

The New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Plan



2001

OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Increase public awareness and appreciation of forests as a basic and renewable natural resource and a major economic, environmental, and sociological factor in New Hampshire's future.
- Develop an acceptance by the general public of forestry and the importance of our forest resources.
- Provide people with the skills, knowledge and resources to practice forest land stewardship.
- Increase and improve the level of forest resource management currently practiced in New Hampshire.

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION

The individual's responsibility to manage his/her life and property with proper regard to the rights of others. (Webster's Dictionary)

STEWARDSHIP PHILOSOPHY

In the United States, the right to own land is one of the most treasured rights we have. Though ownership of land may provide the privilege to pursue one's personal goals, it also implies responsibility of stewardship for the land and its natural resources for future generations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forests are important to the quality of life for New Hampshire residents. They also provide wildlife habitat and forest products, and a scenic backdrop for the tourism industry. These benefits depend on the decisions of the landowners and resource professionals who own and work with the land.

Eighty-four percent of New Hampshire is forested, with the majority of the state's forest land (80 percent) in private ownership. With increased demands and pressures, comprehensive planning and management for the future are critical to maintain the resource base and the benefits it provides.

Through the Forest Stewardship Program, federal, state and private natural resource agencies and organizations work together encouraging landowners to develop written forest stewardship plans and fostering public awareness of the value of our forest resources.

Guidance is provided by the NH Forest Stewardship Committee which includes representatives from a diversity of natural resource agencies and organizations.

The NH Forest Stewardship Program encourages landowners to voluntarily adopt a sound stewardship ethic which will sustain the resources on their land for the benefit of themselves and others, today and in the future. Various agencies and organizations provide technical and educational assistance to landowners through workshops, publications and site visits.

These activities help landowners learn about long term stewardship of natural resources and help them identify their ownership objectives so they may begin the process of developing plans for their property. Landowners are encouraged to work with private licensed foresters to develop and implement long term comprehensive stewardship plans. Since 1990, this public-private partnership has resulted in 1,990 forest stewardship plans representing 451,302 acres.

General media, the world wide web, stewardship displays, slide shows, video presentations, and demonstration areas promote the concepts of forest stewardship to non-landowning audiences.

This plan outlines projects which the NH Forest Stewardship Program will undertake to meet forest stewardship objectives in the state. Projects are organized under three categories: actions which will result in written stewardship plans; actions which indirectly result in written stewardship plans; and actions which will develop an appreciation for the forest resource and a stewardship ethic.

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SITUATION

According to the 1998 Forest Inventory and Analysis, eighty-four percent of New Hampshire is forested with the majority of the state's forest land privately owned. There are approximately 84,000 landowners in New Hampshire who have various reasons for owning their land. Private non-industrial forest landowners own 3,260,000 acres, about 70 percent, of the forest land. The average size non-industrial private property is 37 acres.

Past studies show these individuals typically own land for reasons other than timber production, including aesthetic enjoyment, provision of wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, in association with a residence, and as an investment. In one survey, only 48 percent of respondents ranked "timber production or other products for sale" as a somewhat or very important reason for owning their woodland. (NH Forest Resources Plan Assessment Report, 1995).

A recent study found that 73 percent of New Hampshire landowners (owning 10+ acres) don't have a management plan. Many of these landowners expressed interest in developing management plans to help them identify and meet their objectives for their property (NH Forest Resources Plan Assessment Report, 1995).

Trends such as increasing population, fragmentation of the forest resource base and changes in land ownership all effect the ability of New Hampshire's forests to meet the diverse needs of the people. Increased pressures have been placed on the forested landscape as population has grown. From 1990 to 1998, New Hampshire was the fastest growing state in the six state New England region, registering a 6.8% population gain between 1980-1998. (The Changing Landscape of New Hampshire, 1999).

This population growth and associated development has reduced available forest land. The Natural Resource Inventory, conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, indicated that between 1982 and 1992, an average of 13,000 acres of forest land was lost each year to development. Increased development pressures and conversion of land to non-forest uses results in fragmentation of the forest resource base.

