

Forest Management Plan for Vermont's Forestland Owners



This forest management plan template, when completed, meets the minimum requirements of the American Tree Farm System and the USFS Forest Stewardship Program when reviewed and approved by a Vermont Licensed Forester certified in the ATFS.

<http://www.vermonttreefarm.org/>



Owner(s) Name(s) _____

Owner(s) Mailing Address(es) _____

Owner(s) Phone Number(s) _____

Owner(s) Email(s) _____

Plan Facilitator _____

Facilitator Mailing Address _____

Facilitator Phone Number _____

Facilitator Email _____

Plan Forester

Name _____

License # _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Date of Original Plan Completion _____ **Revision date(s)** _____

Please note: Informal updates to the plan can be made with handwritten notes. Be sure to include a date and initial these notes throughout the management plan.

Introduction

Landowners certified by the American Tree Farm System are required to have a written forest management plan that is consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management.

This template is generally designed for forest landowners with less than the acreage needed to qualify for the Vermont State Use Value Appraisal (UVA- “Current Use”) system- a 25 acre or larger parcel of privately owned forest land. With the template and assistance from a Tree Farm Committee Member and/or a licensed, ATFS certified forester to help develop a comprehensive and custom plan that is based on the landowner’s goals, forestry science and land ethics, and approved by the forester, the plan will be accepted by the ATFS.

As an introduction, sometimes a simple template may be adequate for landowners to begin learning about their forest and make initial decisions regarding forest management activities. This template uses the American Tree Farm System “2015 to 2020 Standards of Sustainability” as a framework to set goals, evaluate a forest and plan for management activities. It is designed to help a landowner enroll in the American Tree Farm System and certify their woodlands, if this template is appropriate to the size of the forest and scale and intensity of forest management.

Landowners and their forester must provide some information in all blanks in the template, even if noting that element is absent or not relevant to the property. Required information includes forest management goals, current forest conditions, planned management activities, a map of the forest, legal description and other information that shows compliance with the 2015 to 2020 Standards of Sustainability, or other program guidelines when participating in other programs.

Landowners are encouraged to work with a committee member and a professional forester to complete the template, using as many pages as desired or necessary. **It is critical to read the mentioned references, sources outlined in Links, and information on the Vermont Tree Farm website.** The supporting materials in the Appendices are available to provide context and background information. Landowners must work with a Tree Farm forester to complete the separate four-page “004 Form” to enroll in Tree Farm.

The American Tree Farm System does not allow foresters to charge for Tree Farm inspections (work involved in certifying the 004), but foresters are clearly allowed in Vermont to charge for their professional services as needed to complete the management plan, which includes advice to landowners, filling out the 004 forestry information, necessary cruises and stand delineations and descriptions, determining silvicultural management goals as expressed by the landowner, and other professional services as needed by the landowner. A licensed forester (in Vermont often called a “consulting forester”) is a professional the same way as an accountant or engineer and derives all income from clients like you. A directory of Tree Farm Foresters is at <http://www.vermontreefarm.org/documents/report1-4-17.pdf>

This template may be adequate to enroll in other programs that require forest management plans if it includes all elements required by their separate program guidelines. This template is consistent with the 2015 Standards and Guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Program and the National Association of State Foresters “Principles and Guides for a Well-Managed Forest.”

Property Description

Legal property description _____

Nearest city _____

VT SPAN Number _____

Town land is in _____

GPS coordinates or description of entry location _____

Total ownership acreage _____ Total forested acreage _____

Total acreage covered by this plan _____

Number of unique stands of trees _____

Do you reside on the property?
Yes No

Basic topography (estimate percent of total acreage that is)

Complex topography (many steep ravines and aspects)

Simple topography (few ravines and changes of aspect)

Percent of land that is Flat (<5% grade) _____ Gentle Slope (6 to 15% grade) _____

Steep Slope (> 15% grade) _____

Road Conditions (check): Excellent (80% accessible) Good (at least 50%)
 Fair (at least 25%) Poor (less than 10%)

Estimated improved road length needed (bulldozed with graveled surface) _____

Estimated unimproved road length needed (bulldozed with but original soil/bedrock) _____

Which watershed is the property located in (include appropriate watershed unit for your state):

Property History

Forest Management Goals of the Landowner

Property Map(s):

A parcel map of the property should be available from the Town Clerk, the previous landowner, or from the town tax maps. Also, parcel maps are available from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VGIS) and this link:

<http://maps.vermont.gov/vcgi/html5viewer/?viewer=vtmapviewer>

A parcel map is very necessary for the forester to conduct the collection of silvicultural information on the property and help the landowner determine and achieve management goals.

