning process develops the actual management plan. The plan should be flexible. Without a plan, it is doubtful that your long-term goals will be realized. The plan should be a working document

that covers long-term (20 to 30 years) actions. It should be reevaluated at least every 3 years for changes in goals and/or management actions or natural conditions.

Documentation should include the objectives, inventory data and resource maps. It should also include an action plan.

Action Plan

The action plan lists what to do, where it should be done and when it should be accomplished. For example, Table 1 lists five areas with appropriate actions (also see Fig. 1).

For More Information — For additional information on management plans and on-site evaluation for your property, contact the Woodland Conservationist at your local Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office or a Woodland Forester at the Department of Lands. For additional educational material on woodland management topics, contact the Extension Forester at the University of Idaho or your local Extension agricultural agent.

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