Management Plan for Ag Classification as a Forest

A management plan is simply a written document describing your property, the goals and objectives you have for the property, and the steps you will take to reach those goals. It should describe the whole property and state your goals and a plan for reaching the goals on the entire forested or potentially forested area. The plan you create should be a working document that can be amended as objectives and/or conditions change. **To continue to be eligible for the Agricultural Classification, you must follow your plan. Periodic inspections will be made by the Property Appraiser’s office to confirm your adherence to your plan.**

Florida Statute 193.461(3)(b) states that “**only lands which are used primarily for bona fide agricultural purposes shall be classified agricultural.** “Bona fide agricultural purposes” means good faith commercial agricultural use of the land.”

Florida Statute 193.461(3)(a) states **“the Property Appraiser, before so classifying such lands, may require the taxpayer or the tax payer’s representative to furnish the Property Appraiser such information as may reasonably be required to establish that such lands were actually used for a bona fide agricultural purpose.”** A management plan is one piece of information that can help establish agricultural purpose.

*This form is intended for use on properties under 25 acres.* For properties greater than 25 acres please consult the property appraiser or county forester. This form may or may not be suitable.

**Step 1** Determine your goals and objectives. Use the chart below to help determine your goals. To properly manage you should be aware of all goals – commercial and non-commercial. **Ag classification is based on an agricultural commercial aspect to your property. If you do not have or desire that, there may be some other classification your property is better suited for.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Importance to Me</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compatible Forest Enterprises*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agri- or Eco-tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting/Fishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife -general</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife -specific species:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological diversity/Ecosystem Restoration</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect Water Quality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Protect Unique or Historical Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenic Beauty/Aesthetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protect from Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Taxes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacy for Heirs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sell Property for Development</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Some common compatible forest enterprises include: honeybees, mushrooms, citrus, pine straw, goats, organic farming, etc.

**Step 2** Determine what you have. There will be questions on the management plan form to help you inventory your property. Your property may be divided into “stands”. A stand is an area of similar vegetation that will all be managed the same way. Examples of a stand might be a hardwood drain, 10 year old longleaf pine plantation, mixed pine hardwood upland, pasture, etc.

**Step 3** Write out the steps you will take to reach your goals and objectives. If you do not know the steps to take you should seek advice from a professional.

**Step 4** Follow the plan and keep records of what you do. Use the chart on the next page to record your activities.

For a *list of private Forestry Consultants* please contact the County Forester. Other helpful contacts:

**Escambia County Property Appraiser**  
221 Palafox Place, Suite 300  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
850-434-2735

**Escambia County Forester**  
4100 Hwy 29 N  
Cantonment, FL 32533  
850-587-5123

**UF-IFAS Escambia County Extension**  
3740 Stefani Rd  
Cantonment, Florida 32533  
850-475-5230

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**  
151 Hwy 97  
Molino, FL 32577  
850-587-5404

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
3911 Hwy. 2321  
Panama City, FL 32409-1658  
850-265-3676  
(ask for Landowner Assistance Program)

**USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)**  
6277 Dogwood Dr.  
Milton, FL 32570  
850-623-2441

Helpful Websites:

- Property Appraiser: [http://www.escpa.org](http://www.escpa.org)
- Forest Management: [https://www.treefarmsystem.org/](https://www.treefarmsystem.org/)
- [http://www.ssrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/additional_pages/forest_stewardship_program.html](http://www.ssrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/additional_pages/forest_stewardship_program.html)
- Compatible forest enterprises: [http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Treatment Activity Short Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Stand</th>
<th>Cost Share Program</th>
<th>Net Cash Flow</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Cost</td>
<td>Cost</td>
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<td>Income</td>
<td>Income</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL**
Forest Management Plan

Name (legal title on property deed):_______________________________________________________

Contact Person:_________________________________________ Phone:_______________________

Mailing Address:_______________________________________________________________________

Property Address:______________________________________________________________________

County:______________ Section-Township-Range:______________________ Years owned:________

Goals and Objectives
In your own words, what are your purposes for the property? (what would you like the property to
look like in the future/what benefits do you hope to gain from the property?)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Please rank your top 3 values (1-3)

_____Timber

_____Wildlife

_____Soil & Water quality/conservation

_____Recreation

_____Aesthetics, restoration, or preservation

_____Compatible forest enterprises (what are they:______________________________)

_____Other (list:___________________________________________________________)

History
If you inherited the property, how long has it been in the family?_______