Include property lines, management units, water, buildings, special sites and north arrow. Maps can be developed with ArcGIS, Google Earth, Web Soil Survey and other software. Additional maps could show soil types, topography, surrounding landscape, forest types, surface water, road or trails and buildings.

Forest Natural Resources Enhancement and Protection

This section relates to the natural resource elements found **throughout the entire property**. Some of the treatments related to these resources may qualify for federal and state incentive programs. For this section, include appropriate activities and treatments in the Management Activity Schedule and Tracking table as well as on the map(s). Complete the Activity Schedule and draw and label the areas of management on the map if using this plan as part of an incentive program application. There is no need to repeat this information in the stand specific section.

For each resource element, consider:

- 1. What treatments/monitoring/protection are planned?*
- 2. When will you implement treatments (season, year), follow-up activities, etc?*
- 3. Where will the management take place: entire stand, part of a stand, acres?*
- 4. Do you have applicable permits, professional assistance, and applications for the incentive programs?*

Protect Special Sites & Social Considerations

Special sites

Special sites can be places of personal significance that you and your family designate, like a special tree or a campsite or other location with a personal meaning. Special sites also include areas offering unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological values; for example, cemeteries, cave

entrances or outcroppings. The Standards provide guidance for identifying special sites and how to protect special sites on your land. Consult www.mylandplan.org/special-sites and www.treefarmssystem.org/woodland-resources to research special sites or contact your local qualified natural resource professional. Also, most Vermont towns have a historical society- contact your town clerk for additional information.

Adjacent stand or ownership concerns

Recreation

Access

Forest Health

See <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands>

ATFS recommends regular monitoring of your woods, including an annual review of your management plan and documenting of any changes. These changes may include natural disasters, damage from trespassers, pests, invasive species, weeds, and disease. To assist you with these activities, please visit AFF resources www.treefarmssystem.org/reviewing-your-management-plan and www.mylandplan.org. Your forester or qualified natural resource professional(s) are important partners to help identify and address current and potential forest health issues.

Soil and Water

Maintaining and enhancing the soil and water on your land are essential requirements of the Standards. Your management plan need to include information on the soils that support your forests. If you do not have that information already included in your management plan, you can consult the National Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS’s) website: www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov, and <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/vt/home/> or contact your local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resource Conservation Service to find out more about your soils. All Tree Farmers are required to implement all applicable state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), even in those states where BMPs are voluntary. To learn about the BMPs in your state, visit www.mylandplan.org/BMPs or www.treefarmssystem.org/woodland-

[resources](#) or contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn about your state's BMPs.

Pesticides

Pesticides are approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific uses; however, as a landowner, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand and comply with all EPA label requirements for application, storage and disposal. There are alternatives to pesticides that can be effective and easy to use. As part of the Standards, you should evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens, unwanted plants and weeds to achieve specific management objectives. For more information on alternatives to pesticides, please consult our online resources: www.mylandplan.org/pests-weeds , www.mylandplan.org/content/integrated-pest-management or www.treefarmssystem.org/woodland-resources or contact a local qualified natural resource professional to find state-specific information on pests, weeds and diseases.

Prescribed Burning

Where appropriate, prescribed burning can be a valuable management technique to help you achieve your goals whether they be around creating wildlife habitat, promoting the restoration of a desired tree species or addressing unwanted trees or plants. Consult www.mylandplan.org/prescribed-burns or contact your local qualified natural

resource professional to learn more about prescribed burning use and regulations in your state.

