



Pennsylvania Woodlands

Sources of information and guidance for woodland owners

NUMBER 1

A woodland can be managed for a variety of benefits, including timber, wildlife, recreation, and soil and water conservation. Many sources of information are readily available to help woodland owners achieve their land management objectives. A good place to look for guidance is the County Extension Office. This publication describes forestry services offered to private woodland owners by public agencies and private organizations in Pennsylvania.

Professional foresters can help landowners understand their woodland's biological potential to achieve desired goals. Professional foresters must have a bachelor's degree in forest resource management. Additional experience is gained through attainment of advanced degrees in forestry or related disciplines, and/or through employment in forest management. Landowners should determine a forester's qualifications by requesting credentials and getting references from former clients.

PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

The **Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry**, organized within the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), offers information and technical assistance to woodland owners. Service foresters, upon request, will examine woodlands, prepare management plans and tree planting recommendations, and mark timber for improvement cutting and firewood harvesting. They supervise activities that qualify for state and federal cost share programs. In addition, the bureau provides advice on erosion and sedimentation control, wildlife habitat improvement, insect and disease control, forest recreation, and urban and community forestry. There is no charge for the service, but it is limited to a maximum of four days per ownership per

year. (A bureau forester may suggest that a landowner obtain additional assistance from a consulting forester for commercial timber sales, appraisals, and other activities.) Forest tree seedlings are sold by the bureau for reforestation. A complete list of services is provided in the brochure, *Forestry for You*, which is available from the bureau upon request. Local offices are usually listed in the telephone directory of the county seat under Pennsylvania. Or, you can contact the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Department of Environmental Resources, 120 Evangelical Press Building, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Phone: (717) 787-2105.

Forestry Consultants are professional foresters who provide a broad range of woodland management services. Services commonly include timber appraisals, marketing assistance, preparation of forest management plans, timber stand improvement operations, forest pest management assistance, and providing information on forest management activities that qualify for government cost sharing. A consultant's fee may be based on the amount of time required to perform a job, the acreage of woodland involved, or a contract price based on a proportion of revenues from the sales of forest products. Cost estimates should be obtained from several consultants before choosing one to work with. A list of consultants can be provided by either the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry or the Cooperative Extension Service. Some professional foresters operating in Pennsylvania are listed in local telephone directories. Other local woodland owners can also be contacted for recommendations.

Forest Industries offer technical assistance in forest management and the marketing of timber products. Their services are concentrated in woodland areas around their mills. Some forest products industries develop an informal marketing arrangement with woodland owners. The firm provides advice and ser-

Prepared by James C. Finley, associate professor and Mary Ann Fajvan, former instructor, in Forest Resources Extension.

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vice and services, usually in the form of a forest management plan, which aid landowners in the implementation of their management objectives. The landowner is generally under no obligation to the wood-using firm other than to give it the opportunity to buy any timber offered for sale. Some forest industries offer cost sharing as an incentive if landowners plant seedlings.

The Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University provides forestry and wildlife information and educational programs for woodland owners through personal letters, publications, newspaper and magazine articles, radio and television programs, meetings, exhibits, tours, and short courses. For specific forestry and wildlife information, you can contact the local County Extension Office, usually listed as "_____ County Agricultural Extension Service" in the telephone directory of the county seat, or write to: Forest Resources Extension, School of Forest Resources, The Pennsylvania State University, 110 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: (814) 863-0401.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