List previous uses of the property:____________________________________________________________________________________

List forest management in the last 10 years beginning with most recent:__________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Current Description
Do you have:

Boundaries marked: ____No ____Yes Firelines installed: ____No ____Yes

Stream or Wetland area: ____No ____Yes (Name?__________________________________________)

Historical/Archeological/Cultural features: ____No ____Yes (what?____________________________)
Threatened or Endangered Species: ____No ____Yes  Exotic species: ____No ____Yes

Indicate below if you have T&E species or exotic species:

____ Black Bear  ____ Cogongrass
____ Gopher Tortoise  ____ Japanese Climbing Fern
____ Wood Stork  ____ Kudzu
____ Indigo Snake  ____ Chinese Tallow (popcorn tree)
____ Torreya Tree  ____ Chinese/Japanese Privet

Primary Soil type: ________________________________ Slope: ____ Flat ____ Moderate ____ Steep

How many stands on your property? ____

Stand 1
Acreage: _______ Primary Tree Species: __________________ Age: _______ Average DBH: _______
Density (Stocking/BA)__________ Primary understory: _________________________________
Objective: _________________________________________________________________________
Condition (include insect, disease, exotic, erosion, fuel load, habitat, etc.)
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Stand 2
Acreage: _______ Primary Tree Species: __________________ Age: _______ Average DBH: _______
Density (Stocking/BA)__________ Primary understory: _________________________________
Objective: _________________________________________________________________________
Condition (include insect, disease, exotic, erosion, fuel load, habitat, etc.)
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Stand 3
Acreage: _______ Primary Tree Species: __________________ Age: _______ Average DBH: _______
Density (Stocking/BA)__________ Primary understory: _________________________________
Objective: _________________________________________________________________________
Condition (include insect, disease, exotic, erosion, fuel load, habitat, etc.)
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Management Steps

Property boundaries should be marked and maintained. This can be done by fencing, boundary painting and signage, firelines or roads, or may be naturally marked by a streambed.

All Stands

Forests should be protected from wildfire. Some stands are naturally protected by being regularly very wet, or by having a natural fire barrier along the stand boundary such as a stream or road. For stands without natural protection this barrier can be created by installing firelines. Installed firelines are plowed or harrowed around unprotected boundaries of stands. Firelines should be a minimum of 6 feet wide down to bare soil and should be refreshed yearly. There should be no overhanging vegetation which crosses the line. Lines should be seeded if erosion will be a problem. Firelines are also necessary for prescribed burning.

All stands on the property should be monitored yearly for any insect, disease, or other problems.

Stand Specific Recommendations for next 10 years

For each stand, choose the activities you will perform in the stand over the next 10 years. Fill in the table below with the chosen activities in the order they will be performed and the approximate time frame. Include additional information such as species to plant, equipment or herbicide to be used, type of crossing, density to thin down to, etc. (Note that some activities such as prescribed burning, may be performed more than once in a 10 year period.)

Stand 1

- Mechanical Site Prep
- Pre-plant herbicide
- Site Prep Burn
- Plant
- Mow
- Post Plant Spray
- Prescribed Burn
- Treat Exotic Species
- 1st Thin
- 2nd Thin
- Clearcut
- Stand Improvement Herbicide
- Stand Improvement Mechanical Treatment
- Create/Maintain Food Plot
- Install/Maintain stream crossing
- Road Maintenance
- Remove Poor Quality Hardwoods
- Other (list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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Additional Notes:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Stand 2
____Mechanical Site Prep  ____Pre-plant herbicide  ____Site Prep Burn  ____Plant  ____Mow
____Post Plant Spray  ____Prescribed Burn  ____Treat Exotic Species  ____1st Thin  ____2nd Thin
____Clearcut  ____Stand Improvement Herbicide  ____Stand Improvement Mechanical Treatment
____Create/Maintain Food Plot  ____Install/Maintain stream crossing  ____Road Maintenance
____Remove Poor Quality Hardwoods
____Other (list)________________________________________________________________________

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Additional Notes:
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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Stand 3

- Mechanical Site Prep
- Pre-plant herbicide
- Site Prep Burn
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Additional Notes:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Verification

Written by:_____________________________ Date:__________________

Advised by:_____________________________ Phone:_________________

Approved by:__________________________ Escambia County Forester

Date visited:__________________________ Date:__________________

Landowner signature:___________________ Date:__________________