

Start With a Plan.

You plan for your vacation, your investments, your retirement, but have you taken time to develop a plan for your forest?

1. Consider your objectives. Are you interested in immediate and sustained income, wildlife habitat, recreation, retirement or even savings for college for a child or grandchild?

2. Get help. Get planning help from a professional forester or qualified resource professional and ask for a Tennessee Master Logger when ready to harvest. They can help you plan for reforestation and harvesting and ensure that your plan complies with voluntary guidelines and state and federal regulations.

3. Stick to your plan. Protect the value of your land with a plan that provides for reforestation, responsible harvesting and Best Management Practices to protect water and soil quality.

You're Important to Tennessee

Private landowners like you own more than 80 percent of Tennessee forests. Decisions you make affect the value of your property but also have many positive benefits for the economy and the quality of life in Tennessee. The SFI Implementation Committee of Tennessee understands and values the contributions of family forest owners and wants to provide you with resources that will help you sustain your forests today and for the future.



Working for Tennessee Forests

Since 1995, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI)® program has existed to promote the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees in a way that's compatible with the protection of wildlife, plants, and soil and water quality.

In Tennessee and all across North America, SFI program participants adhere to a set of principles that address how they operate on their own lands and how they conduct their fiber sourcing practices across all ownerships. Collectively and individually, SFI members promote the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands by funding logger and forester education and encouraging landowners to manage their forests sustainably. Many SFI program participants have also been third party certified to the SFI Standard by independent auditors.

Want More Information?

There are many in-depth resources available— often for free—on all of these topics. This information is provided by the SFI Implementation Committee of Tennessee as a quick guide and reminder for landowners.

For more information about the Tennessee SFI program, visit www.tnforestry.com.



SFI. Good For You, Good For Our Forests®

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Plan Now. Sustain Your Forest.

A quick management guide for Tennessee landowners



Forest Management Basics

If you grew up around the woods, you're probably familiar with the basics of forest management. Regardless of the amount of experience you have as a forest landowner, your forest management plan should consider Tennessee Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry and harvesting.



BMPs for Forestry

Forestry operations have the potential to impact soil and water quality. Tennessee BMPs for forestry are designed to minimize the impacts of forestry activities on your land. Some of the most critical BMP guidelines address the following:

- **Stream-side management zones (SMZs)**
- **Erosion control measures**
- **Stream crossing guidelines**

All of these and more are addressed in detail in the Tennessee BMP manual for forestry available through the Tennessee Forestry Division at 615-837-5520 or www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-forests-water-quality.

Plan for Regeneration First

If you wait until after harvest to plan regeneration, you could incur additional and unnecessary expense or have less than desirable results. Consider all of the below:

- **Seed Tree/Shelterwood**
- **Clearcutting**
- **Single-tree or Group Selection**
- **Thinning**
- **Biomass harvesting/utilization**
- **Afforestation for fields/open areas**

Visual Quality

Forestry operations are highly visible and subject to the perceptions and opinions of the public. Conducting forestry operations in an aesthetically acceptable manner is important to the public. Practices that can improve visual quality include: spreading slash, minimizing soil disturbance, considering a vegetative buffer in sensitive areas, locating logging decks out of view, and configuring the shape, size and place of the harvest. Management of harvest residue should also be considered for improved utilization and/or nutrient cycling back into your forest.



Special Sites

Consider protecting any unique or "special" sites on your land. These may include:

- **Cultural** – Burial grounds, Native American mounds, relic areas or settlement sites, cemeteries or other historically significant areas.
- **Ecological** – Presence of unique plants, animals or communities that are rare or unusual for their location.
- **Geological** – Possess geological characteristics that are unique to the location.

Get advice from a professional forester or qualified resource professional at tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-forests-planning before making decisions about harvesting or regeneration and choose a Tennessee Master Logger when you're ready to harvest at www.tnforestry.com/Loggers/.

Consider Forest Certification Forest landowners are encouraged to learn more about the benefits of certification. The American Tree Farm program is geared to the private landowner and offers extensive management advice and expertise. For more information visit: www.treefarmssystem.org.

Protect yourself from wildfire "Protect your assets from wildfire. Learn how to conduct a safe debris burn and how to protect your home and forestland from wildfire at BurnSafeTN.org. Determine your risk by visiting the Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal at "www.southernwildfirerisk.com"

Planning for Wildlife & Biodiversity

Forests of all types and ages provide important habitat for a multitude of plant and animal communities. Your choice of harvest and regeneration options will influence the type of game and non-game wildlife in your forest. Here are some simple ways to enhance wildlife habitat and overall biodiversity:

- **Maintain prescribed SMZs**
- **Plant nut-producing hardwoods**
- **Provide wildlife corridors**
- **Create edge habitat and food plots**
- **Leave dead snags for den trees**

Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value

Tennessee's forests cover 14.5 million acres and have value beyond their potential to give us paper and wood. Certain places might be home to a globally rare plant, animal or community. If a plant, animal or community is found to be rare and vulnerable to extinction, then it may be classified as imperiled or critically imperiled. Although similar to threatened and endangered designations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities are typically more rare than species protected under the ESA. If you are interested in knowing if you have any of these species and communities on your land, visit the TN Natural Heritage Inventory Program at <https://tn.gov/environment/section/na-natural-areas> or NatureServe at www.natureserve.org. Additional information about rare Tennessee wildlife is available through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at www.state.tn.us/twra/index.html.

Learn more about biodiversity and control of invasive/exotic species at the UTK Forestry Extension website: fwf.ag.utk.edu/Extension/extension.htm

Learn about forestry/climate change at NCASI - www.ncasi.org.