According to the USDA Forest Service, forests change owners on average every 10-15 years. Studies also show NH's population is aging. The average age of individual owners is approximately 60 years old. "A recent USDA Forest Service survey of private forest land owners found that the percentage of New Hampshire landowners who are retired jumped from 15 to 40 percent between 1983 and 1994. They now hold nearly 1.5 million acres of New Hampshire

forest land. This means that 40 percent of the land owners -- or more than one fourth of the forest land in the state will change owners in the next 25 years (NH Forest Resources Plan, 1996).

With increased demands and pressures, comprehensive planning and management for the future is critical to maintain the resource base and the benefits it provides.

An intensive program of information and education targeted specifically for private non-industrial forest landowners is necessary to make them aware of the opportunities in forest resource management activities.

While a fundamental part of the program is to target private non-industrial forest landowners and natural resource professionals with information and educational materials, it's also important to reach the large portion of our population that lives and works in urban and suburban settings. Frequently, these individuals are detached from the land and its natural resource values. It is necessary to reach this audience to foster an awareness and appreciation of NH's forest resources.

Benefits we receive from forest lands depend on the decisions and actions of landowners and natural resource professionals who own and work with this resource. It's important that the public recognizes the roles landowners and resource professionals play in maintaining and enhancing our forest resources. Educational efforts need to focus on the value of our forest resources and the value of sound forest management and stewardship.

THE NH FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 1990-2001

The NH Forest Stewardship Program began in 1990 with the creation of the NH Forest Stewardship Committee and development of a statewide five-year plan. The plan was revised in 1996. The program encourages long term comprehensive planning and management on private forest lands.

Stewardship planning includes identifying and evaluating the entire array of forest-related resources on a piece of property. These include its wildlife habitat, soil and water, recreational opportunities, wetlands, timber, unique natural communities, and historic values. Addressing all these resources in the planning process enhances the potential for forest health, beauty and productivity for future generations.

New Hampshire's approach is to inspire landowners to care for their land, provide them with information about long term stewardship of natural resources, and encourage them to develop and implement stewardship plans under the guidance of private licensed foresters.

Promotional efforts include the use of public service announcements, targeted mailings, exhibits and slide shows. In addition, demonstration trails and forests are used to inform and educate people about stewardship planning and management.

New Hampshire's program has relied on public and private sector partnerships. While public sector efforts focus on providing stewardship information and education, private sector foresters write and implement forest stewardship plans. Continuing education for natural resource professionals on stewardship topics is an important component.

Since the program began, nearly 1,990 stewardship plans have been written for landowners covering 451,302 acres of forest land. Eighty-five private licensed foresters have been involved, writing and implementing stewardship plans.

Summary of NH Stewardship Plans and Acres

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	TOTAL
New Plans	-----	237	265	262	190	186	115	139	108	182	102	1,786
Revised Plans	-----	-----	-----	-----	31	24	28	18	18	60	25	204
New Acres	21,600	48,418	37,615	55,462	28,520	26,958	26,805	39,640	14,143	35,128	20,835	355,124
Revised Acres	-----	-----	-----	-----	31,671	19,236	5,297	7,262	3,554	19,203	9,955	96,178
Total Plans	-----	237	265	262	221	210	143	157	126	242	127	1,990
Total Acres	21,600	48,418	37,615	55,462	60,191	46,194	32,102	46,902	17,697	54,331	30,790	451,302

FOREST STEWARDSHIP GOAL

Attitudes held by citizens influence the use of the forest. A continuing program of general education aimed at all segments of the population is needed. It is the New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Committee's goal to:

- C Educate the non-landowning public about the many values of the forest resource;
- C Inform landowners of the benefits of forest resource management and inspire them to action;
- C Provide opportunities for professional education of natural resource managers;
- C Maintain a strong relationship between the public forestry sector, consulting foresters, private resource agencies, organizations and associations, and our forest industries

