



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Forest Management Plans



Louisiana Sustainable Forestry Initiative

www.laforestry.com

Developing a forest management plan is a helpful step to guide you toward accomplishing your specific forest management goals and objectives. It is a guide containing details about a long-term series of steps leading to the desired goals you have set for your forestlands. It is important to first determine the priorities that you have for your property, then set goals and shorter-term objectives to reach those goals. Once you have started putting these together, you have begun to create a Management Plan for your timberlands. For example, your plan may include some of the following:

- Timber harvesting
- Regeneration, including site preparation and tree planting
- Fertilization and stand improvement
- Competition control
- Pre-commercial and commercial thinning
- Wildlife management including endangered and threatened species
- Aesthetic, recreational use and diversity of plants and communities
- Water quality protection and Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Management issues concerning all applicable federal, state and local laws

An example of a forest management plan can be found at the following link:

[Sample Management Plan](#)

There are a number of agencies and organizations who can assist landowners with management plans

1. Consulting Foresters – Contact information can be obtained



A professional forester can help you develop a forest management plan based on your specific interests and goals for your property.

for forestry consultants in your area from the Louisiana Society of American Foresters website or from the Association of Consulting Foresters website at

[Society of American Foresters](#)
[Association of Consulting Foresters](#)

2. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) (<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/nationalplantemplate>) has programs designed to assist forest owners with the development of their forest management plans. In our state the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) is the facilitator of the ATFS and can assist landowners in finding a Tree Farm Inspector who can help them with a plan. The LFA can be found at <http://www.laforestry.com> or at (318) 443-2558.

3. Landowner Assistance Programs: Some forest products companies have Landowner Assistance Programs that can help forestland owners with management plans. Below is contact information for companies in Louisiana with Landowner Assistance Programs:

Hunt Forest Products	(318)255-2245
Weyerhaeuser Co. – N La	(318)843-5017

4. State Forestry Programs:

- The Louisiana Office of Forestry administers a number of assistance programs and will help develop general forest management plans, provide advice on timber sales, make referrals and provide information on cost-share programs on ownerships of any size. <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us>
- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) can provide information and technical assistance related to fish, wildlife and habitats. <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>
- The LSU Agricultural Center as the Land Grant University System provides research based information and education and has area agents located throughout the state. They also provide diagnostic assistance and referrals to other sources. <http://www.lsuagcenter.com>

5. Federal Programs:

- The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is the technical agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provides assistance in developing conservation plans that address all natural resources. They also administer federal cost-share programs for regeneration and conservation practices. They are found in most parishes. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>
- The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and also takes applica-

tions and processes payments for other financial assistance programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Other Links that may be of help:

<http://www.eforester.org/lp/landowners.cfm>

<http://www.aces.edu/forestry/>

<http://extension.uga.edu/agriculture/forestry/>



A well-executed forest management plan can make all the difference in the success and economic return on your property.