Wildlife

Threatened or endangered species (RTE's) are those species that have been identified by either the federal or state governments as in need of special protections. Protection of occupied habitats and communities for these species is required by the Standards and by law. Please consult

www.treefarmssystem.org/woodland-resources to research threatened or endangered species or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

Also, Vermont ANR Natural Resource Atlas:

<https://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/> and the VCGI interactive map viewer has RTE layers: <https://maps.vermont.gov/vcgi/html5viewer/?viewer=vtmapviewer>

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) are globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological value. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than at the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. To learn more, please contact your ATFS Inspecting Forester or visit www.treefarmssystem.org/fori or www.mylandplan.org/for to determine the presence of FORI in your area.

Stand Descriptions, Management Activities and Desired Future Conditions

1	Current Condition of Stand 1 (Size, type, species, density, age, etc.)
	Planned Activities for Stand 1 (Who, What, Where, When, How & Why?)
	Desired Future Condition for Stand 1
2	Current Condition of Stand 2 (Size, type, species, density, age, etc.)
	Planned Activities for Stand 2 (Who, What, Where, When, How & Why?)
	Desired Future Condition for Stand 2
3	Current Condition of Stand 3 (Size, type, species, density, age, etc.)

	Planned Activities for Stand 3 (Who, What, Where, When, How & Why?)
	Desired Future Condition for Stand 3

Amend plan as needed to reflect natural disasters or other unexpected events

Date	Event	Amendment to Plan

My management Plan is up to date and addresses all the ATFS Standards requirements noted above.

Landowner Signature

Date

Resources

The Vermont Tree Farm Committee has been meeting regularly since December 2012 and is working diligently to keep the program growing and strong throughout the state. Our [strategic planning](#) process began in earnest in April 2013 and is a work in progress. If you would like to join the Tree Farm committee, you'd be most welcome.

RESOURCES REFERRED TO IN THIS TEMPLATE:

[American Tree Farm System Website](#)

[ATFS Certification and Inspection Tracking System Website](#)

[ATFS 004 Form/Tree Farm Inspection Record Editable PDF](#)

[ATFS Directions for Completing the 004/Tree Farm Inspection Record](#) (PDF)

[American Forest Foundation's 20152020 Standards of Sustainability](#) (PDF)

[American Forest Foundation \(AFF\) Standards for Certification](#)

[American Tree Farm System Management Plan Addendum](#) (PDF)

[Forest Stewardship Council Website](#)

[Sustainable Forestry Initiative Website](#)

[Vermont Tree Farm Inspector-Foresters- 2017](#)(PDF)

[Vermont Tree Farm Committee Calendar of Events](#) (PDF)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

The Vermont Woodlands Association invites you to learn about its programs that provide information on forestry-related topics, including our [Walk in the Woods](#).

MORE RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN YOUR TREE FARM AND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION:

Got woods? Visit [MyLandPlan.org](#), AFF's resource for woodland owners, by woodland owners, designed to help you protect and enjoy your woods.

[Our Vermont Woods](#) - This website was developed by [University of Vermont Extension](#) and [Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation](#), in collaboration with other partners. The goal of the website is to:

- Provide a go-to place for information and resources on Vermont's forests, including organizations

engaged in woodland education and outreach.

- Offer easily navigable access to resources, information, effective communication tools, and a user-friendly platform for online education.
- Attract and engage new audiences in the care of our woods.
- Lay a foundation for greater coordination among organizations and agencies in forestry outreach and education.

BOOKS:

Appalachian Mountain Club, Complete Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance, 4th Edition

Association Futaie Irreguliere, Management of Irregular Forests (English edition- 2011), usually available through the [SAF Online Book Store](#).

Beattie, Thompson, and Levine: Working with your Woodland, latest edition, University Press of New England. A forest landowner's guide.

Degraaf, Yamasaki, Leak, and Lester, Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat- Forest Management for the New England Region, University Press of New England, 2005

Dobbs and Ober: The Northern Forest, Chelsea Green Publishing Co. Commentary on our Northern Forest, and understanding the working forest concept.

Evans, Trevor, Forest Trees of Vermont, Forestry Press, 2nd Edition

Foster and Aber: Forests in Time, Yale University Press. Environmental consequences of 1000 years of change in New England.

Heinrich: Trees in My Forest, Harper Collins. The hidden life of a forest.

Johnson: Good Woodcutters Guide, Chelsea Green Publishing Co. Chainsaws, portable mills, and woodlots.