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN TARGET

Since the program began in 1990, New Hampshire has exceeded USDA Forest Service targets for stewardship plans and acres under stewardship planning each year. Nearly 1,990 plans, covering 451,302 acres have been written. In the next five years, it is the intent of the New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Program to place an additional 100,000 acres of private non-industrial forest land in long term management through the preparation of written forest stewardship plans

FOREST STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVES

- C Increase public awareness and appreciation of forests as a basic renewable natural resource and a major economic, environmental, and sociological factor in New Hampshire's future.
 - Develop an acceptance by the general public of forestry and the importance of our forest resources.
- C Provide people with the skills, knowledge and resources to practice forest land stewardship.
- C Increase and improve the level of forest resource management currently practiced in New Hampshire.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

New Hampshire's Forest Stewardship Program attempts to establish continuity with existing programs, while implementing new and innovative projects with additional financial resources that may be available.

New Hampshire's Forest Stewardship Projects include:

1. Actions Which Result in Written Forest Resource Stewardship Plans
2. Actions Which Have an Indirect Influence Leading to Written Stewardship Plans
3. Actions Which Develop an Appreciation for the Forest Resource and a Stewardship Ethic.

REPORTING

New Hampshire's Forest Stewardship Committee will meet twice a year to review accomplishments and recommend revisions to our Forest Stewardship Plan.

An annual report will be prepared and distributed to members of the Forest Stewardship Committee and the USDA Forest Service - State and Private Forestry. This report will summarize all accomplishments and indicate revisions to our Forest Stewardship Plan.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of New Hampshire's Forest Stewardship Committee represent a diversity of natural resource agencies and organizations who are working together to promote the health of New Hampshire's forests and forest resources. The Committee provides assistance and guidance concerning the development and implementation of the New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Program.

Members include:

Doug Bechtel	Karen Bennett	Chair or Designee
The Nature Conservancy	NH Forest Stewardship Coord.	State Conservation Committee
22 Bridge St. 4 th floor	UNH Cooperative Extension	Caller Box 2042
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54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH 03301

Marjory Swope
NH Assoc. of Conservation
Commissions
54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH 03301

Tom Thomson
Landowner Representative
RR 1, Box 94
Orford, NH 03777

Dr. Richard Weyrick
UNH, Dept. of Natural Resources
220 James Hall, 56 College Road
Durham, NH 03824-3589

Thomas P. Wright
Landowner Representative
PO Box 100
Dublin, NH 03444

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The Forest Stewardship Program is administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service and is directed in New Hampshire by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development - Division of Forests and Lands with guidance from the New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Committee. UNH Cooperative Extension provides technical assistance and takes primary responsibility for coordinating New Hampshire's Program.

The New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Committee members represent a diversity of natural resource agencies and organizations working together to accomplish goals, as well as to provide expertise, technical assistance and policy guidance. Many organizations on the committee take an active role in planning for and delivering programs to landowners and professional resource managers.

The Forest Stewardship Program has been implemented with the involvement of a broad spectrum of individuals, organizations and agencies. A foundation of support has been built in the natural resources community with 38 organizations endorsing the endorsing organizations include:

Private

Audubon Society of New Hampshire
Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust
Beaver Brook Association
Business and Industry Association
Granite State Division/ Society of American Foresters
Harris Center for Conservation Education
Lakes Region Conservation Trust
Merrimack River Watershed Council
Monadnock Conservancy
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts
New Hampshire Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club
New Hampshire Chapter, Sierra Club
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation
New Hampshire Lakes Association
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association
New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee
New Hampshire Wildlife Federation
North Country RC&D Area, Inc.
Piscataquog Watershed Association
Science Center of New Hampshire
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Squam Lakes Association
Strafford River Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy

Upper Valley Community Land Trust
Private Forest Landowners

New Hampshire State Agencies

Fish and Game Department
Department of Environmental Services, Division of Water Resources
Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands
Office of State Planning
State Conservation Committee
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
University of New Hampshire, Department of Natural Resources

Federal Agencies

USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Fish and Wildlife - Silvio O. Conte

COMPREHENSIVE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The general purpose of a forest stewardship plan is to bring together in one document the guiding principles and measures for managing a parcel of forest land. This includes information about landowner goals and objectives, resources present on a property, and recommended actions for each part of the property.

