

COLORADO LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN (LFSP) GUIDELINES

(Acre)

CODE 30

Introduction

Forest Stewardship Management Plans are plans developed to guide and assist the landowner to actively manage their forest, woody vegetation, and associated resources. The following outline is provided to facilitate the preparation of a forest management plan that meets the requirements of the Colorado Forest Agriculture Program and the Forest Stewardship Program. **Items related to, or required by the Forest Agriculture (Forest Ag) Program are in italics.**

For Forest Ag:

According to Colorado Revised Statute CRS 39-1-102, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is responsible for developing and implementing the Colorado Forest Agriculture Classification Program.

CRS 39-1-102 further defines a forest management plan ...an agreement which includes a plan to aid the owner of forest land in increasing the health, vigor, and beauty of such forest land through use of forest management practices and which has either been executed between the owner of forest land and the Colorado State Forest Service, or executed between the owner of forest land and a professional forester, and has been reviewed and has received a favorable recommendation from the Colorado State Forest Service.@

LFSP Purpose:

To document, in a manner comprehensible to the landowner and subsequent forest managers, the current health and productivity, the desired future condition and the forest management practices recommended to achieve that future condition on a proposed property. The plan records the landowner objectives, the inventory of resources, and the management decisions made by the landowner and the resource professional to achieve the objectives. It also guides the landowner as to which management activities are to be completed each year.

Plan Considerations:

1. The plan should be written for all land managed as a unit. This may include blocks of land that are not necessarily contiguous. *For Forest Ag: Parcels must be contiguous.*
2. A plan may cover more than one landowner property if the combined properties are to be managed as a unit. *For Forest Ag: parcels must be owned by the same legal entity.*

3. The plan is intended to be a working document and should be amended as necessary, by the landowner(s) and the preparing resource professional, to take into account changing biological conditions, markets, disasters, and program practice updates or changes.

For Forest Ag:

A Forest Ag plan clearly states a ten-year (minimum) land management strategy, and communicates how such a strategy facilitates the stated long-term land management objectives on the proposed property. It should be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary to accommodate changes in landowner objectives, wood product markets, and forest conditions.

4. The plan should give equal consideration to environmental, social and economic management principles.
5. The following outline lists the all of the items that are to be included and addressed as appropriate. The plan does not have to follow the exact format, but close adherence to the outline will help ensure inclusion of required items and will expedite the plan review process. If a listed item/resource is not present on the property, or does not apply, a statement should be made indicating that fact.
6. It is understood that LFSP will vary in length and detail depending on diversity of natural resource needs and landowners experience and objectives. *To maintain status in the Forest Ag Program a landowner must understand his/her responsibilities, and adhere to his/her Annual Work Plan (AWP) (based on the priorities in section VI).*

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Outline

I. Cover Page

- A. Name, address and phone number of landowner(s).
- B. Legal description of property covered by plan.
- C. Parcel id#
- D. Total acres, Forested acres
- E. County
- F. Preparing resource professional's name, address and phone number.
- G. Date plan was prepared.
- H. The following Management Plan acceptance statement signed by the landowner.
This management plan has been prepared at my request to guide my stewardship management activities, which I will voluntarily apply on my property. I believe that the activities recommended in this plan are appropriate to meet my objectives and will benefit the natural resources on my property. I intend to apply the recommended practices, thus helping me a good steward of the forest and associated resources entrusted to me on my property. *For Forest Ag include: I understand that this is an agreement as described in CSFS Forest Ag Program guidelines and intend to implement its recommendations according to CRS 39-1-102.*
- G. District Forester approval signature and date block

II. Table of Contents

III. Objectives

Prioritized land management objectives of landowner, including the desired future condition (vision). Objectives may vary for each management unit. *For Forest Ag a primary objective should be to produce and market tangible wood products, consistent with the land's productivity.*

IV. General Description/Discussion

- t Maps are important tools used to illustrate property location, description and other important information that can be displayed visually. Where specific items are required in the plan, the same base maps may be utilized for consistency and clarity. (Recommended are topographic, USGS 1:24,000).

Delineate on a (topographic) map where appropriate:

- A. General location of the property covered by the plan.

- B. Management units and/or compartments with corresponding acreage, and how management units were identified.
- C. Climatic characteristics.
- D. Current and historical land use which created existing conditions.
- E. Impact on neighbors, and surrounding communities.
- F. Social, economic, and market conditions of county and how these factors may influence management decisions.

