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.**

Goal	Importance to Me				
	High	Medium	Low	None	Don't Know
Income					
Timber Products					
Compatible Forest Enterprises*					
Firewood					
Livestock					
Agri- or Eco-tourism					
Hunting/Fishing					
Recreation					
Wildlife -general					
Wildlife -specific species:					
Biological diversity/Ecosystem Restoration					
Protect Water Quality					
Protect Unique or Historical Site					
Scenic Beauty/Aesthetics					
Protect from Development					
Lower Taxes					
Legacy for Heirs					
Sell Property for Development					

*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
Florida Forest Service: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Landowners
Forest Management: https://www.treefarmsystem.org/
http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/additional_pages/forest_stewardship_program.html
Financial Assistance: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Landowners/Programs
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/
http://www.myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/lap/hcss/
Soils: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx
Compatible forest enterprises: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/

Date	Treatment Activity Short Description	Acres	Stand	Cost Share Program	Net Cash Flow	
					Cost	Income
				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.

<u>All Stands</u>

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.

<u>Stand Specific Recommendations for next 10 years</u>

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)_____

Step	Activity	Year	Season
1			

2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

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)_____

Step	Activity	Year	Season
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Additional Notes:

_____

_____

_____

Stand 3

____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)_____

Step	Activity	Year	Season
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Additional Notes:

_____

_____

_____

Verification

Written by:_____ Date:_____

Advised by:_____ Phone:_____

Approved by:_____ Escambia County Forester

Date visited:_____ Date:_____

Landowner signature:_____ Date:_____