

Wet areas and watercourses require special consideration when planning activities on your woodlot. For example, you may need to obtain a permit before constructing a watercourse crossing. Wet soils should be identified and protected from impacts caused by heavy equipment.

Do you wish to pursue woodlot certification?

Woodlot certification is the matching of woodlot owners' goals with sustainable forest management standards that have been set by an independent third party. Rapidly becoming an important marketing and forest management tool, certification of privately owned woodlots must contain an adequate level of planning. Woodlot owner associations are directly linked to certification initiatives.

Where can you obtain a woodlot management plan?

There are many forestry consultants and woodlot owner organizations in the province that can provide you with a good quality management plan. Most forestry consultants are Registered Forest Professionals. All woodlot owner associations have professionals on staff who can help you with your planning needs. A list is provided at the end of this brochure.

Remember – woodlot management plans are usually not complicated, but they need to be accurate. They are well worth your time and expense to invest in one.

For detailed information, please visit the following resources:

NS Department of Natural Resources
www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot
1-866-226-7577 woodlot@gov.ns.ca

Forest Professionals

- Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia www.rpfans.ca
- Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association www.nsfia.ca
- Canadian Institute of Forestry www.cif-ifc.org

Woodlot Owner Organizations

- Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners www.fnswo.ca
- Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association www.nslffpa.org
- Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association www.nswooa.ca

Harvesting and Silviculture Contractors

- Nova Forest Alliance www.novaforestalliance.com
- Atlantic Master Loggers www.cwfcof.org

Silviculture Assistance

- Association for Sustainable Forestry www.asforestry.com

Woodlot Road Assistance

- Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia www.fpans.ca



A Quick Guide to

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT PLANNING


NOVA SCOTIA



FAMILY WOODLOT GUIDE

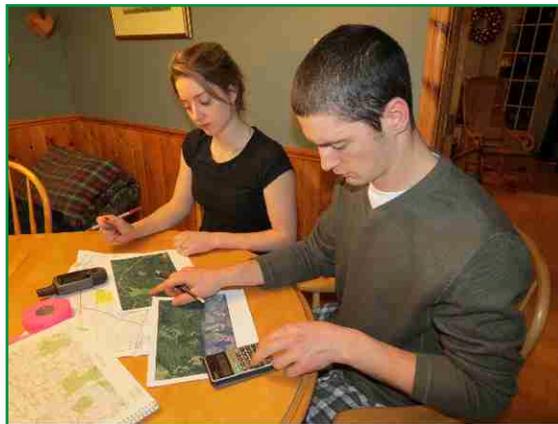
Why is good planning the most important step in managing your woodlot?

Planning can lay a foundation for the future of your property by improving the overall effectiveness of your woodlot activities, and by assisting in reducing costs. It can help your family reduce inheritance taxes, obtain woodlot certification and receive forest improvement assistance. A plan is the first step on the road to managing your woodlot resources efficiently and effectively.

Woodlot management plans do not need to be complicated. They should, however, contain the following basic information:

■ Your goals and objectives.

No two woodlots are alike, in the same way that no two woodlot owners are the same. Different owners have different values which they place on their woodlots. Some owners may place a high value on recreation, wildlife viewing and fuel wood harvesting. Others may manage their woodlots for timber production, non-timber forest products like berries and mushrooms, and as spiritual retreats. It is extremely important to identify and review your goals and objectives as early as possible in the planning process. Keep in mind that there may be costs, too, including the cost of producing a management plan.



■ An accurate map or aerial photograph.

This will identify significant areas within your woodlot and provide a reference for all your future activities. Knowing the location of different types of forest in relation to watercourses, special management areas and access roads is important in planning woodlot activities. A common and convenient planning unit is the ecosite, which is a unique forest area that is classified according to the vegetation and soil types.

■ A description of your boundary lines.

Even with modern tools such as GPS, it is important to maintain accurate boundary lines on the ground. Locating evidence of your boundary lines is usually not difficult, but in some cases a licensed surveyor should be consulted to verify or establish property boundaries. Your woodlot map should show indicators of boundary lines, such as tree blazes or old wire or stone fences.

■ A description of woodlot ecosites.

Each ecosite should be identified on the ground, and a brief description of the area documented in your plan. Ecosites will have unique characteristics that will determine your future management activities.

■ Identification of wildlife habitat.

Many species of wildlife require special areas to exist. For example, the Nova Scotia mainland moose, a provincially endangered species, needs adequate shelter and feeding areas. Other species, such as the northern goshawk, require large old hardwood trees for nesting. These sites should be clearly identified in your plan, along with a strategy to minimize disturbance.

■ Identification of future activities.

If forest improvement work (called silviculture) is recommended for your woodlot, it should be described in a section of the management plan. There must also be an indication of when the work should be completed for maximum benefit.

In woodlot management planning, some consideration should be given to the landscape outside the boundaries of your property. Is there a large clear cut adjacent to your woodlot? If so, you may want to consider letting the trees in this area regenerate to a height of at least two meters before you start your own harvesting work.