V. Inventory

Discussion of current forest condition as inventoried and observed in each management unit or subunit. Summarized data may be included in the appendix. Inventory of forest stands and other natural resources should be well documented and sufficient to adequately evaluate condition, both qualitatively and quantitatively. **Forest products harvesting recommendations must be based on sufficient inventory data.**

For Forest Ag: On operable forest land, forest tree and stand inventories must include a cruise of at least +/- 20 percent standard error at one standard deviation.

Minimum items to be included:

- A. Summary of each vegetative cover type area, which includes species, age, height, DBH, stocking level, condition, site index and acreage. **INCLUDE VEGETATIVE TYPES ON A MAP.** *For Forest Ag: Any inoperable acres should be clearly delineated on the map. County Assessor parcel delineation should also be illustrated on a map.*
- B. Type of timber cruise conducted (i.e., variable plot, fixed plot, strip), and how cruise accuracy was determined.
- C. Summary of insect and disease presence, damage, or risk, including information on significant incidents, historical and current.
- D. Fire hazard rating and risk factors of the area with statement of risk rating method.
- E. Soil types, possible limitations or concerns. **INCLUDE AN NRCS SOIL MAP WITH NRCS LAND CAPABILITY CLASS AND SUBCLASS DESIGNATED ON MAP** and copy of NRCS written description. (If NRCS soil maps are not available for the property, provide an NRCS soil interpretation and assign an NRCS land capability class to each vegetative type identified).
- F. Access roads and trails, including a description of current or possible limitations. **INCLUDE ON A MAP.**
- G. Aquatic, riparian or wetlands features on the property and any limitations or concerns needed to protect and maintain. **INCLUDE ON A MAP.**
- H. Features such as buildings, fences, power lines, etc. **INCLUDE ON A MAP.**
- I. Noxious weeds, presence and abundance.
- J. Wildlife species observed, habitat extent, condition and potential impact of forest management activities.

- K. Threatened and Endangered species (plant, fish and animal), presence or known habitat. Recommended practices will be done consistent with Federal and State laws.
- L. Unique recreational, scenic and aesthetic qualities present.
- M. Known archeological or cultural sites.

VI. Prescriptions and implementation schedule

- A. Specific management practices, general specifications, implemented by unit.
- B. If cost-share is to be used what practices are specified.
- C. Implementation schedule, priority and projected dates.
- D. Additional or improved roads and trails needed to manage the property.
INCLUDE ON A MAP.
- E. Restrictions or special practice requirements, including equipment types, implementation timing, weather limitations, roads conditions, erosion control, slash treatment, etc.
- F. Specific implementation standards necessary to meet the landowner objectives.

For Forest Ag:

- G. *Type of products being managed for and estimated amounts of products to be harvested.*

VII. Implementation Record (to be completed as practices are implemented)

- A. Dates completed for recommended practices from VI. A.
- B. Map with record showing treatments, dates completed, volumes harvested, prices received, or management costs.

VIII. Appendices (As needed)

- A. Summarized inventory data for each management unit (*For Forest Ag: with error calculation*).
- B. Listing of individuals and agencies participating in evaluation and recommendations.
- C. Bibliography of reference material utilized.
- D. Glossary.
- E. Photos (features identified in item V., before treatment, etc.).
- F. Annual work plans and landowner assistance practice specifications.
- G. Other pertinent information.

Annual Work Plan:

The landowner and the preparing resource professional should complete an annual work plan (AWP) based on item VI. A, C. The AWP will be consistent with the forest management plan and will list those items from VI that will be implemented that year.

The AWP will include all necessary specifications for each recommended forest management practice in sufficient detail to direct practice implementation. The AWP should include restrictions or special requirements for practices, types of equipment, timing of implementation, etc. (for example, treatment restriction on winter range, planting site preparation, no roads, rubber tired skidders, culverts for drainage, slash treatment etc.) and standards necessary to meet the landowner's objectives.

Cost share practices should be noted in the AWP.

For Forest Ag:

The AWP's merit will be determined according to how accurately it implements the approved management plan recommendations. The AWP will include activities to maintain forest protection, such as insect and disease inspection and maintenance of adequate access.

The AWP is submitted each year along with the landowner's request for inspection and program participation (CSFS forms 338.1 and 338.2). It is used by the CSFS to verify landowner program compliance. If AWP activities are not sufficiently completed, a reasonable rationale must be provided to justify the variance.