



Woodland Owner's Goal Setting Guide



Woodland owners have many different values and goals for their forest – wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, privacy, and natural beauty are just a few. To help make good decisions about your land, and to reach these goals both now and in the future, it's very important to think about what it is you value most, how you use the property, and what the most important outcomes are for the future.

This sheet is simply intended as food for thought. It may also be helpful in communicating your situation and your values to other family members, a forester you have hired, a logger who is interested in harvesting your land, or others.

1. Who actually owns the woodland? Who makes decisions about the property? (e.g. name(s) on the deed, members of a group, etc.)

2. When did you become owner of the woodland? _____(year)

3. How did you become owner?
 - a. _____ purchase
 - b. _____ family/inheritance
 - c. _____ other

4. Do you live
 - a. _____ on the property?
 - b. _____ in the same town/near the woodland?
 - c. _____ within _____ hours' drive?

5. How often do you spend time in the woods?
 - a. _____ every day
 - b. _____ every week
 - c. _____ every month
 - d. _____ a few times per year
 - e. _____ hardly ever

6. What activities do you do in your woods?
 - a. Observing nature
 - b. Walking/Snowshoeing/Skiing
 - c. Hunting/Fishing
 - d. Camping
 - e. ATVs/Snowmobiling
 - f. Working/Harvesting
 - g. Other _____

7. How much time do you spend working in your woods (hours, days, weeks...)?
8. What kind of equipment do you have available, that you are comfortable using? (hand tools, power tools/chainsaw, tractor, ATV, etc.)
9. Who else uses your woodland? (children, family, friends, neighbors, groups, clubs, schools, general public, etc.) How?

10. Which of the following things do you value? Which are most important to you?

- Enhancing the natural beauty of my land
- Maintaining my sense of seclusion
- Providing the benefits of healthy forests to the environment
- Earning money from timber harvesting, now or in the future
- Hunting or fishing on my land
- Maintaining trails for walking, skiing, snowmobiles, etc.
- Camping or picnicking
- Protecting the land from development
- Providing good wildlife habitat and/or protecting water bodies
- Learning about or studying nature
- Getting firewood, maple syrup, or other non-timber products
- Creating a valuable legacy for my family
- Other: _____

11. What activities/values will change in the future?

12. Do you want to encourage or discourage use by others in the future?

13. What are your most important goals for the future? What are your greatest concerns for the future of your woodland?

14. Who will likely be your successor(s) in managing your woodland?