

## CHAPTER 6.

# Support to private landowners

## Land management plan development

For forest landowners, the most important reason to develop a management plan is to learn about their forest and to create or refine a course of action based on how it looks today and how they want it to look in the future. Land management plan templates are available for private landowners. One example is, *Managing Your Woodlands: A Template for Your Plans for the Future*. A more recently updated template is the *Oregon's Forest Management Plan – Template*. The USFS, OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), ODF, OFRI, NRCS, Tree Farm System, and Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) sponsor both land management templates. Consult the “Know Your Forest” webpage (<https://knowyourforest.org/index.php>) hosted by OFRI for land management planning resources.

The private land mapping, assessment, and wildfire response preplan information described in Chapter 5 (page 17) can feed directly into the accepted land management template. In a workshop or one-on-one conversation, landowners can work with partners to define their goals and objectives and fill out the rest of the template using these steps:

1. Develop and **recommend prescriptions** based on the diagnosis of information and data collected during the rapid assessment. (See Appendix H, page 89)
2. Generate **vegetation and resource maps** of various scales (1:100,000, 1:15,840, and 1:3600) using the private land data collected (refer to Chapter 5, page 17). The maps can be printed and placed into an indexed map folder for the landowner's property. (See Appendix I, page 90)
3. **Modify prescriptions** to meet the landowner's goals and objectives. If modified, the partners should provide the landowners with the expected effects to the resources.

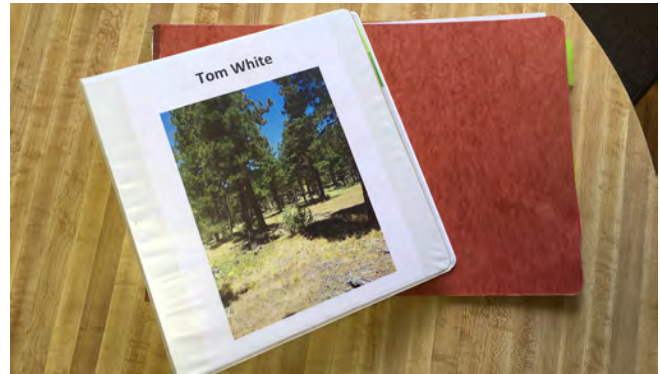


Photo: Kasey Johnson

Example of a landowner map book and land management plan binder

It is useful to provide other informational and educational materials to landowners as part of their land management plan, such as:

1. *Management Planning for Woodland Owners: Why and How* (EC 1125)
2. Recommended prescriptions for all vegetation cover types inventoried on private property (Appendix H and I, pages 89 and 90)
3. PowerPoints delivered during workshops
4. NRCS conservation practice job sheets (Appendix F, page 83)
5. Examples of goals and objectives for land management planning
6. *Fire-Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness* (EM 9116)
7. Oregon Tree Farm information and application
8. *Basic Forest Inventory Techniques for Family Forest Owners* (PNW 630)
9. *Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest*

Once forest stewardship actions are completed, the landowner can document in their land management plan what treatments have been conducted in each stand. Along with recording completed work, landowners can use their management plans to look ahead at what projects or parcels of land they would like to treat next. As landowners begin to look ahead, the land management plans will allow them to identify priority areas for short- and long-term planning, based on quantitative data or qualitative information that best illustrate their personal goals and objectives. Data provided in the land management plan recommends treating specific areas based on vegetation, fire-risk potential, wildfire response preplan, wildlife habitat, and land use. This information can directly factor into where and what a landowner manages next.

Land management plans are a document that can be passed along between generations and facilitate seamless management practices for decades to come. If the land has the potential to be sold to a new owner,

the land management plan becomes a critical tool for the new landowner to see what work has been conducted, what the management trajectory is for the land, and what issues still need to be addressed. The land management plan (when shared with landowner approval) will also give natural resource granting agencies access to a document that contains all the relevant information needed to conduct further restoration work, based on work previously completed and on the landowner's goals and objectives.

