

# Land Stewards Forest/Woodland Site Assessment

Describe the type of forest/woodland. Examples: oak woodland, mixed conifer forest. List major species present, if known. Describe range of sizes and ages of trees, if known. Describe general structure and condition of forest.

Individual tree assessment. Choose 5 “random” trees and assess their condition using the chart below. Crown ratio is estimated to nearest 10% (e.g., 40%). Tree vigor rating: good, fair, poor. Notable: Evidence of insect/disease problems, unhealthy crown, current or potential wildlife use such as cavities or nests, rare species, defects such as forked tops, pistol butt, etc. Leave tree suitability: Good, fair, forget it.

	Species	Crown ratio	Tree vigor rating	Notable	Leave tree suitability
Tree #1					
Tree #2					
Tree #3					
Tree #4					
Tree #5					

**Possible resource concerns**

- Forest is overgrown; trees/brush too thick/dense
- Excessive slash/material on ground/fire hazard
- Excessive ladder fuels/fire hazard
- Tree health issues/dying trees
- Trees lack vigor/in poor condition
- Lack of diversity (species, tree sizes, habitats)
- Erosion on roads or skid trails
- Noxious weeds present
- Others (list) \_\_\_\_\_
- Others (list) \_\_\_\_\_
- Others (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Resources/Opportunities**

- Large or unique trees; wildlife trees
- Uncommon trees/shrubs or other plants
- Uncommon or special habitats
- Streams, springs, seeps, wetlands
- Large snags or logs
- Merchantable trees
- Trees for farm/home projects, firewood
- Non-timber products
- Others (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

**Actions:** Based on your assessment and your objectives, what, if any actions would you recommend for this forest/woodland in the next 1-5 years?

- \_\_\_ No treatment is needed at this time – just let the trees grow
- \_\_\_ Thinning to improve health/vigor and reduce fire hazard
- \_\_\_ Slash / surface fuel treatment to reduce the fire hazard
- \_\_\_ Ladder fuel treatment (e.g., thin out small trees & brush, remove lower limbs, cut re-sprouting hardwoods)
- \_\_\_ Tree harvest to generate products for sale or home use (e.g., sawlogs, posts & poles, firewood)
- \_\_\_ Pruning
- \_\_\_ Planting trees or other vegetation
- \_\_\_ Streamside restoration
- \_\_\_ Wildlife tree retention
- \_\_\_ Other treatment needed/desired: \_\_\_\_\_

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN EVALUATING TREE VIGOR & POTENTIAL

- Crown ratio
- Color, density, amount of foliage
- Height growth & crown shape
- Height:diameter ratio
- Crown class
- Overall vigor

## REASONS FOR THINNING – WHAT ARE YOUR OBJECTIVES?

- Improve tree vigor, overall forest health
- Reduce fire hazard, increase fire resistance
- Generate products (home use or sale)
- Protect special trees
- Improve habitat

## THINGS TO CONSIDER IN TREE SELECTION IN THINNING

- Tree health and vigor
- Species
- Form
- Wildlife value
- Character
- Density
- Spacing

## PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Access
- Slope steepness and equipment
- Slash treatment
- Cost