LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN GUIDELINES

State of Arizona **Revised May 17, 2004**

I. COVER SHEET

A. Title (including name of landowner)
B. Name and affiliation of author
C. Date prepared, amended, or revised

II. TITLE PAGE

A. Title
B. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of landowner
C. Name, professional qualifications, employer, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of author
D. Date prepared, amended, or revised

III. SIGNATURE PAGE

A. Stewardship Pledge

Approval of this report signifies a pledge by the landowner, as a forest steward, to implement this plan to the best of his (her) ability. Biological, economic, social, and political constraints which help to shape the stewardship plan are constantly changing and create a dynamic environment. In the event that these constraints undergo change which affects the plan, it will be modified accordingly. All management practices implemented through this plan will reflect a dedication by the landowner to good forest stewardship.

B. Approval signature of landowner
C. Recommendation signature of Service Forester
C. Approval signature of Forest Stewardship Coordinator

IV. TABLE OF CONTENTS

V. INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

A. Property Description
    1. Location and Access
    2. Acreage Summary
    3. Ownership Patterns
    4. History
    5. Landscape Setting
        a. Topography
        b. Soils
        c. Vegetation
        d. Climate
B. Ecosystem Description *(Existing Condition, Issues and Concerns, Opportunities)*
    1. Esthetics
    2. Historical and Archaeological
    3. Fish and Wildlife
    4. Forest Health
    5. Recreation
    6. Watershed Condition
    7. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
    8. Timber

VI. LANDOWNER OBJECTIVES *(Desired Futures)*

VII. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

A. Action / No Action Alternatives
B. Environmental Assessment / Anticipated Effects
(By resource categories listed above in V.B. 1-8; regulatory clearances to be documented)
C. Economic Assessment (Estimated costs and revenues of management alternatives)
D. Statement of Finding

VIII. MAPS

IX. DEFINITIONS

X. APPENDICES

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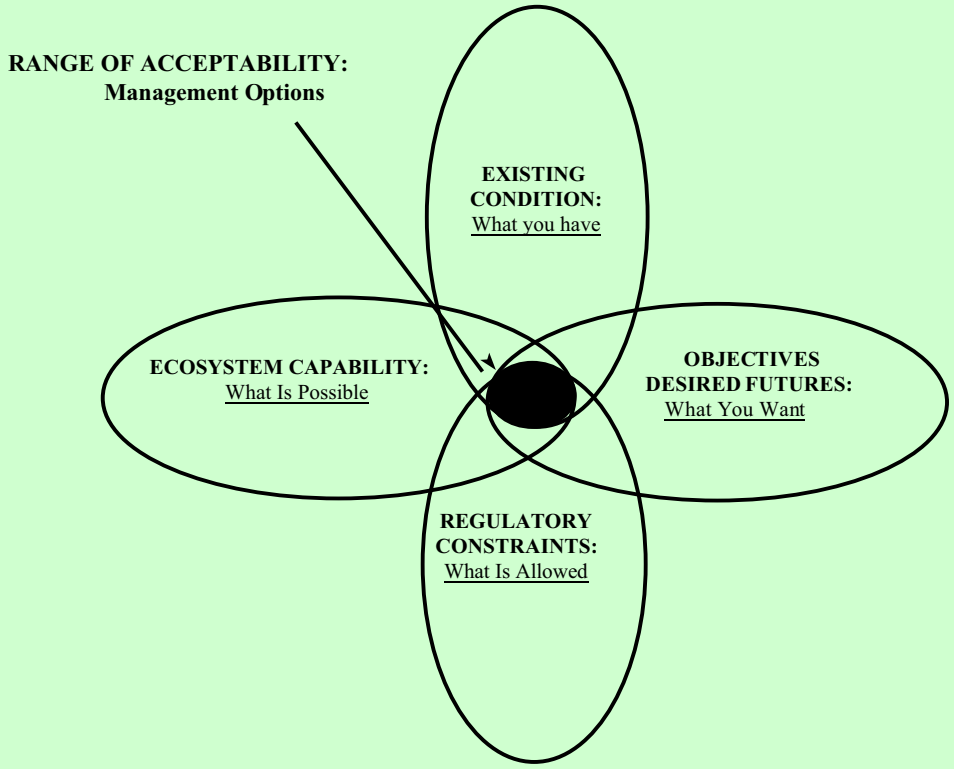
The Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) should reflect and promote the intent of the Forest Stewardship Program as stated in the enabling legislation[1]: that is, it should "encourage long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forest lands by assisting owners of such lands to more actively manage their forest and related resources". The LFSP provides guidance to the landowner in the form of "management recommendations shaped by natural resource professionals"[2]



The LFSP should consider four factors: **1.** *The existing condition of the forest ecosystem;* **2.** *What the forest ecosystem is capable of within the limits of ecosystem integrity;* **3.** *The objectives / desired futures of the landowner*; **4.** *What is legal / permissible under existing laws and regulations.* As illustrated above, there is overlap between these four factors (see crosshatched area) which is referred to as the *Range of Acceptability*. Only those management actions which fall within this *Range of Acceptability* should be offered as alternatives in the LFSP.

The LFSP does not make final management decisions for the landowner. Rather, it provides the landowner with the necessary information to make sound decisions regarding the management of his (her) forest land. Selection of a preferred course of action is to be done by the landowner after careful consideration of the information presented in the LFSP.

Information presented in the LFSP need only be technical and detailed enough to enable the landowner to choose a preferred alternative. Once the landowner has decided on a course of action, additional or more detailed information may be necessary for implementation. This might include resource data, practice specifications, and/or cost estimates. Information of this sort is incorporated into a detailed prescription or practice plan which, once completed and approved, becomes an addendum to the LFSP.

The LFSP must be prepared by a Professional Resource Manager (PRM), which is defined as a professional with a four-year degree from an accredited institution in forestry or a related field of natural resource management. Credentials of the PRM must be verified by the Service Forester and documented in the LFSP (Part II-C). With written authorization from the Forest Stewardship Coordinator, the PRM may perform other Service Forester functions as a representative of the State Forestry agency.

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[1]The Forest Stewardship Program was created by Title XII–The Forestry Title of the 1990 Farm Bill (Section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended: 16 U.S.C. § 2103a).

[2]Phrases in quotations are excerpted from Section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended: 16 U.S.C. § 2103a.