In thinking through the task of stewardship planning and the preparation of a forest stewardship plan, it is helpful to have a check list of considerations. The following list has been prepared to serve this purpose. While many items listed won't be pertinent to every situation, it is important to address all the resource values in the planning process. Regardless of the size of ownership or the landowners objectives, they all must be considered. As a minimum, a stewardship plan should include:

1. Private non-industrial ownership.
2. Direct communication between the landowner and the plan preparer regarding the landowner's interests and objectives for the property.
3. A property map or aerial photo showing the location of each forest stand included in the stewardship plan.
4. A brief description of each stand, including forest type and size class.
5. A management objective and a prescription for each stand that will complement landowner's objectives. A stand could possibly have a prescription of "no work at this time," but current and future management activities for the property should be discussed.
6. Items which must be considered when preparing a resource inventory include:
 - a. Fish and Wildlife Habitat
 - b. Water Quality
 - c. Recreational Resources
 - d. Forest Protection
 - e. Soils
 - f. Timber
 - g. Wetlands
 - h. Aesthetic Values
 - i. Cultural Features
 - j. Threatened and Endangered Species and Unique Natural Communities
7. Recommendations should address needs, opportunities, and options, e.g., a need for more detailed inventory.

OUTLINE OF FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS FOR 2001 - 2006

I. Actions Which Will *Result in Written Stewardship Plans*

1. Technical Assistance
2. Plan Production
3. Educational Programs
4. Estate Planning and Land Conservation
5. Stewardship/Current Use
6. Stewardship/Tree Farm

II. Actions Which Will *Have Indirect Influence Leading to Written Stewardship Plans*

1. Develop Educational Materials
2. Continuing Education for Natural Resource Professionals
3. Forester Support
4. Maintain Contact with Existing Stewardship Landowners
5. Habitats Newsletter
6. Identify Sites to Promote Stewardship with Schools
7. Survey of Landowners
8. Forest Sustainability Collaborations
9. The NH Coverts Project
10. Encourage Model Woodlots

III. Actions Which *Develop an Appreciation for the Forest Resource* and a *Stewardship Ethic*

1. Press and Marketing Strategy
2. Public Service Announcements
3. Stewardship Exhibit
4. News Releases

ACTIONS WHICH WILL RESULT IN WRITTEN STEWARDSHIP PLANS

1. **Technical Assistance**

Priority: High

UNH Cooperative Extension has a partnership with the New Hampshire State Forester that is unique in the nation. Since 1925, Extension has delivered the Cooperative Forest Management program on behalf of the State Forester. In concert with the Division of Forests and Lands, Extension has taken a leadership role in implementing the Forest Stewardship program as a part of the 1990 Farm Bill.

The New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Program encourages private sector foresters to develop connections with non-industrial private forest landowners. The goal of the program is to locate landowners who have not yet developed a stewardship philosophy, make them aware of the value of caring for their lands, knowledgeable about alternatives for managing their lands, and educated in basic forest stewardship concepts.

Extension and the Division of Forests and Lands will continue to provide ongoing education for landowners as they encourage them to seek the assistance of private sector foresters for long-term planning and implementation of forest stewardship. Working with the private sector, we encourage private sector foresters to provide technical assistance directly to landowners.

Extension and Division staff also work with communities, industrial landowners, and the general public. Many communities own land which is often contiguous with private forest land. Demonstration forests and trails are throughout the state as a result of projects in the Forest Stewardship Grants Program (in 1992 and 1994) and in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. These community forestry activities and demonstration areas provide examples for private owners to follow.

