



Forest Stewardship Program

Overview

The Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program is a program of education, information and technical assistance for private forest landowners who wish to plan for and enjoy the multiple benefits their forest land can provide. A working partnership between the USDA Forest Service, the CT DEP Division of Forestry and UConn Cooperative Extension, the Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program mission is to bring reliable forest management planning expertise to the private forest land holdings that comprise over 83% of the forest resource base in Connecticut. Forest Resources faculty within the Department of Extension in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources provide educational programming to landowners and forestry professionals, as well as access to research, science and technology that may be applied to forest management planning.

CONNECTICUT
FOREST
STEWARDSHIP



Contact Forest Stewardship

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Forest Stewardship Website

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Forest Stewardship Planning

Clean air, clean water, wildlife and forest products are things that all of society needs, yet they are dependent on privately owned forests. The Forest Stewardship Program recognizes that when private forest owners practice sound forest stewardship, everyone benefits. Developing a Forest Stewardship Plan is easy, and can accomplish three important things. First it ensures that a landowner will get the maximum possible enjoyment from their forest. Second, it also ensures that future generations will be able to enjoy the forest in the same way. Finally, our communities continue to enjoy the many benefits that come from well-managed private forests.

A Forest Stewardship Plan is an actual document developed by a landowner and a certified forester, either a private consulting forester or a CT DEP Service Forester. A forestry specialist from UConn Cooperative Extension may also provide assistance at any phase of the process. A typical Forest Stewardship Plan contains four basic parts:



GOALS

While they need not be elaborately stated, a statement of landowner goals communicates the essence and priority of what a landowner cares about and wants from their forest.

MAPS

Location maps, forest cover types, roads, trails and other features, soil types, habitat features and other information about a property displayed in map form are important assets to have as part of a plan. A set of GIS-based maps can be provided upon request to landowners who enroll in the program.

FOREST INVENTORY

As part of the planning process the forester will conduct a professional forest resource assessment, resulting in a wealth of important, useful information detailing the timber resource, wildlife habitat and recreation potential, among other things.



Clean air and water, wildlife habitat and timber products are all benefits the forest provides. (Photo) Forest Stewardship Short Course field tour.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon examining what a landowner wishes to accomplish (goals) and what they have to work with (inventory), a forester can then develop the real essence of the plan, a list of suggested activities a landowner can follow over time.

The UConn Cooperative Extension Role

Coordination, education, research and applied technology, assisting landowners, foresters and partnering agencies to help manage Connecticut's forest resources.

The University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) provides information, education and assistance to land use decision makers, in support of balancing growth and natural resource protection. CLEAR is a partnership of the Department of Extension and the Natural Resources Management and Engineering Department, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. CLEAR involves the USDA Land Grant, NOAA Sea Grant and NASA Space Grant university systems. Major funding for CLEAR comes from the State of Connecticut and a number of state and federal sources, including NASA DEVELOP, a program of the NASA Science Mission Directorate Applied Sciences Program.

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