The U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offers cost-sharing funds for a variety of soil and water conservation practices, including tree planting and timber stand improvement. The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) provides cost sharing for tree planting to prevent soil erosion. Costs of tree seedlings, planting, site preparation, weed control, and fencing are eligible for cost-share payment. Timber stand improvement practices eligible for cost sharing under ACP include thinning, pruning, releasing desirable young trees, firebreaks, erosion control measures on forest roads, site preparation for natural reseeding, and permanent fencing. The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) is similar to the ACP, but FIP is designed to increase sawtimber growth, and it is limited to productive forestland in stands of at least 10 acres. Contact the local ASCS office found in the telephone directory under "U.S. Government" or write: Pennsylvania State ASCS Office, Suite 30, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2994. Phone: (717) 782-4547.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) provides technical assistance to woodland owners through conservation districts. Technical assistance is available for erosion and sediment control practices and soil interpretations that indicate erosion hazard, equipment limitation, expected seedling mortality, windthrow hazard, plant competition, trees to favor in the residual stand, site indices of important tree species, and trees adapted for planting in the area. The SCS also assists woodland owners with access-road locations, grade stabilizations, water control structures, abandoned mine reclamation, and wildlife management. Published soil surveys are available to help woodland owners assess productivity of land for timber, wildlife, and agricul-

tural purposes. Some financial aid is available from the ASCS for reclamation of abandoned mines, resource conservation, and development projects. The local SCS office usually is listed in the telephone directory of the county seat under "U.S. Government". The state office address is Soil Conservation Service, USDA, Suite 340, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110-299. Phone: (717) 782-3700.

The U.S. Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) offers loans or loan guarantees to establish forestry practices such as thinning, pest control, and fire protection; to purchase farm and forestry equipment, materials, and to pay for labor; to buy, improve, or enlarge farms and farm buildings; and to develop commercial recreation facilities. To be eligible, landowners must earn a substantial portion of their income from a family size farm and be unable to obtain reasonable credit terms and rates from private sources. You can contact the local FmHA office listed in the telephone directory under "U.S. Government."

STATE AGENCIES

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation – DER administers the regulations of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act. This act requires the development of an erosion and sedimentation plan for all earth-moving activities. A permit is required for any activity disturbing more than 25 acres of soil or for logging more than 250 acres of timber. The bureau is represented in each county, except Philadelphia, by a Soil and Water Conservation District, which a landowner can join by signing an agreement to conserve soil and water resources. Districts in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Wayne counties have staff foresters who can develop forest management plans. Many districts sell forest tree seedlings. All districts offer technical assistance for soil and water conservation practices, generally by coordinating the efforts of state and federal agencies that provide expertise. You can contact the local district office, usually listed in the telephone directory of the county seat under "U.S. Government," or write to the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation, Department of Environmental Resources, Room 214, One Ararat Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: (717) 540-5080.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management – DER regulates the construction of dams, water obstructions, and encroachments in certain waters of Pennsylvania. Regulated waters include water courses, streams, swamps, marshes, wetlands, and all associated floodways. Any temporary and/or permanent stream crossings for timber harvesting, such as fords, culverts, and bridges, require approval of the bureau. This approval may be in the form of a waiver, general permit, or individual permit. An erosion and sedimentation plan, approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District, must accompany any application for a pro-

ORGANIZATIONS	SERVICES	Christmas trees	Forest management	Insects and disease	Maple syrup	Soil and water conservation	Surface mine reclamation	Taxes	Timber appraisal	Timber marketing	Tree planting	Fish and wildlife management
Professional forestry Assistance												
Bureau of Forestry	CT	CET	CET	CT	CET	CT	CE	C	CT	MCT	CET	
Forestry Consultants		CT	CT					C	CT	CT	CT	CT
Forest Industries		CT	CT						CT	CT	CTF	
Cooperative Extension Service	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE	CE
Federal Agencies												
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service		F				F					F	F
Soil Conservation Service	C	C				CETF	CETF				C	CE
Farmers Home Administration		F				F					F	
State Agencies												
Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation		CT				CTR					CMT	CT
Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management												CER
Bureau of Mining and Reclamation							R					
Game Commission											ME	MER
Fish Commission												ER
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	CTR		CTR	RE				CTR				
Associations												
Pennsylvania Forestry Association		E	E			E				E	E	E
Pennsylvania Forest Landowner Associations	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Association	CE							E				
Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers' Council					CE							