Extension Forestry and Wildlife county staff provide technical assistance and education through site visits, publications, workshops and seminars. The UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Specialist serves as the NH Stewardship Coordinator who works with the NH Forest Stewardship Committee, private sector foresters, public foresters and landowners to develop, implement, market and evaluate the program.

Extension Specialists in Wildlife, Biodiversity, Forest Resources, and Forest Industry provide technical assistance and education to public and private landowners, foresters and timber harvesters through site visits, research, program planning, publications, workshops and seminars. These specialists provide technical backup for field staff in Extension. The assistance in wildlife habitat protection and enhancement is provided by a Wildlife Extension Specialist through a partnership between NH Fish and Game and Extension.

The Natural Heritage Inventory program is a component of the NH Division of Forests and Lands and provides technical assistance through publications, workshops, and/or seminars to public and private sector foresters, public and private landowners, and the

general public in the areas of threatened and endangered species and unique natural communities.

2. Plan Production

Priority: High

A core value that undergirds the delivery of landowner assistance program in New Hampshire is that the public sector provides education and inspiration to encourage and support the management of private lands and the private sector provides the technical services. Federal cost-share funds have supported this philosophy by enabling landowners to have licensed foresters write forest stewardship plans.

Since the inception of the Forest Stewardship Program, federal cost-share funds have played an integral part of meeting the program targets for the numbers and acres of plans written. Because of the disappearance of Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) funds the program has developed a multiple pronged strategy for meeting plan targets in the next 5 year period.

In the broad policy arena, the NH Forest Stewardship Committee supports efforts by the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA-Forest Service to include cost-share programs in the future Farm Bill that include forest stewardship plans.

In the next 5 years, targets will be met using a combination of: SIP ice funds, the ice storm community forestry grant program, NH Fish and Game Habitat Improvement Program, the ice storm land protection special project, Forest Legacy Projects, current use stewardship plans, Tree Farm plans, plans written using the new Bio-Timber Inventory method, and forest stewardship guidelines written by UNH Cooperative Extension foresters.

New Hampshire received a special appropriation of SIP funds to help landowners with restoration and recovery from the ice storm of 1998. SIP ice plans meet the requirements of a forest stewardship plan. SIP ice will continue to fund plans in fiscal years 2001-2003.

An Ice Storm 98 Land Protection Project was funded to encourage landowners who had land affected by the storm to permanently protect land through gift or easement. The project partially pays for costs, such as surveys, appraisals, and legal work incurred as part of the protection process. An approved forest stewardship plan is required in order to receive these funds. Plans will be funded in this manner in fiscal years 2001-2003.

The ice storm community forestry grant program includes a provision for communities to fund forest stewardship plans on town forests affected by the ice storm. Plans will be funded in this manner in fiscal years 2001- 2002.

The NH Department of NH Fish and Game established a habitat improvement program that encourages landowners to have an integrated resource plan. Plans completed through this project will be shared with the Forest Stewardship program and used to meet targets, if qualifying. Connections between these programs will be explored. Plans will be developed through this program during fiscal years 2001-2006.

All lands protected through the Forest Legacy Program are required to have an approved Forest Stewardship Plan. This program has seen growth in recent years and plans will be written to meet this program requirements in fiscal years 2001-2006.

In 2000, the New Hampshire Current Use Board (CUB) developed criteria requiring that plans submitted under the category, *forest land with documented stewardship* meet the same criteria as Forest Stewardship Plans. The Forest Stewardship Coordinator worked with the CUB to help them revise plan requirements. These current use plans are submitted directly to towns and there is no easy way for the Forest Stewardship Program to review these plans for inclusion in plan accomplishments. The CUB also has an interest in having greater access to these plans for review purposes. The Forest Stewardship Coordinator will work with the CUB to achieve this in fiscal years 2001 and 2002 anticipating that current use plans that meet the criteria of forest stewardship plans will be included in fiscal years 2003-2006 accomplishments.

