Landowner Goals and Site Constraints

- Introduction
- Why it is important to set goals and manage forests properly
- Setting your goals
- Limiting factors and constraints
- Examples
- What is the next step

New York State Forests

- Total Land Area: 30.2 million acres
- Forested Area: 18.6 million acres or 61% of total area
- Privately owned forest: 14.4 million acres or 76% of forest land
- $13.1 billion in direct output
- 488 million board feet of logs and 2.1 million tons of pulp

Forest Benefits

Forests provide critical ecosystem services essential to human life and a high standard of living (NYS DEC).

- Forest products
- Clean water and air
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Scenic beauty
- Recreational opportunity
- Carbon sequestration
- Open space
- Energy independence

Landowner Goals, Objectives, and Actions

- Goals
  - Should be established by the landowner.
  - Broad statements of conditions to achieve.
  - You'll need to answer a series of questions and prioritize to get the most out of established goal
- Objectives
  - Specific statements of planned outcomes that are associated with goals.
  - Landowner/forester
- Actions/Activities
  - These should be guided by a forest management plan
  - Landowner/forester (woods walk/plan)

Setting Goals

- Why do you own your land?
- What do you use your land for now and in the future?
- Make a list of what you value about your property
- What improvements would you like to see?
- Prioritize the goals from what you think is most important to least important
- Use a resource devoted to help landowners navigate this

Why do you own your land?

- It came with the house
- I wanted privacy
- I like to watch wildlife
- I like to hunt on my own land
- I want to manage my property for.....

Top Ten Reasons Forest Owners Own Family Forests

1. Beauty and scenery
2. Family heritage
3. Privacy
4. Nature protection
5. Connected to home or cabin
6. Investment
7. Hunting or fishing
8. Part of farm or ranch
9. Hiking, snowmobiling and other recreation
10. Timber production

From: USDA USFS National Woodland Owner Survey

What do you use your property for?

- Primary Residence
- Weekend Retreat
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Investment (timber/business)
- Future Development
- Other

What activities do you use your property for? More Specific

- bird watching
- biking
- hiking
- harvesting firewood
- harvesting wood products
- fishing
- camping
- horseback riding
- hunting
- boating
- nature walks
- wildlife observation

What do you want from your land in the future?

- Income
- Recreation
- Scenic Beauty
- Wood Products
- Wildlife

Wood products and other potential

- Commercial or personal use
- Firewood, log products, other
- What is the potential?
- Consult a Forester

- Other potential?
  - Syrup
  - Mushrooms
  - Carbon

Recreational Potential

- Personal or Commercial
- Leasing land for hunting
- Installation of camps
- Campgrounds
- Liability?

Special Features on the land

Other items to consider

- What am I willing to invest in my property in regards to time and money?
- What resources and equipment do I have available?
- Do I have financial goals?
- List any activities that will not be considered that may limit management activities (i.e. clearcutting, herbicide use, hunting, etc.)

Recreation activity on your land	Importance			Season of the Year			
	High	Low	None	Spring	Sum.	Fall	Winter
Hiking/Casual Walking							
*Trail Riding Activities							
Cross Country Skiing							
Camping							
Picnicking							
*Water Related Activities							
Hunting							
Trapping							
Nature Study/Watching Wildlife							
*Collecting (ie. berries, boughs)							
Other Activities							
*							
*							
*							

Charting Your Objectives

Importance	*High*				*Moderate*					*Low*
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Timber										
Wildlife										
Recreation										
Aesthetics										
Water Quality										
Ecosystem										
Certification										
Landscape Mgt.										
Long Term Own										
Coop Mgt.										
Perserve										
Easement										
Tax Programs										
Involvement	*High*				*Moderate*					*Low*
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

Examples of Goals

- Improve recreation
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Improve biodiversity
- Produce high quality sawlogs
- Provide a periodic income
- Leave a well-managed woodlot to my kids
- Produce firewood
- Improve the hunting
- Improve the health of the forest

How the conversation starts between landowner and forester

- I need to have my land logged/timbered
- I'd like to see more deer
- I'd like to make some money on the woods
- I cut firewood and would like to continue that
- My family and I love to cross country ski and we'd like to improve the trails
- My grandfather planted those trees on the hill and I would like to know what to do with them
- I'd like to do the right thing
- I'd like to make sure my woodlot is sustainable

When the right questions are asked by a forester.....