Leopold, Aldo, A Sand County Almanac, Oxford University Press. Latest printing

Long, Steve. More Than A Woodlot: Getting the Most from your Family Forest. Northern Woodlands, 2012. <http://www.northernwoodlands.org/programs/morethanawoodlot>

Long, Stephen, Thirty-Eight- The Hurricane That Transformed New England, Yale University Press, 2016

McLeod, Brett, The Woodland Homestead- How to Make Your Land More Productive, Storey Publishing, 2015

McEvoy, Thom J. Planning Family Forests, Forestry Press. 2013

McEvoy: Positive Impact Forestry, Island Press. A sustainable approach to managing woodlands.

McEvoy, Thom J. Owning and Managing Forests, A guide to legal, financial, and practical matters: Island Press, 2005.

McEvoy, Thom J. Introduction to Forest Ecology and Silviculture, Second Edition: Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES) Cooperative Extension, 2000.

McKibben, Bill. Wandering Home: Crown Journeys, 2005.

McKibben, Bill. The End of Nature: Penguin Group, 1990.

Northern Woodlands. The Place You Call Home: A Guide to Caring for Your Land in Vermont. This "owner's manual" is for landowners in the greater Northern Forest region of New England and New York. Each manual is available as a PDF, or you can order it on the Northern Woodlands [online store](http://northernwoodlands.org/programs/place_you_call_home).
http://northernwoodlands.org/programs/place_you_call_home

Northern Woodlands. The Outside Story. https://northernwoodlands.org/outside_story.

Schama: Landscape and Memory, Knopf. A historic look at the ways people have found myth and meaning in woods, rivers, mountains.

Thorson: Stone by Stone, Walker and Company. Geologic history of New England, and stonewalls.

VT Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation: Creating and Maintaining Resilient Forests in Vermont: Adapting Forests to Climate Change, May 2015.
http://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/The_Forest_Ecosystem/Library/Climate_change_report_final_v6-18-15a.pdf

VT Fish and Wildlife Department, Stream Crossing Handbook.
<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=111508>

VT Fish and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Habitat Management for Lands in Vermont- A Landowners Guide, 2014, \$12.00. [VT Fish and Wildlife Wild Buys Order Form](#) (PDF)

Wessels, Tom, Forest Forensics- A field Guide, Countryman Press, 2010

Wessels, Tom, Reading the Forested Landscape, Norton and Company, 1999

Wojtech, Michael, Bark- A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast, University Press of New England, 2011

USDA-NRCS, Low Volume Roads Engineering. https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/programs/forest_mgmt/projects/lowvolroads/

USDA- Forest Service, Trail Construction and maintenance Handbook, latest edition.
<https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm07232806/page02.htm>

PERIODICALS:

Northern Logger and Timber Processor : \$18/year, Monthly magazine. (315) 369-3078 or npetrie@northernlogger.com; good advice & information on marketing, trends, logging, equipment, politics, laws, regulations, etc; excellent editorials.

Northern Woodlands: \$23/year (included as part of VWA membership!!), Quarterly magazine.

(800) 290-5232; perhaps the best woodlands periodical ever to be published! Good book reviews and recommendations.

Common Invasive Species in Vermont

Species	Ease of Treatment	Common Treatments for Early or Established Populations
Multiflora Rose	Extremely difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, digging, cutting, mowing, herbicide Established: Herbicide and cutting
Honeysuckle	Moderately difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, digging, cutting, mowing, herbicide Established: Herbicide and cutting
Autumn Olive	Difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, digging, cutting, mowing, grazing Established: Herbicide
Garlic Mustard	Extremely difficult once established. Seed bank long lasting	Early: Hand-pulling, tamp soil Established: Hand-pulling, herbicide
Oriental Bittersweet	Difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, digging, cutting, mowing, herbicide Established: Herbicide and cutting
Glossy and Common Buckthorn	Difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, cutting, mowing Established: Herbicide, girdling, cutting
Japanese Barberry	Difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Hand-pulling, digging, cutting, mowing, herbicide Established: Herbicide and cutting
Tree of Heaven	Difficult once established. Cutting or mowing stimulates sprouting	Early: Digging, hand-pulling, herbicide Established: Cutting, girdle w/ herbicide
Japanese Knotweed	Extremely difficult to kill, even with herbicides. Extensive root systems that can re-sprout for three years	Early: Hand-pulling Established: manage with herbicides Don't Mow
Phragmites	Extremely difficult once established. Cutting, digging or burning stimulates population	All stages: Foliar herbicide in late summer or fall
Asian Carp	Extremely difficult if established	Monitor waterways and lakes, and report anything to ANR
Zebra Mussel	Difficult if established	Monitor waterways and lakes. Make sure boats are scraped before moving
Feral Swine	Private land: Shoot onsite and let Fish and Wildlife know of location.	Early: Shoot onsite or trap Established: Trap, shoot and manage as much as possible

Legacy Planning

Many Tree Farmers would like to pass their woods to their children or other heirs. Transferring land from one generation to another is challenging and complex with many legal and family issues to discuss and resolve. Landowners should seek legal advice regarding wills, trusts and other estate planning mechanisms to transfer land. Parents should talk with their children to communicate their desires for their land while they are still alive. Landowners should also include their children on the list of owners of their Tree Farm so the Michigan Tree Farm Committee can recognize generational transfer and multi-generation Tree Farms.

Ties to the Land (www.TiesToTheLand.org) is a program developed at Oregon State University to help forest landowners do succession planning and discuss their plans with family members. Ties to the Land workshops are hosted by VWA.

Conservation easements are another tool to help landowners ensure that their forest management goals are carried into future generations. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements by landowners to give up certain rights like parcelization, land use change or development. Landowners with easements should inform their forest to develop a plan that coordinates and complies with their conservation easement. Landowners should also make sure any timber sale contract with a logger complies with the requirements of their easement. Landowners may have to inform their land conservancy about forest management activities before they occur.

Glossary

The following glossary is adapted from www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/gloss.html.

- Agroforestry** - a land-use system that combines both agriculture and forestry in one location.
- Alley Cropping** - widely spaced rows of trees with annual crops growing in between the rows.
- Basal Area (Tree)** - cross sectional area of a tree at 4.5 feet off ground in units of square feet (ft²).
- Basal Area (Forest)** - basal area of all trees per acre summed up, in units of ft²/acre; measure of density.
- Biomass** – harvesting and using whole trees or parts of trees for energy production
- Board Foot** – a measure of volume 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 inch or 144 cubic inches of wood.
- Bolt** – 8 foot long log
- Browse** - parts of woody plants, including twigs, shoots, and leaves, eaten by forest animals.
- Carbon Cycle** – the biogeochemical cycle to exchange carbon between the biosphere and atmosphere by means of photosynthesis, respiration and combustion.
- Clearcut** - the harvest of all the trees in an area to reproduce trees that require full sunlight.
- Cord** - a unit of wood cut for fuel that is equal to a stack 4 x 4 by 8 feet or 128 cubic feet
- Cordwood** - small diameter or low-quality wood suitable for firewood, pulp, or chips.
- Crop Tree** - a young tree of a desirable species with certain desired characteristics.
- Crown** - the uppermost branches and foliage of a tree.
- Cruise** - a forest survey used to obtain inventory information and develop a management plan.
- Cull** - a sawtimber size tree that has no timber value as a result of poor shape or damage.
- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)** - diameter of a tree trunk taken at 4 1/2 feet off the ground.

Diameter-Limit Sale - a timber sale in which all trees over a specified DBH may be cut. Diameter-limit sales often result in high grading and is a very poor forestry practice.

Endangered Species – a species in danger of extinction.

Even-Aged Stand - stand with age difference between oldest and youngest trees is minimal (<10 years).

Forestland – land at least one acre in size that is at least 10 percent stocked with trees.

Forest Farming - cultivating high value specialty crops in the shade of natural forests.

Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) - any practice that increases the health, composition, value or rate of growth in a stand. Also called Timber Stand Improvement when focused on timber.

Group Selection - harvesting groups of trees to open the canopy and encourage uneven aged stands.

Habitat - the ecosystem in which a plant or animal lives and obtains food and water.

