



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Take the time to Review Your Tree Farm's Management Plan

Your woodlands are constantly changing. Seasons come and go, trees grow and die, weather and timber markets vary, and natural disasters or invasive species

can take their toll. And just as your Tree Farm changes, you and your family do, too: a major life event, such as a birth, death or illness, can alter your relationship with your woodland. Take the time to reflect on what happened last year, how your woods were affected, and what you may choose to do differently in the future. This review of your management plan and goals does not have to be daunting or difficult. It can mean adding just a few handwritten notes to your plan, and it can start with a simple walk in your woods.

The following easy steps can assist you in reviewing your management plan:

- Take a walk in your woods. Look for signs of stress and check the condition of all your Tree Farm's resources—not just the trees themselves, but the soil, vegetation, water sources and drainages, and wildlife as well.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is my Tree Farm progressing the way I want it to? If you battled pests or invasive plants last year, re-visit treated areas to take stock of their recovery. Make note of herbicide applications and other vegetation control methods used and how your woods responded, so you know what has worked for you and what has not.
- Have I properly planned for and protected wildlife habitat?
- How have I handled threats to my Tree Farm?
- Are my roads and trails adequate and in good condition?

Road access is critical for harvesting, maintenance, and for fighting fires. If building or repairing roads and trails needs a place on your list of activities planned for the year, it's better to know sooner rather than later.

- Are my property boundaries clearly marked? Are there signs of trespass?

Keep fences and boundaries in good shape to protect your resources and keep out unwanted visitors. If you have acquired or parted with property, you will need to update your management plan map and inventory information.



*Woodland resources change over time.
Walk your woods to take stock of these changes
and ensure your management plan is still on track.*

Walking through your Tree Farm as you consider these basic questions is the easiest and most effective way to update your management plan. The experience should give you a sense of how your Tree Farm is doing and how far it has come since you last reviewed your property and your goals for its progress. Knowing where your woods are now will help you plan for where you want them to be.

Kentucky Tree Farmer and Logger of the Year Finalists Announced

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is in the process of reviewing award finalists for the 2011 Kentucky Tree Farmer and Logger the Year awards. Narrowing the list down to the finalists was a daunting task, as each nominee was a strong candidate. The winners will be announced at the 2012 Kentucky Forest Industries Annual Meeting, which will be held March 28-30, 2012, in Louisville.

2011 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Finalists

- Mike Harvey, Campbellsville
- Larry York, West Liberty
- Tim and Tom Mracek, Bowling Green

2011 Kentucky Logger of the Year Finalists

- Roger Towe, Towe Logging, Franklin
- Eddie Butler, Vanceburg



Invasive Species Video Available

The Kentucky Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee supported the development of a video about Invasive Species presented by the North Carolina Forestry Association. Not only can woodland owners learn more about invasive species but Kentucky Master Loggers and Certified Foresters can receive CEC credits for watching the video and returning the questionnaire with proper form to those organizations. For more information contact the Kentucky Forest Industries Association at 502.695.3979 or visit <http://kfia.org/AboutSFI.aspx>