

United States Department of Agriculture



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WOODLAND/FORESTRY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. NM 42

SUBJECT: ECS – FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FOREST HARVEST PLANS

Effective Date: July 22, 2008

Purpose: To serve as a reference for the producer required to have a Forest Stewardship Management Plan and / or a Harvest Plan written to specifications set forth by the NM State Forestry Division. The planner can also look at these components and compare them to the conservation plan for the landowner and help determine what data remains to be gathered.

Background: These two lists are for the nonindustrial private forest land owner who needs a harvest plan to obtain a harvest permit or a Forest Stewardship Management Plan. They are also a reference for the planner assisting the land owner to write one of these plans. Please contact the local NM State Forestry Division District Office for assistance in writing these plans.



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State Resource Conservationist

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Forest Stewardship Plan Worksheet

The following criteria are necessary to produce a New Mexico State Forestry Division approved stewardship plan:

- Record of authorship
- Landowner contact information
- Description of ownership
- Property location
- Ownership history
- Landowner objectives
- Describe desired forest condition or condition class
- Include practices and activities aimed at reaching the desired forest condition or condition class
- Document a feasible strategy and timeline for plan implementation
- Describe any suggested monitoring activities to be done by the forester or landowner
- Be developed for a specified management period that adequately allows for progress with the landowner's long term stewardship objectives
- Be reviewed and renewed, revised or rewritten at the end of the specified management period or sooner as needed, to be considered current
- Landowners must be involved in plan development by setting clear objectives, timetables and targets, and clearly understanding the plan's details and implications
- Resource Elements: Plan preparer will consider, describe and evaluate resource elements present and their importance to the ownership. Elements to be considered:
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Cover types/biodiversity
 - Range
 - Aesthetic quality
 - Recreation
 - Timber
 - Fish and wildlife
 - Threatened and endangered species
 - Forest health
 - Archeological, cultural and historic sites
 - Wetlands

Management recommendations or alternative strategies will be provided to protect or enhance those resource elements that are present. Prescriptions or treatments must be stand or site specific.

An ownership map drawn to scale, or photo, should accurately depict vegetation cover types, hydrology and other significant forest related resources with a legend, is required. The professional resource manager will discuss the Forest Stewardship Management Plan with the landowner, following completion, and periodically, to assure understanding and encourage plan implementation.

Additional information / appendices:

Description of assistance available and incentive programs

Educational materials

A glossary of terms

An explanation of applicable Federal, State and / or county regulatory programs, especially as they apply to:

Archeological, cultural and historical sites

Wetlands

Threatened and Endangered Species

Landowner Approval Form

For sample practice plans or assistance in producing a thorough timber or forest health assessment, please contact your nearest NM State Forestry Division District Office forestry staff.

Harvest Plan Worksheet

The following criteria are required to produce a New Mexico State Forestry Division approved harvest plan:

- Long-range forest management plan.
- Property information – topographic and stream type maps, soil survey, aerial photos, plant maps.
- Identify property lines and harvest area boundaries.
- Arrange for access and easements, if needed.
- Plan harvest operations for time of year most appropriate for site.
- Plan roads, skid trails, and landings that best fit the system and terrain, and that minimize impacts to fish, water and wildlife.
- Consider physical features of each harvest site: topography, slope stability, soils, domestic water supplies, wetlands, tree species, existing roads and landings.
- Identify areas needing protection: streams and wetlands, riparian areas, unstable slopes, archaeological, cultural, historical sites, domestic water supply, sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Consider opportunities to enhance and restore fish and wildlife habitat: keep understory vegetation whenever possible, create snags from low quality trees, leave wider riparian wetland buffers, and retain downed logs and snags in excess of minimum required in SMA.
- Select a harvest system appropriate for: soil conditions, terrain, season, time available for completing operation, size of harvest area, type of harvest planned, areas needing special protection, minimal post-harvest protection.
- Develop written contracts, assign responsibilities, and obtain necessary permits.
- Communicate plans with neighboring landowners.
- Obtain burning permit if you plan to burn slash.
- Contact your nearest EMNRD Forestry Division District Office or a consulting forester for assistance with developing a management plan, laying out timber harvests, marking your timber, and finding a logger to accomplish your management objectives.
- If needed, consult other resource professionals for additional advice and information on soils, fish, wildlife, and historical, archeological, and cultural sites.