The Tree Farm program requires that all Tree Farmers have a plan. Currently, Tree Farm plan standards don't meet the forest stewardship plan standards. As a cosponsor of the NH Tree Farm program UNH Cooperative Extension has worked to strengthen Tree Farm plan standards. The emphasis on planning in the Tree Farm program will encourage some to develop forest stewardship quality plans and a modest number of these plans will contribute to targets in fiscal years 2001-2006.

In limited instances when a less intensive plan will inspire landowners to design a management program, UNH Cooperative Extension Foresters will write forest stewardship guidelines. These guidelines meet minimum plan standards.

3. Educational Programs

Educational programs are offered to the public at the Urban Forestry Center (Portsmouth, NH), Shieling Forest (Peterborough, NH) and Fox Forest (Hillsborough, NH) as well as other locations throughout the state. The programs are presented by the NH Division of Forests and Lands in cooperation with UNH Cooperative Extension.

The Forest Stewardship endorsing organizations and agencies (New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA), Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), Audubon Society of New Hampshire, The Nature Conservancy, NH Fish and Game, NH Department of Environmental Services, North and Southern Country Resource Conservation and Development Areas and others) have active programs about forest stewardship topics. The Stewardship Program will collaborate with these organizations to provide educational programs.

4. Estate Planning and Land Conservation

Priority: High

Workshops for landowners and foresters will describe how long-term forest management and conservation can be sustained through careful estate planning. Workshops

underscore that forest management plans may not last beyond a current owner's lifetime without estate planning.

Studies show that the landowner population is aging. Owners will need to plan the transfer of lands if heirs are to avoid "emergency" sales of land to settle estates. Awareness of estate planning issues needs to be developed through general media outlets and newsletters of conservation organizations and agencies.

5. Current Use

Priority: High

The Stewardship Program will work with the Statewide Program of Action to Conserve Our Environment (SPACE), New Hampshire's Current Use Coalition, to raise awareness of forest stewardship. Information will be provided to New Hampshire's 28,000 current use landowners on how to qualify for reduced "stewardship" assessment rates under the current use law through development of a written management plan.

The primary means of communicating with current use landowners will be through SPACE's semi-annual newsletter, which reaches current use landowners who own about 2.4 million acres of forest land in the state.

6. Tree Farm

Priority: High

The Stewardship Program will continue to find ways to integrate its objectives with those of the NH Tree Farm Program.

Specific activities will include periodic voluntary training of Tree Farmers and Tree Farm inspectors in management plan preparation. Training materials and programs will be developed.

ACTIONS WHICH WILL HAVE INDIRECT INFLUENCE LEADING TO WRITTEN STEWARDSHIP PLANS

1. Develop Educational Materials Priority: High

According to the NH Forest Resources Plan Assessment Report, "The opportunity exists to increase forest landowners' awareness of the benefits of forest management in meeting wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic objectives."

UNH Cooperative Extension will take the lead for the Forest Stewardship Program in providing educational materials targeted to landowners, natural resource professionals and the public. Most of the publications developed will be in the form of fact sheets. Where funding is available, more detailed publications may be developed.

Over the five year period of this plan, cost-effective new technology for delivering educational programs and materials will be explored, including using the word wide web, CD-ROM, digitized format for remote on-line printing on demand and distance learning such as ITV (Interactive Television), satellite uplinks and downlinks.

2. Continuing Education for Natural Resource Professionals Priority: High

Continuing education and professional development are of increasing importance to natural resource professionals. Rapid technological changes, the social significance of forest resources, increasing public awareness, higher environmental standards, greater professional demands, licensing and certification requirements, advances in our understanding of the complexity of ecological systems, and the ever-changing competencies required of the individual dictates continuous learning and development.

Workshops will be developed and presented each year on stewardship topics.

3. Forester Support Priority: High

A key to the success of the NH Forest Stewardship Program has been the involvement of private foresters. New Hampshire's approach has been to inspire landowners to care for their land, provide them with information about long term stewardship of natural resources, and encourage them to develop and implement stewardship plans under the guidance of private licensed foresters. This cooperative approach has benefitted foresters by providing business for them as well as meeting the goals of the NH Forest Stewardship Program. New Hampshire has exceeded targets for enrolling forest lands under stewardship planning with the voluntary support of foresters. Foresters have benefitted from the stewardship program as new landowners have received information about stewardship and have enlisted the services of private foresters to develop and implement stewardship plans.

