CRITERIA FOR WRITING A LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Forest stewardship plans are developed to guide and assist landowners as they actively manage their forest and woody vegetation. Active management will keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners as well as increase the economic and environmental benefits of these lands. These criteria are based on Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines as revised in October 2015.

The management plan should cover a ten-year period and be written for all land managed as a unit. All forest resources on a property should be included in the plan and may include blocks of land that are not necessarily contiguous. A stewardship plan may cover more than one landowner's property if the combined properties are to be managed as a unit. The plan should be written so that it is easy to read and be understood by the landowner.

The plan is a working document and should be reviewed and amended as necessary, at least every five years.

The landowner and preparing resource professional should review the plan together and consider goals and objectives, dynamic biological conditions, biological diversity, productive capacity, health and vigor of the forest, soil and water resources, markets, disasters, invasive species, project updates, list management decisions made by the landowner to achieve the objectives, recommend activities, provide a schedule for activity implementation, and record completed activities.

The plan should guide the landowner and the resource professional in the implementation of activities designed to manage and protect the resources of the forest in a manner compatible with the landowner's objectives. The plan must consider the multi-resource aspects of forest stewardship by addressing fish and wildlife, endangered species, water and soil, wetlands, recreation and aesthetics, cultural resources, and timber.

The Natural Heritage Program database will be referenced to determine if any history of endangered species or habitat exists in the planning area.

The Archeological Resource Management System database will be referenced to determine if known cultural resources exist on the property.

Each activity must have a prescription, or project plan, which will provide the specifications and standards for completion of that project. The project plan should include any restrictions or special requirements, design, timing, species, spacing, placement, materials, and any other information needed to complete the project, protect the resources, and satisfy the landowner's objectives.

Project plans are not needed when the original forest stewardship plan is prepared but should be completed before an activity is started. The project plan is added to the forest stewardship plan as an addendum when an activity is completed.

Maps and forest descriptions should be included and updated as appropriate.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

For
Name
Address.
City, State Zip Code
Phone number
Email address

Prepared Date

Prepared by:

Name
Company
Address
City, State Zip Code
Phone number
Email address

Having read the attached Forest Stewardship Plan, I agree that the plan reflects my objectives for managing my forest lands, and that the practices described will help me accomplish those objectives. I intend to initiate the practices recommended by this plan and follow the plan's direction with the understanding that the plan can be modified at any time, with the assistance of a resource professional, to meet changing objectives.

Landowner Approval: ______________________________

Signature

____

Date

This plan satisfies the criteria of the South Dakota Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

Prepared by:

____
Signature

____
Date

DANR Resource Conservation and Forestry Division Representative:

____
Signature

____
Date

STEWARDSHIP PLAN CONTENTS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA LANDOWNERS

A) Document title and signature page including:
   1) Landowner's name, address, and phone number
      - list multiple landowners if appropriate.
   2) Date plan prepared.
   3) Plan preparer's name, address, and phone number.
   4) Landowner statement of intent and approval with signatures of Landowner, plan preparer, and State Forestry representative.

B) Landowner's management goals and objectives.
   1) Primary objectives.
   2) Secondary objectives.

C) Acreage affected.

D) Site Description should include but is not necessarily limited to:
   1) Location of property and resources.
   2) Size.
   3) Existing vegetation data: stocking, age, species, site index, condition (insects and diseases), invasive species, weeds.
   4) Describe the desired forest condition.
   5) Physical data: soils, capability classification, topography, wetlands, accessibility, fire risk, windbreak suitability group.
   6) Features: fences, roads, wells, power lines, etc.
   7) Land use history

E) Describe resource elements: their presence, condition, potential, and protection as they relate to the landowner's objectives.
   1) Fish and wildlife
   2) Timber management (Wood and Wood Fiber Production)
   3) Agroforestry
   4) Threatened & Endangered species
   5) Archeological, Cultural and Historic Resources (special sites)
   6) Water and Soil
   7) Biological Diversity
   8) Wetlands
   9) Carbon Sequestration & Climate Resilience
   10) Recreation
   11) Range
   12) Aesthetic Quality and Desired Timber Species
   13) Forest Health & Invasive Species
   14) Fire
   15) Forests of Recognized Importance
   16) Conservation-Based Estate Planning/Legacy Planning Information

F) Duration of planning period
   (suggested for it to be 10 years with review every 5 years or after large events).

G) Recommended management practices. Describe how the practice satisfies the landowner's objectives, fits the site, and protects or enhances applicable resource values.
   1) Short term treatments (1-5 years) and implementation schedule.
   2) Future treatments (5+ years) and implementation schedule.
   3) Consider integrated pest management techniques.
   4) Inform of any state laws or regulations applicable to recommended practices.
   5) Inform of any permits required to implement recommended practices and how to obtain them.
   6) Describe any suggested monitoring activities to be completed by the forester or landowner.
   7) Inform of available cost-share programs that can help with the recommended treatments (details can be placed in appendix).

H) Implementation record – record what, when, where and any other pertinent information regarding completed projects.

I) Maps must have a legend and may include, but are not necessarily limited to:
   1) Ownership (required)
   2) Area covered by plan (required if different than ownership)
   3) Vegetation types
   4) Soils (required)
   5) Location of recommended treatments
   6) Accessibility

J) Appendix (as applicable)
   1) List of definitions for technical terms.
   2) Descriptions of available cost-share programs.
   3) Brochures and fact sheets (BMPs, insects and diseases, wildlife, weed control, drip irrigation, etc).
   4) Sample contracts.
   5) Inventory data.
   6) Growth and yield calculations.
   7) Other

K) Addenda
   1) Project plans for recommended practices (thinning Rx, tree planting designs, harvest Rx, etc.)
   2) Project completion reports (residual stand description, sale volumes, summary of receipts, problems, etc.)