

## Michigan Forest Stewardship Plan – Required Components Checklist

**Forest Stewardship Plans.** Forest Stewardship Plans are simple yet comprehensive forest management plans to help landowners be good stewards of their forest. This is a checklist of the required and recommended components of a Michigan Forest Stewardship Plan, based on guidelines from the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). The Michigan Forest Stewardship Program is funded by the USFS. This checklist is to be used by Plan Writers when writing Plans and by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Foresters when reviewing Plans.

**Related Forestry Programs.** Forest Stewardship Plans can be used by a landowner to certify their sustainable forest management through the American Tree Farm System. If a landowner intends to enroll in the Commercial Forest Program or the Qualified Forest Program, their Forest Stewardship Plan must also meet the requirements of those programs. Forest Stewardship Plans are accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) when a landowner applies for financial assistance to implement “conservation practices” identified in their plan. Forest Stewardship Plans are not expected to include all of the detailed specifications required for a NRCS forest management plan.

**Forest Certification.** The USFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Forest Foundation in 2016 to encourage Forest Stewardship landowners to certify their forest land with the American Tree Farm System. Michigan Forest Stewardship Plans also reflect the requirements of the American Tree Farm System so that all landowners with a Forest Stewardship Plan in Michigan may be eligible for certification through Tree Farm ([www.TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan](http://www.TreeFarmSystem.org/Michigan)).

**Landowner** \_\_\_\_\_ **Plan Writer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Reviewer** \_\_\_\_\_

### Michigan Forest Stewardship Plan Checklist

Component	Required	Recommended	Included?
<b>COVER PAGE</b>	X		
Title - “Forest Stewardship Plan”	X		
Landowner Name	X		
Plan Writer Name	X		
Plan Start Date	X		
Plan Duration or End Date	X		
Logos (FSP, Tree Farm, DNR, forester, etc.)		X	
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	X		
Landowner Contact Information	X		
Plan Writer Contact Information	X		
Acres of Forest Included in Plan	X		
Signature Blocks (landowner, writer, DNR)	X		
Legal Description (County, Town, Range, Section, etc.)	X		
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	X		
Table of Contents		X	
General Property Description	X		
Landowner’s Goals and Objectives	X		
Map (Stands, Forest Type, Water, Legend, etc.)	X		
Narrative of Current Forest Conditions	X		
Summary of Planning Process		X	
Stand Assessment Method		X	

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<b>NATURAL RESOURCE ELEMENTS</b>	X		
Forest Health (insects, disease, abiotic, etc.)	X		
Soil (productivity, limitations, etc.)	X		
Water (lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, etc.)	X		
Wood and Fiber Production	X		
Threatened and Endangered Species	X		
Special Sites (archeological and natural)	X		
Invasive Species (plants, animals, etc.)	X		
Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)	X		
Fire (prescribed burns and wildfire)		X	
Wetlands (required if present on the property)		X	
Desired Species (animals, plants, habitat, etc.)		X	
Recreation (trails, hunting, camping, etc.)		X	
Forest Aesthetics		X	
Biomass (firewood, commercial fuelwood, etc.)		X	
Carbon (sequestration and climate resilience)		X	
<b>PRESCRIPTIONS</b>	X		
Narrative of Desired Future Conditions	X		
Management Activities for Each Stand	X		
Strategy and Timeline for Implementation	X		
Best Management Practices for Soil and Water	X		
Aesthetic Considerations	X		
<b>MONITORING</b>	X		
Monitor Forest and Update Plan as Needed	X		
<b>APPENDIX</b>		X	
Glossary of Forestry Terms		X	
Financial Assistance Programs (EQIP, CSP, etc.)		X	
Educational Materials (MSUE bulletins, etc.)		X	
Regulatory Issues (BMPs, DEQ permits, T&E, etc.)		X	
<b>Additional Items to Comply with Related Forestry Programs</b>			
<b>COMMERCIAL FOREST PROGRAM</b>		X	
Landowner Intent for Commercial Forestry	Required by law		
Summary Table of Silvicultural Prescriptions	Required by law		
Records of Silvicultural Practices Completed	Required by law		
Amendments Due to Unexpected Events	Required by law		
<b>QUALIFIED FOREST PROGRAM</b>		X	
Measures to optimize production, utilization, and regeneration of forest resources	Required by law		
Parcel Tax ID Number	Required by law		
Buildings Shown on Map	Required by law		
Statement of Landowner Compliance	Required by law		
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE</b>		X	
Identify “Resource Concerns”		X	
Recommend “Conservation Practices”		X	
<b>AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM</b>	<b>This checklist reflects ATFS plan requirements.</b>		