



# IS A STEWARDSHIP PLAN RIGHT FOR YOUR WOODS?

## WHAT IS A STEWARDSHIP PLAN?

A Woodland Stewardship Plan is a type of comprehensive management guide for your woodland. The plan combines your goals, the characteristics of your woods and the unique features of your land into one implementable document. Most plans are written for a 10 year period to allow for long term planning, and are written by an approved forester trained in woodland stewardship.



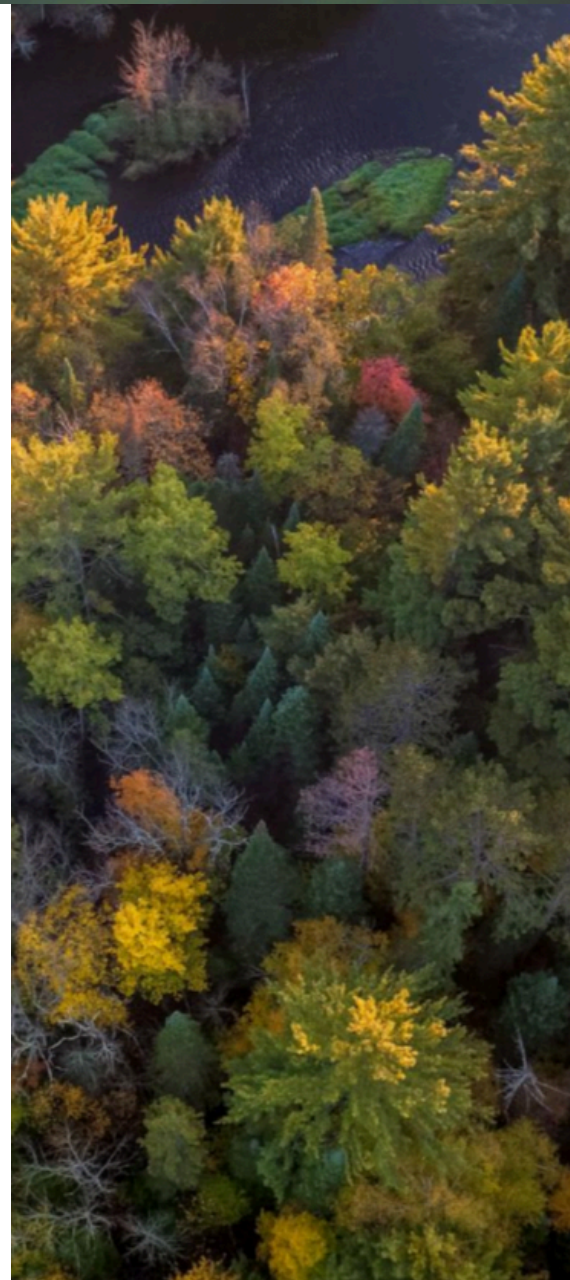
## WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

- Comprehensive overview of your property
- Detailed map of the property
- Overview of the economic, ecological and social goals for your land
- Description of different habitat types and resources present (soils, water, wildlife, timber, recreational and other land uses)
- Recommended management activities and practices for each habitat
- Annual project schedule
- Recommendations for tools and assistance to carry out the scheduled practices

## WHY WRITE A STEWARDSHIP PLAN?

### IMPROVE YOUR WOODS

Improved woodland management makes a big difference for wildlife and forest health. A stewardship plan for your woods and goals can maximize these benefits for each stand on your property and help you to manage for the wildlife species you care about.





## REDUCE TAXES & EARN EXTRA INCOME

A stewardship plan enables you to enroll in tax relief and incentive programs like Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act (SFIA) and Classification 2c, which lower property tax rates and may qualify you for annual assistance payments. A plan can also help you prepare for a timber harvest, produce more forest products like firewood, minimize costly natural damage from storms, pests and invasives, improve hunting habitat, and create recreational opportunities.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

While stewardship plans only span ten years, the goals and priorities that shape the plan take a much longer view. Planning for the future of your woods now can help ensure you leave the future legacy you want.

## WHAT DOES A PLAN COST?

The cost of a plan will depend on your forester and the size and accessibility of your woods. Fortunately, cost share assistance is available and the tax incentives and other benefits ensure the investment in a plan pays for itself.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP PLAN?

Approved Woodland Stewardship Plans are written for landowners with 20 to 5,000 acres of non-industrial land, at least 10 acres of which must be forested.

## HOW ELSE CAN I BE A FOREST STEWARD?

Woodland stewardship is more than just having a plan. It is a land ethic to be both planned and practiced, and it all starts with caring for your woods.

- Learn about and explore your woods and the wider landscape
- Set achievable goals for your land
- Work with professionals and expert to carry out management practices and follow your plan
- Plan for the legacy you want to leave



## HOW CAN MY ST. CROIX WOODS HELP?

My St. Croix Woods works throughout the St. Croix River Watershed to connect landowners with the resources and experts to help make the best decisions for their land. We are here to help you get started on your woodland stewardship plan or with any of your other woodland management needs.

### *What does that include?*

- FREE Landowner Handbook and customized information packet
- Schedule a site visit with a professional
- Find approved plan writers or other professionals working in your area
- Identify possible incentive and cost share programs
- Connect with peers and find learning opportunities

**WANT TO LEARN MORE? CONTACT US AT**  
[WWW.MYSTCROIXWOODS.ORG](http://WWW.MYSTCROIXWOODS.ORG) OR  
**CALL US AT (715) 483-3300.**