



FORECON, INC. EMS FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING TEMPLATE



Forecon Inc. is responsible for managing hundreds of thousands of acres of timberland throughout the states of Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. Our clientele consists of small private non-industrial owners, large investment companies, public municipalities, and industrial landowners. The intensity and direction of forest management can vary greatly among our clients. Although each forest management plan has the same basic components, Forecon Inc. customizes each management program to some degree in order to meet each client's specific needs.

The environmental management system outlined in this document is offered as the benchmark for our long-term forest management clientele. Conformance to this system and certification (ATFS Tree Farm Group) principles represents the highest level of stewardship and forest management ethic. Forecon Inc. realizes that not all landowners will be willing and or able to conform to all of these principles all of the time. In most cases management plans are developed in a way that strives to achieve as close to ideal management as possible while considering the limitations placed on us by the landowner or the resource.

Forecon Inc. has developed the following outline or template management plan for use by our foresters to develop plans under this management system. This outline is intended to ensure that all required components for a plan are included and to lend some uniformity to our management plans. This outline is not, however, intended to result in a cookie cutter approach to plan development. Every client has a unique resource and a unique set of circumstances under which it is to be managed. Forecon Inc. recognizes this diversity from client to client and encourages ingenuity and creativity in the planning process as long as it is based on a balance between scientific principles, economics, and the ownership objectives.

The first step in the forest management process is to gather inventory data or make an assessment of the resource being considered. Forest inventory can be collected in many ways. Forecon currently uses the 10 BAF SILVAH overstory inventory procedure for most of the management plans developed. This is not to say that this is the only method that may be used. Many suitable inventory methods exist and the forester should choose the one that best fits the circumstances for the client.

Following the collection of the inventory data, the forester can then start the process of analyzing the data and developing a plan that outlines the ownership objectives and how the resource can be managed to meet them. This planning phase can be as simple as a brief management prescription for one tract or as complex as developing annual allowable harvests, management policies, or investment strategies for larger ownerships. A management plan can also take the form of a management budget, outlining revenue and expense



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information as it pertains to a particular management program. In most cases the management plan will consist of the components outlined in the template management plan below.

It should be mentioned that a management plan is merely a proposal. It is intended to give the landowner professional recommendations as to when and how their resources can be managed to meet their goals. Should the landowner wish, plans may be amended or edited to better suit changing situations over time. Most management plans are drafted with a ten-year work schedule that outlines the timing or priority of suggested management activities. We limit this time period to ten years because both the resource and the ownership objectives can change drastically over time. Ideally, a new management plan should be made every ten years.

Forecon sees the completion of a management plan not as the end of a project, but as the beginning of a long-term relationship with our client. Our management plans are developed in such a way that any qualified forester can implement the activities outlined in them, however we believe that our clients have a distinct advantage due to our experience, expertise, diversity, and technological abilities.

Outlined below are Forecon Inc.'s **Guidelines for Forest Management Plan Development.**

- I. Title Page.
 - A. Landowners Name.
 - B. Landowner Address.
 - C. Property Location
 - i. Township
 - ii. County
 - iii. State
 - D. Effective Date of Plan.
 - E. Plan Preparer.
- II. Table of Contents.
- III. Introduction.
 - A. Management Objectives.
 - i. Primary
 - ii. Secondary
- IV. Property Description.
 - A. Tax Map Identification Numbers (Legal)



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- B. Boundary Narrative
- C. Special or unique Features
- D. Copy of Deed

- V. Data Collection Methodology.

- VI. Overview of Suggested Silvicultural Systems.
 - A. Even-aged Management.
 - B. Uneven-aged Management.

- VII. Forest Health.

- VIII. Cultural or Historic Heritage.

- IX. Biodiversity.
 - A. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
 - B. Conservation Species or Features Unique to Ownership.

- X. Erosion and Sedimentation Control (Best Management Practices).
 - A. Stream Buffers
 - B. Stream Crossings
 - C. Road Development
 - D. Skid Trails and Landings

- XI. Wildlife Management.

- XII. Forest Regeneration.

- XIII. Conclusion/Summary.

- XIV. Compartment Summaries.
 - A. Stand Descriptions.
 - i. Stand Identification and Acres
 - ii. Forest Cover Type
 - iii. Species Composition
 - iv. Size Classification.
 - v. Stand Density (Basal Area)
 - vi. % Acceptable Growing Stock (AGS)
 - vii. Structure (Age Classification)
 - viii. Timber Volume Estimate.
 - ix. Stand Narrative.
 - x. Silvicultural Prescription.



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- B. Mapping.
 - i. Compartment
 - ii. Stand
 - iii. Topographic Quadrangle
 - iv. Orthophoto (or other Photo's if available)
 - v. Soils mapping if available

- XIV. Ten-Year Work Schedule.

- XVI. Appendix
 - A. Glossary of Terms.
 - B. Timber Stand Data Summaries.
 - C. Other Supporting Material