## Offering established training courses

There are several established training courses available for family forestland owners. The Oregon State University College of Forestry Extension Master Woodland Manager core curriculum is an example of an established training course that can be offered to private landowners. Courses such as this one encourage landowners to acquire knowledge in the following areas:

1. Management planning
2. Upland forest ecology and management
3. Landscape and setting
4. Riparian forest and stream ecology and management
5. Business, forest taxes, and planning
6. Marketing, logging, and roads
7. Reforestation and vegetation management
8. Forest health
9. Watershed systems and soils

Other pertinent OSU College of Forestry Extension curricula include:

- Ties to the Land (<http://tiestotheland.org/>)
- Women Owning Woodlands Network (<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/WOWNet>)
- Master Woodland Manager (<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/mwm>)
- Basic Forestry Short course (<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/basic-forestry-shortcourse>)

### Oregon Tree Farm System



If a landowner has a land management plan, they may want to consider being part of The Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS). The OTFS promotes sustainably conserving and growing forest resources on private, family-owned forests.

The OTFS is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Tree Farm System and American Forest Foundation. Their purpose is to:

- Help family forest landowners manage their lands with the goals of conserving forests, water, and wildlife while promoting natural resource-based recreational opportunities
- Recognize and celebrate OTFS members who exemplify sustainable forest management
- Support the responsible harvesting of renewable natural resources and the Oregon wood products industry

The Tree Farm System ([www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org)) is the oldest forestry certifying entity. It does not charge membership fees. Any landowner with 10 acres or more of forested land or land capable of supporting trees can join the Oregon Tree Farm System.

Local OSU Extension Service offices throughout the state can also assist in conducting personalized workshops. There are many other publications, videos, and other references on the OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program website (<http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>).

## Administering contracts

As grant funds are used to apply treatments for private land management, contracts are created between the granting agency and landowner, the granting agency (or a third-party grant recipient) and the contractor (operator), and/or the landowner and the operator. The combination of contracts varies with each granting agency.

Contracts between government agencies and private landowners will cover the scope of work, timeline for completion of treatments, silvicultural prescriptions, acres treated, treatment methods (hand versus mechanical), and most importantly, what funds will be awarded from the granting agency.

Grants administered from federal or state agencies do not require a direct contract between the operator and agency. It is highly recommended that the landowner and contractor develop a contract before operations begin. A template can be found at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1192>. Landowners may need assistance from the project forester in developing a contract.

Contracts between a third party and contractor will usually occur when a project is receiving funds through a nongovernmental organization, such as a Watershed Council group or other natural resource NGOs. These contracts will cover much of the same information described for a contract between a government granting agency and a private landowner. As part of a contract between an NGO and an operator, there is usually a contract between the entity and landowner that defines liabilities and the scope of work.

For contracts between private landowners and government agencies, it is important to allow time for careful review of the contract and land management plan. Private landowners are usually new to forestry and forest restoration activities and may need to discuss the contract and clarify any questions. Regarding the contract process, the silvicultural prescription may be the hardest part for a private landowner to understand. Verify that the landowner understands the work that will be conducted and how the project will look once it is complete; marking a sample area that will be treated



### *Find a forester*

Oregon State University Extension Service foresters and Oregon Department of Forestry foresters are the frontline resources for assisting private landowners with short- and long-term land management planning and implementation.

- ODF: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/findaforester.aspx>
- OSU Extension Service: <http://extensionweb.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

can reduce confusion. It may also be necessary to help landowners identify the right operator. Private landowners are usually unfamiliar with local operators and the extent of their capabilities.

Once a treatment unit has begun, it is essential to visit the site to validate that the silvicultural prescription is implemented correctly. Depending on the size of the unit and the team completing the work, implementation monitoring will need to occur at different times. Whether on a smaller acreage project or a complex prescription, it is a good idea to check on the operation a day or two after work has begun. Visiting the site early allows adequate time to amend practices that may be outside the prescription or help with clarifying any questions the operator or private landowner may have.