- I would like to harvest the woodlot when I retire
- I build boxes for apple orchards and will need enough logs to saw up for this reason
- The deer do not seem to bed on my property and I would like improve the habitat
- I love to walk the trails
- I'd like make some money if the woods needs to be cut
- Money is not a big issue to me. I would just like to manage the property well (Do the right thing!).
- I'd like to put camps in and charge the public to rent them

Goals that sometimes develop later in the ownership

- Education (i.e. workshops)
- Research (college donation)
- Land Trust/Easements
- Legacy to family

Accomplishing Goals

- The Tools
  - Silviculture
  - Trail and Road Work
  - Best Management Practices
  - Wildlife plantings

Site Constraints

- Slope
- Soil Conditions

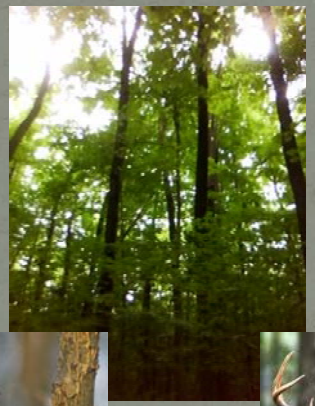
Site Constraints

- Water Features
- Regulatory Features
- Regulations
- Access

Site Constraints

- Current composition and size
- Woodlot history
- Timber Quality
- Acreage

Site Constraints: Wildlife Potential



Site Constraints/Management Challenges: Interfering Vegetation and Invasive Species

Other Constraints to Consider

- Financial limits
- Abilities (use of a chainsaw, manual labor, etc.)
- Time
- Ownership (lack of defined direction amongst owners)
- Future ownership/legacy

Goal: Attracting more wildlife

- What possibilities of attracting wildlife does my land have?
- To what degree could I manipulate my land to attract more wildlife?
- What possibilities do the adjoining properties have for attracting wildlife?
- Will my goals enhance or detract from those possibilities?
- What trade-off associated with my management goals may occur?
- Do I have the time and the financial resources to carry out the goals I have set?

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

This is an example of how to outline goals, objectives, and actions based on the habitat types outlined on the base map within the Evaluating the land chapter.

Goal: To attract pheasants and other grassland birds

Objective one: Create year round food source
- Action one: leave corn stubble
- Action two: plant fruit producing shrubs
- Action three: plant cool season grasses and clovers
- Action four: plant warm season grasses and forbs

Objective two: Create travel corridors
- Action one: plant shrubs

Objective three: Create winter cover
- Action one: plant switchgrass
- Action two: plant warm season grasses and forbs

Objective four: Create nesting and brood rearing habitat
- Action one: plant cool season grasses and clovers

Objective five: Create artificial nesting sites
- Action one: build and place nest boxes

Goal: Produce Periodic Income Through Timber Harvesting

- Objective: Conduct commercial harvests in stands above 80% R.D. if operable.

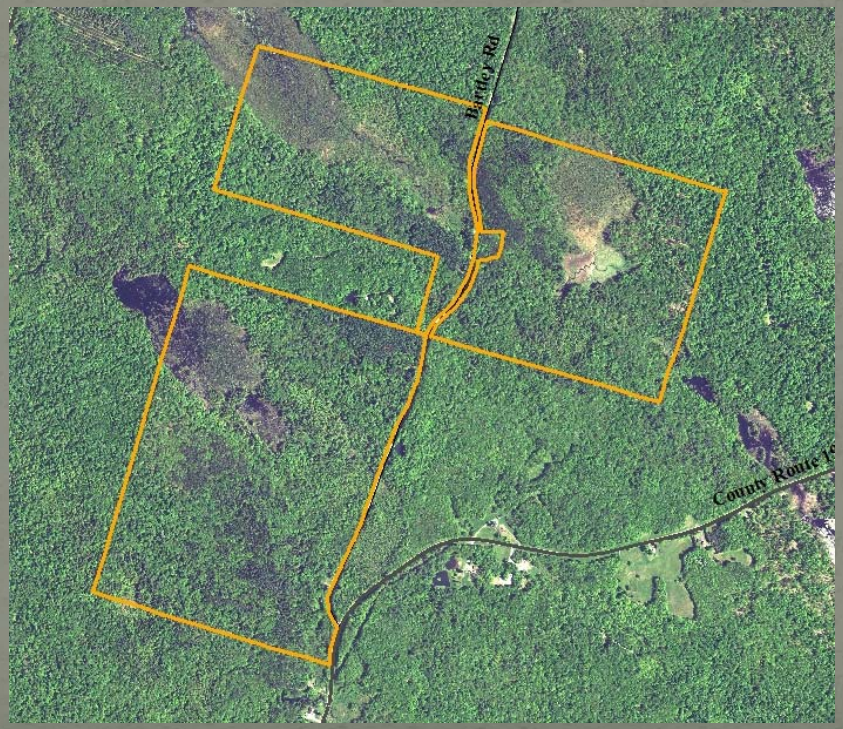
  Actions: Commercial thinning in stand 2 in 5-10 years
  Shelterwood harvest in stand 4 in 10-15 years

- Objectives: Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) in inoperable stands.