Stewardship Program, and will supply forest landowner information to supplement the Forest Landowner Survey conducted by the USDA Forest Service.

The information will be used to guide the program in the future and evaluate our effectiveness. It will be shared with the private sector so they can evaluate their continued opportunities in stewardship, and with the USDA Forest Service.

8. Forest Sustainability Collaborations **Priority: Low to Medium**

The Stewardship Committee will collaborate with industry and others to promote stewardship concepts and messages. There are a number of efforts going on in the state focusing on forest sustainability, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Sustainability Standards Work Team. The latter group published practical, on-the-ground management recommendations as *Good Forestry in the Granite State* which will serve as a cornerstone reference for the stewardship program.

9. The NH Coverts Project **Priority: High**

UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry and Wildlife Program has developed the NH Coverts Project in cooperation with NH Fish & Game and the Ruffed Grouse Society. The goal is to increase the amount of New Hampshire's private and public lands managed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat through sound forest management.

A network of volunteers knowledgeable about the benefits of integrating forest and wildlife management share their experiences with neighbors, their communities and other peers. The objectives of this program are to increase management efforts, expand integration of resource considerations in planning, and to help spread the stewardship message. Through this program, participants are trained at an intensive workshop and then share their knowledge on their community.

The Stewardship Committee will encourage landowners who are participating in the stewardship program (developing and following through on their plans) to become local advocates by sharing their personal inspiration and knowledge with others. This one-to-one contact with peers is important.

10. Encourage Model Woodlots **Priority: Medium**

Nothing teaches better than demonstration and hands-on exposure. Institutions, municipalities and private landowners will be encouraged to share their excellent stewardship through interpretive signs, field trips, and other educational activities.

11. New Hampshire Tree Farm Program

Priority: High

1600 people, owning nearly a million acres, are NH Tree Farmers. Many have a plan that meets forest stewardship plan criteria.

The Tree Farm program requires that all Tree Farmers have a plan. Currently, Tree Farm plan standards don't meet the forest stewardship plan standards. As a cosponsor of NH Tree Farm program UNH Cooperative Extension has worked to strengthen Tree Farm Plan standards. The emphasis on planning in the Tree Farm program will encourage some to develop forest stewardship quality plans and a modest number of these plans will contribute to targets in fiscal years 2001-2006.

Stewardship topics will be disseminated at Tree Farm field days and newsletters.

ACTIONS WHICH DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION FOR THE FOREST RESOURCE AND A STEWARDSHIP ETHIC

- 1. Press and Marketing Strategy** **Priority: High**

Forest Stewardship will develop a press and marketing plan which will include an assessment of the past years' marketing efforts. This plan will key into specific activities to be accomplished on a yearly basis. Strategy components include: Identify what we want to accomplish, What are our target audiences? What do we want people to know? and What do we want them to do?

- 2. Public Service Announcements** **Priority: High**

Ongoing promotion of the Forest Stewardship topics will be accomplished through radio programs conducted by the County Extension Foresters.

- 3. Stewardship Exhibit** **Priority: Medium**

Several components of stewardship exhibits currently exist, but they need to be more widely displayed. Work needs to occur with partners to find appropriate venues for exhibits. We should develop one theme or message to be used in the stewardship exhibit each year. Also, rather than only being used as a separate exhibit, stewardship should be integrated into other exhibits.

Stewardship concepts and themes will be incorporated into exhibits that will be displayed at county fairs, the Farm and Forest Exposition, Tree Farm Field Days, NH Wild and other appropriate venues where large groups of people convene.

- 4. News Releases** **Priority: Medium**

News releases will be issued on a regular basis on stewardship topics.

UNH Cooperative Extension provides coordination for the
New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Committee.

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