Key to forestry organizations and services

- C** = Individual consultation (by mail, telephone, office visit)
- E** = Information and education (publications, meetings, tours, workshops)

- F** = Financial aid (cost sharing, loans)
- M** = Conservation materials (seedlings, seed)
- R** = Regulatory (enforcement of state regulations)
- T** = On-site technical assistance (inspection of woodland and advice to owner)

An erosion and sedimentation plan, approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District, must accompany any application for a proposed structure. An environmental review is also required for each proposed structure to determine the impact on fish and wildlife. Application for permits should be made to the Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management, Department of Environmental Resources, Room 116, Executive House, P.O. Box 2357, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Phone: (717) 783-1384.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Mining and Reclamation – DER administers the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act and related laws. The bureau reviews surface mining permit applications, including reclamation plans. Plans usually include proposals for backfilling, grading, drainage control, handling topsoil, revegetation, post mining land use, and other reclamation considerations. For information on surface mine reclamation requirements, you can contact the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mining and Reclamation, Department of Environmental Resources, Third and Locust Street, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Phone: (717) 787-5103.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is responsible for the protection and management of all wildlife in Pennsylvania. The commission provides assistance to landowners through programs such as the farm game cooperative program. It also aids landowners in the implementation of control measures for wildlife damage problems. Landowners who want to attract more wildlife to their land can purchase seed for planting food plots. More than 30 species of trees and shrubs favored by wildlife are also available. You can contact the game protector listed in the local telephone directory under "Government Services, Game Commission", or write to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1567. Phone: (717) 787-3633.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission is responsible for the protection and management of reptiles, amphibians, and all aquatic organisms inhabiting Pennsylvania's waters. The commission is responsible for the enforcement of the Fish and Boat Code regulations dealing with the pollution and alteration of stream channels and the subsequent impact on aquatic life. They also give advice to landowners on matters such as the stocking of farm ponds. You can contact the Waterways Conservation Officer in your locality, or write to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Phone: (717) 787-2579.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture provides information about the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forestland Assessment Act, also known as Act 319 or the Clean and Green Act. The act provides that agricultural and forest lands be assessed for taxation purposes at the value they have for agricultural or forestry use rather than at their develop-

ment value. You can contact the county assessor, listed in the county seat telephone directory under "County Government," or write to the Office of Planning and Research, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: (717) 787-1788.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) members are forest landowners, forest products industries, and others concerned with wise management of Pennsylvania's forest resource. Members receive an informative magazine, *Pennsylvania Forests*, and have opportunities to become involved in public forestry issues. The PFA conducts public meetings, woodland tours, seminars, and workshops for woodland owners. The association also coordinates and promotes the Tree Farm Program in Pennsylvania. This is a national program sponsored by the American Forest Institute. Participation in the program is free and entitles landowners to receive two national publications, assistance in the development of woodland management plans, and recognition for practicing sound forest management. Write to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, 410 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Phone: (717) 766-5371.

County and Regional Forest Landowner Associations have been organized in several counties and regions throughout Pennsylvania. For more information, contact the County Extension Office.

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Association promotes cooperation among growers and researchers to solve production and marketing problems. Members are kept up to date on research and legislation by the *Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Bulletin* and by educational meetings. The association offers a referral service to wholesale and retail Christmas tree buyers. You can contact the Executive Secretary at R.D. #1, Box 247, Dover, PA 17315. Phone: (717) 292-5683.

The Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers' Council promotes the production and marketing of pure maple products and coordinates purchases of supplies needed by producers. Membership is made up of representatives from local associations. Members receive the *Maple Digest* and may attend periodic meetings concerning maple syrup production. For information about the council or its affiliates, contact Robert Hess, Little Marsh, PA 16931. For technical information about maple syrup production, contact the School of Forest Resources, The Pennsylvania State University, 110 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: (814) 863-0401.

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Centre County Cooperative Extension

Willowbank Building R1M193 U.Ed. 85-686

Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-4897