  Action: TSI in stands 1, 3, and 5 in 5-10 years

Which is the goal? Good silviculture or produce firewood?

Where do we start?



Forest Management Plans

- A forest management plan is a document which guides forest management decisions in order to accomplish established **landowner's goals** on a property

- Developed by a forester

Items included in a plan

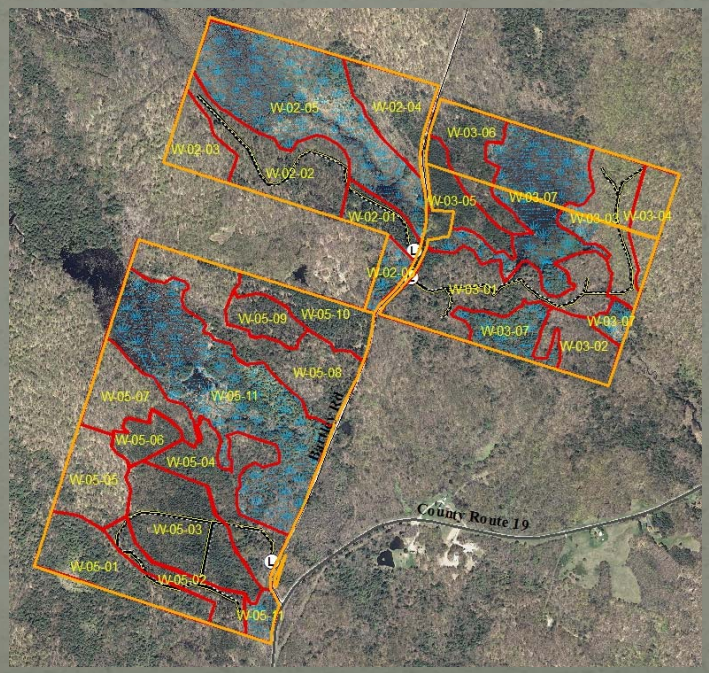
- Landowner goals
- Property description
- Management history
- Description of natural resources

  Soils, water, wildlife, recreation, recreation, aesthetics, timber

Items included in a plan

- Environmental review results
  - Wetlands/classified streams
  - Rare/Endangered Species
  - Cultural finds
- Forest Health/Challenges
- Management Recommendations
- Management Schedule
- Maps: forest stand, topo, wetlands, soils, etc.

Now We Know Where to Start



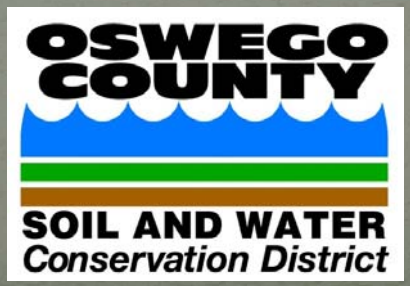
Years	Recommended Treatments
0-5	• Plant oak, apple trees and shrubs • Create snags, drumming logs and install nesting boxes • Patch clearcuts in stand 6 (20 acres-commercial) • Post and maintain boundary lines • Install and maintain trails
5-10	• Conduct TSI in stand 4 • Herbicide treatment in stand 5 and shelterwood harvest • Maintain trail access and boundary lines
10-15	• Commercial thinning in stands 1 and 2 • Evaluate stands for treatment • Update forest management plan (every 10 years) • Maintain trail access and boundary lines
15-20	• Maintain trail access and boundary lines

Resources

- Landowner Goals Assessment Form: https://extension.unh.edu/resource/landowner-goal-assessment-form-long-version
- Caring for Your Woods Setting Goals: https://www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-setting-goals/download
- Wisconsin's Forests The Private Landowner Handbook: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/ForestLandowners/WisconsinLandownersManual.pdf
- NYS DEC: https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4972.html#:~:text=Today%2C%2061%25%20of%20New%20York's,more%20than%20700%2C000%20private%20landowners

As future generations walk into the forest……

Thank you! Any Questions?

Contact Information:

Joe Chairvolotti, District Manager
Oswego County SWCD
3105 State Route 3
Fulton, NY 13069
Phone: (315) 592-9663
joe@oswegosoilandwater.com