\*Date

Tract Number: \*

\*

\*

\*

Dear \*:

Please find within your *Forest Stand Plan* for your property located in \* County. It was my pleasure to prepare this plan for you knowing that you have a true interest in active management of your natural resources.

This plan is based upon your forest management objectives for your property. All of the recommendations within this plan are for your consideration, but I believe that they will help you achieve your long- and short-term goals for your property.

The first step you should take in managing your forest resources is to \*.

I trust that you will find this plan to be informative and useful as you actively manage your natural resources. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

\*Area Forester’s Name

\*Office Address

\*City, State ZIP

(\*) \* Phone

*\*user.name@dof.virginia.gov*

# Virginia Forest Stand Plan

## About This Plan

This Forest Stand Plan was developed to help guide you in the active management of the natural resources on your property. The plan is based upon the objectives you identified as being important to you. All of the management recommendations are for your consideration.

## Primary Goals That You Identified For Managing The Property

1. \*
2. \*

## Introduction

This forest management plan covers the examination of approximately \* acres of forestland in \* County, Virginia. The management recommendations were developed for a specific parcel on your property. Boundaries and acres are only estimates derived from aerial photographs. A tract map is attached allowing you to see the map as you read your plan.

## Tract Location

\*

## Property Overview

\*

## Parcel \*

Descriptions and Recommendations:

Acres: \*

Forest Type: \*

Species Present: \*

Age: \*

Stand History: \*

Size: \*

Tree Quality: \*

Stocking/Density: \*

Growth Rate & Vigor: \*

Site Quality & Soils: \*

Aspect & Topography: \*

Water Resources: \*

Invasive Species: \*

Wildlife Habitat: \*

Recreation/Aesthetics: \*

Threatened & Endangered

Species Present: \*

Fire Risk: \*

Unique Natural Features: \*

Recommendations: \*

**Cost-Share Assistance Programs Have the option to delete, modify these sections**

Financial Incentive assistance programs may be available to help defray forest management project costs. Administering Agencies must be approved prior to the start of any management work. Please check with your local Virginia Department of Forestry representative for availability of programs and funds.

**Threatened or Endangered Species**

\*[No endangered or protected species were observed on the property. No such species are known to exist that would be found on your property.] Information in this plan concerning the presence of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species has been determined through observation and/or review of T&E species maps. This information does not substitute for a through exam completed by trained T&E specialists. For more information regarding threatened and endangered species or any regulations involved with them, please contact your local Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries office (<https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/fwis/>) or the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage office. (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/dbsearchtool>)

**Forest Health and Protection**

A healthy forest is a forest that possesses the ability to sustain the unique species composition and processes that exist within it. Active management of the forest helps to maintain and improve its productive capacity, taking into account all the factors that influence the resource elements addressed in the Forest Stand Plan. Silviculture harvest practices and the use of prescribed fire as a tool can reduce risk from wildfire, pests and invasive species, and ensure long-term forest health and vigor. Forest health protection issues are often directly related to the active management of insects and diseases, invasive plants and wildfire. Annual inspections for signs of insects, diseases or invasive plant infestations should be completed by the landowner.

**Fire**

Prescribed fire, also known as “controlled burn,” refers to the controlled application of fire by a team of fire experts under specified weather conditions that help restore health to fire-adapted environments to obtain specific management objectives. Prescribed burning is a critical management tool that enhances and benefits forests, grasslands and wildlife habitats. Prescribed fire is an effective tool in site preparing harvested areas for replanting tree seedlings as well as reducing excessive amounts of hazardous fuel build up and catastrophic damage of wildfire on our lands and surrounding communities. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools we have in preventing the outbreak and spread of wildfires.

Protection of your property from wildfire is essential. Wildfire rapidly destroys valuable timber, wildlife and property. From February 15 through April 30, open air fires are not permitted within 300 feet of woodland, brushland or field containing dry grass or other flammable material between midnight and 4:00 p.m. The number one cause of wildland fire in Virginia is debris burning. In other words, MOST of the fires that occur could have been prevented. In the case of an emergency, please report all woods fires to your local County Fire Dispatch Center at 9-1-1. If you feel that the situation does not warrant a fire department response, you may call a Virginia Department of Forestry representative at \*.

**Conservation – based Estate Planning**

**YOUR LAND LEGACY**

Owning forestland is a privilege. Whether you are a first generation owner or part of a long line of family owners, your decisions have lasting impacts. Perhaps the greatest opportunity you have to impact the future is by answering this question; “What will happen to this land after my tenure?” Will it become one of the thousands of properties sold each year and subsequently developed, never to return to woodland, or will it remain intact, in forest and family owned?

Most landowners desire to pass their land forward to the next generation of family members, yet few take the next steps to insure that exchange will happen. The plan you now hold helps to guide your management decisions to reach certain property management goals. Likewise, a legacy, or succession plan helps to guide you and your family along a path to successfully transferring not only land, but also values & ethics, to your next generation.

Do you need to consider developing a legacy plan? Consider these questions:

1. Do you know what you want to have happen to you land?
2. Are the people who need to know this answer aware of your desires?
3. Do you know what other members of the family want to have happen?
4. Is there strong agreement within the family on these matters?
5. Have you considered various ownership tools like Limited Liability Company (LLC) & Trusts?

If you answered “NO” to any of these questions, it may be worthwhile to learn more about this topic. Many estate planning resources exist both in print and online.

A good place to start for Virginia landowners is this Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program (<http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/environment-resources/legacy-planning/index.html>). On this website is a list of resources that have been critically reviewed for accuracy by VDOF, Virginia Tech (VT) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE).