



Frequently asked questions about



Natural Resources Conservation Service Forest Management Plans

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What is a forest management plan?

The term forest management plan is usually synonymous with forest stewardship plan. It is a working document that guides actions to achieve a predetermined set of goals. The NRCS uses the plan to address resource concerns on land where forestry-related conservation practices will be applied.

In Montana, landowners must have a conservation plan or forest management plan to be eligible for NRCS financial assistance through EQIP or WHIP. Consult your local NRCS field office to determine eligibility requirements.

What is included in a forest management plan?

While each state has its own guidelines for what's required in a forest management plan, generally the plan includes:

- ▲ General site and historical information
- ▲ Landowner objectives
- ▲ Description of existing forest conditions
- ▲ Desired future conditions
- ▲ Forest stand and soils maps

How do I get a forest management plan?

There are a few options for someone looking to get a forest management plan.

- ▲ Contact your local NRCS field office. NRCS can develop a forest management plan or landowners can hire a consultant through our Technical Service Provider registry and NRCS will provide financial assistance for developing the forest management plan.
- ▲ Contact your state department of forestry or extension forestry service.
- ▲ Hire your own consultant to help develop a management plan.

What kinds of forest management plans are accepted by NRCS?

The plan will assess overstory and understory conditions, as well as other related goals of the landowners, such as wildlife habitat, livestock grazing or catastrophic fire protection. Other considerations may include the yield and timing of runoff in the watershed.

I'm a forester and want to write forest management plans for NRCS conservation program participants. How do I get started?

You can become a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP). As a certified TSP, your name and contact will be listed in the TSP registry. NRCS customers will be able to find you in this registry and may hire you to write forest management plans.