** American Tree Farm System®**

**Management Plan Template**

 State Tree Farm #

Tree Farm Property Location

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tree Farm Name: |  | Acres:  |  |
| Ownership1:  |  |
| County:  |  | State:  |  |
| Tax Map ID:  |  | GPS Coordinates: |  |
| Location2:  |  |

Tree Farmer Contact Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Landowner Name(s):  |  |
| Mailing Address:  |  |
| City: |  | State:  |  | Zip: |  |
| Phone: | ( ) -  | E-Mail:  |  |

Forester Information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Forester Name:  |  | Inspector ID #:  |  |
| Phone: | ( ) -  | E-Mail:  |  |
| Employer:  |  |

Landowner’s signature confirms that management activities will be conducted in accordance with this proposed Tree Farm Management Plan.

Landowner’s Signature: Date: / /

Forester’s signature confirms that this proposed Tree Farm Management Plan meets the needs of the landowner(s) and satisfies the American Tree Farm System management plan requirements.

Forester’s Signature: Date: / /

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A copy of this management plan must remain with the Landowner. The American Tree Farm System will acknowledge that the management plan and recommendations are applicable and consistent with land owner’s current objectives upon receipt of the relevant 004 Form with all appropriate signatures.

1. Ownership includes Non-Industrial Private, Municipal, Public, and Other landownership classifications.

2. Location includes legal and/or local descriptions to assist in locating property for future reinspection.

**Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

*Management plans are active, adaptive, and embody the owners’ current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified, and reflect the current state of knowledge about natural resources and sustainable forest management.*

**Section 1 - Landowner Objectives**

**Objective 1:**  To improve the productivity of the timberland through sound forest management.

**Objective 2:**  To enhance wildlife habitat of the property through sound forest management practices.

**Section 2 - Management Resource Elements**

*The changing conditions in the forest and surrounding lands require a constant awareness and periodic maintenance to ensure the health of the resources. This is a situation common to all landowners. During visits to the property the following conditions were observed or opportunities exist that may warrant special attention. They are offered here for your consideration.*

**1) Forest Health:**

*-Use this section to indicate the range of activities considered to control pests, pathogens, and unwanted vegetation.*

*-Include efforts taken to monitor, prevent, control, or respond to wildfire, invasive species, insects and disease, and unwanted vegetation.*

*-Identify potential issues that are relevant for the property, not necessarily present.*

 The forest health of the property is overall good due to the various forest management activities that have occurred. Periodic monitoring should be performed for beetle activity, adverse pathogens, or other threats that may cause stress on the forest. Prompt awareness of issues and appropriate management activities will encourage forest health on the property.

**2)** **Soil:**

 Soils found on the property, with the exception of the bottomland hardwood areas, are well suited to timber production and adequate harvesting operability. Additional soil descriptions and site productivity may be found in this management plan.

**3)** **Water:**

*-Include compliance with SC BMPs for Forestry.*

*-Make sure water resources are identified on the map.*

 Water bodies and drainage areas are identified on the enclosed Timber Type Map. Water quality must be a primary concern in areas adjacent to streams, creeks, and ponds. Maintaining timber cover in these areas, as recommended by South Carolina Best Management Practices, should insure the protection of water quality. Hardwood drains located on the property may be considered jurisdictional wetlands and should be protected by following all pertinent South Carolina Best Management Practices.

**4)** **Wood and Fiber Production:**

*-Encourage use of qualified natural resource professionals and written contracts.*

*-Note that reforestation shall achieve adequate stocking of desired species within 5 years.*

 Stands of mature timber should be harvested, site prepared, and planted with genetically improved loblolly pine seedlings. Harvests should be scheduled to meet the management and financial objectives of the landowner. First and second thinnings of pine plantations should be scheduled when appropriate to reduce stocking and promote sawtimber production. Use prescribed burns as justified in designated stands to reduce logging debris following harvests and to control undesirable understory competition. Maintain firebreaks and property lines to prevent wildfires, improve access, and discourage trespassers.

**5) Threatened and Endangered Species:**

*-Indicate the resources checked to determine whether threatened and endangered species are present.*

 After a check of available information on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website, field inspections and other sources, no threatened or endangered species were identified on this property or in the vicinity. This should not be taken to mean that threatened and endangered species could not be present. A current listing of SC threatened and endangered species may be found on the USFWS site at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/> and reviewing data for SC. Further information on this topic may be obtained from the SC DNR Heritage Trust Program, NatureServe, or other related sources.