Hardwoods - a general term encompassing broadleaf, deciduous trees.

High Grading - to remove all good quality trees from a stand and leave only inferior trees.

Intolerance - characteristic of certain tree species that does not permit them to survive in the shade.

Landing - cleared area where logs are processed, piled, and loaded for transport to a sawmill.

Log Rule - a method for calculating wood volume in a tree or log by using its diameter and length. Scribner, Doyle and the International 1/4-inch rule are common log rules.

Lump-Sum Sale - a timber sale in which an agreed-on price for marked standing trees is set before the wood is removed (as opposed to a mill tally or unit sale).

Mast - nuts and seeds such as acorns, beechnuts, and chestnuts that serve as food for wildlife.

Over-mature - trees that have declined in growth rate because of old age and loss of vigor.

Overstocked - trees are so closely spaced that they do not reach full growth potential.

Pole Timber - trees 4 to 10 inches DBH.

Pre-Commercial Operations - cutting to remove wood too small to be sold.

Prescribed Fire – an intentional and controlled fire used as a management tool used to reduce hazardous fuels or unwanted understory plants (invasive, undesirable species, etc.).

Pulpwood - wood suitable for use in paper manufacturing.

Range - cattle grazing in natural landscapes.

Regeneration - the process by which a forest is reseeded and renewed.

Riparian Forest Buffers - strips of land along stream banks where trees, shrubs and other vegetation are planted and managed to capture erosion from agricultural fields.

Salvage Cut - the removal of dead, damaged, or diseased trees to recover value.

Sapling - a tree at least 4 1/2 feet tall and between 1 inch and 4 inches in diameter.

Sawlog - log large enough to be sawed economically, usually >10” diameter and 16’ long.

Sawtimber stand - a stand of trees whose average DBH is greater than 11 inches.

Sealed-Bid Sale - a timber sale in which buyers submit secret bids.

Seed-Tree Harvest - felling all trees except for a few desirable trees that provide seed for the next forest.

Selection Harvest – harvesting single trees or groups at regular intervals to maintain uneven-aged forest.

Shelterwood Harvest – harvesting all mature trees in two or more cuts, leaving trees to protect seedlings.

Silvopasture - planted trees and improved forages to provide suitable pasture for grazing livestock.

Silviculture - the art and science of growing forest trees.

Site Index - measure of quality of a site based on the height of a dominate tree species at 50 years old.

Site Preparation - treatment of an area prior to reestablishment of a forest stand.

Skidder - a rubber-tired machine with a cable winch or grapple to drag logs out of the forest.

Slash - branches and other woody material left on a site after logging.

Snag - a dead tree that is still standing and provide food and cover for a variety of wildlife species.

Softwood - any gymnosperm tree including pines, hemlocks, larches, spruces, firs, and junipers.

Species of Special Concern – not threatened or endangered yet, but has low or declining populations.

Stand - a group of forest trees of sufficiently uniform species composition, age, and condition to be considered a homogeneous unit for management purposes.

Stand Density - the quantity of trees per unit area, evaluated in basal area, crown cover or stocking.

Stocking - the number and density of trees in a forest stand. Classified as under-, over-, or well-stocked.

Stumpage Price - the price paid for standing forest trees and paid prior to harvest.

Succession - the replacement of one plant community by another over time in the absence of disturbance.

Sustained Yield - ideal forest management where growth equals or exceeds removals and mortality.

Thinning - partial cut in an immature, overstocked stand of trees to increase the stand's value and growth.

Threatened Species - a species whose population is so small that it may become endangered.

Timberland - forest capable of producing 20 ft³ of timber per acre per year.

Tolerance – the capacity of a tree species to grow in shade

Under-stocked - trees so widely spaced, that even with full growth, crown closure will not occur.

Understory - the level of forest vegetation beneath the canopy.

Uneven-Aged Stand - three or more age classes of trees represented in a single stand.

Unit Sale - a timber sale in which the buyer makes regular payments based on mill tally and receipts.

Veneer Log - a high-quality log of a desirable species suitable for conversion to veneer.

Well-Stocked – stands where growing space is effectively occupied but there is still room for growth.

Windbreaks - rows of trees to provide shelter for crops, animals or farm buildings.