(If present, provide additional details and recommendations)

**6) Special Sites:**

*-Special sites may include areas of historical, archaeological, cultural, biological, or geological significance.*

*-May also include sites of special importance to the landowner.*

*-Indicate the resources checked to determine whether special sites are present.*

*-If present, indicate how special sites will be protected and maintained, and be sure they are identified on the map.*

 The only features observed during fieldwork on these properties was an old home site. Special care should be taken to delineate these areas prior to any activities taking place in their vicinity. If other such features are known to the landowner their existence should be noted prior to activities taking place in their vicinity. Conversely if future activities reveal such features, appropriate measures should be taken to define and protect them. The South Carolina Department of Archives and Anthropology may be contacted for further information on these type resources.

(If present, provide additional details and recommendations)

**7) Invasive Species:**

*-Almost all tracts have some invasive species present; it is a good practice to identify major species of concern and indicate if they are a significant problem or not, and how they could be controlled.*

 Invasive species can be a problem and takeover productive timberland. Monitor the property to detect areas with invasive species and treat accordingly to eliminate or control their encroachment.

EXAMPLE: Kudzu was observed along the edge of the paved road. This infestation should be monitored and/or treated chemically to prevent further encroachment into the forested areas.

**8) Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI):**

*-FORI are usually larger than a single Tree Farm and include landscape features like Congaree National Park or a designated State Scenic River.*

*-Indicate resources checked to determine whether FORI are present.*

 Forest of Recognized Importance are considered critically important because they contain a unique combination of social, cultural, biodiversity or environmental values. Such areas may be defined by the landowner or identified as a rare habitat type at the landscape level. After a check of available information in the SC Wildlife Conservation Plan, field inspections and other sources, no FORI areas were identified on the property. If FORI areas are identified in the future, seek advice from natural resource professionals to determine how best to manage and promote the specific forest or habitat type.

**Other Considerations: (If applicable to the property, provide further details and recommendations)**

**9) Prescribed Fire:**

 Prescribe burns will promote understory habitat that is beneficial for wildlife and timber production. Special care and planning should be administered to conduct prescribe burns to meet desired objectives and comply with SC Smoke Management Guidelines.

**10) Wetlands:**

 Some low lying areas or drains located on the property may be considered jurisdictional wetlands and should be protected by following all pertinent applicable federal and state laws. South Carolina Best Management Practices should be implemented when conducting forestry operations in these areas.

**11) Desired Species:**

*-If applicable, may include specific wildlife or ecological goals.*

*-Desired Species must be specifically addressed in the management plan and may include things like bobwhite quail, longleaf pine restoration, or butterflies.*

*-Desired Species should NOT include species chosen to meet management goals, such as ‘loblolly pine for timber income.’ Likewise, bottomland hardwoods should not be listed as a desired species unless specific efforts are being made to restore or enhance certain conditions.*

 Diverse wildlife habitat currently exists throughout the property and will be further enhanced by harvesting activities and prescribe burns. Harvests provide diversity for wildlife habitat. Prescribe burns will promote understory habitat that is beneficial for wildlife. Food Plots can be utilized to provide additional habitat diversity and wildlife browse.

**12) Recreation:**

 The property is well suited for a variety of recreational activities including wildlife viewing, hiking, and hunting.

**13) Aesthetics:**

**14) Biomass:**

**15) Carbon:**

**16) Other Resources:**

Further information and resources on these and other topics may be found on the Tree Farm website. [www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources](http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources).

**Section 3 - Tract Map**

Management plans include a tract map noting stands, conditions, and important features including special sites.

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Scale (circle one): 1- square = 1-acre or 10-acres

Please indicate roads, streams, stands, and property boundaries.

Notes:

**Section 4 - Stand Descriptions and Recommendations**

Stand descriptions include acreage, condition, species composition, age distribution, special sites, recommendations, etc.

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| Stand Number: |  |
| Timber Type: |  |
| Acres: |  |

Description and Recommendations:

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Description and Recommendations:

| **RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE** |
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| **Tract #** | **Stand No.** | **Type** | **Acres** | **Year 20\_\_** | **Year 20\_\_** | **Year 20\_\_** | **Year 20\_\_** | **Year 20\_\_** |
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**Section 5 - Soil Map**

Management plans include a soil map noting soil descriptions, conditions, and important aspects that may affect management activities.

Notes:

**Section 6 - Management Records**

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**Section 7 - Adaptive Management**

Please note any modifications to the initial property goals, objectives, and/or recommendations stated in Sections 1, 2, and/or 4.

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| Date | Section  | Modification |
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