## Landscape project oversight

When working with private landowners, it is important to supply them with the information they need to feel comfortable with the management recommendations identified in their land management plan. Landowners need to clearly understand the goals and objectives outlined in the plan and make sure they are consistent with their vision for the property. If private landowners do not understand or are not comfortable with management recommendations, they might withdraw from the project. When treating a landscape, each parcel of land is vital to meeting the overall objectives of the landowner and the landscape.

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It takes a lot of trust for a private landowner to allow a government or nongovernment natural resource employee (sometimes a complete stranger) on their land and give them the authority to make suggestions and changes to land where they have invested their livelihoods. For private landowners to trust the goals of a landscape-scale project and offer their lands in support of that goal, someone involved with the entire project (including land management planning) needs to serve as a liaison for the work conducted on private and public lands. The role of the liaison is to relay the needs of the private landowner to the interagency group working on treating a given landscape. Sharing information with landowners about the treatments being conducted across their fence line—whether their land is adjacent to another privately-owned parcel or public ground—helps them better understand the goal for the landscape-scale treatment and how they are involved in the bigger picture. Much depends on prior steps of mapping, assessment, land management planning (including workshops) to build trust.

When conducting a landscape-scale project across property lines, it is important for the project forester to be aware of activities planned and performed on both the private and public lands. In Oregon, a statewide agreement exists between the NRCS and ODF. This agreement exists so that ODF can provide technical forestry assistance for NRCS for private landowners, while NRCS provides financial compensation for the time ODF spends on NRCS projects. Within Oregon, ODF is the state agency responsible for fire suppression on private lands. In addition, ODF administers the Forest Practices Act for forest activities on private lands. This provides ODF an easy avenue to work with private landowners on multiple facets of natural resource management. Through the partnership between NRCS and ODF, private landowners have a one-stop shop for implementing NRCS restoration activities as well as access to information about conducting activities on their forestlands.

Within a cross-boundary project area, ODF personnel work with private landowners to address

their restoration needs, administer various grant resources, and provide technical forestry assistance for NRCS, private landowners, and other agencies or organizations. For example, ODF may provide technical support to nonprofits that have received funding for project implementation (e.g., OWEB funds received by a Watershed Council). When an agency (e.g., ODF) is directly involved with the work conducted on private lands and is a member of the partnership group, that agency can relay the needs of private landowners.

Providing for the needs of private landowners, ODF also has authority to administer work on USFS ground through the Good Neighbor Authority (see Chapter 8, page 30) granted through the 2014 Farm Bill. When an agency like ODF has the authority to administer work on both private and public lands, it is possible to resolve many forest health issues. These same issues might fall through the cracks because government agencies typically respect property lines rather than natural resources boundaries. This risk can be avoided when one agency has knowledge of the cross-boundary work occurring across public and private land.

It can be helpful to show the landowner and operator examples of stands where the same type of work has been completed so they can see the desired outcome. Either arrange visits to local sites or use a series of photographs from other projects. This kind of demonstration is especially helpful during the land management planning process. Forest operations can look a bit messy immediately following the operation, but the key is to show the landowner how a stand will respond once competition for water, sunlight, and nutrients is reduced.

Communication is essential both before and during the operation. If cost-share funds are used, it is crucial for the funding agency, landowner, and operator to meet at the project site shortly after the operation has begun to ensure that everyone understands the specifications, landowner objectives, and desired outcome for the project. The land management plans provide guidance on this.

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Untreated (left) and treated (right) ponderosa pine stands

***Lesson Learned: Provide clear communication to landowners on varying prescriptions***

It can be difficult for landowners to visualize what their densely overstocked, noncommercial-sized timber stand would look like opened up to commercial spacing that encourages resiliency to insects, diseases, and fire. Spacing for commercial operations will vary based on the site's productive capacity and the landowner's short- and long-term goals. Some landowners may choose to do a commercial and noncommercial thinning operation at the same time to reduce costs and the number of entries on the land.

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KLFHP PARTNER	ROLES	MECHANISMS
	<p>Technical support, outreach/ education, planning, implementation, and funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can partner with NRCS under a Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership</li> <li>• Can work with ODF through Good Neighbor Authority on federal land</li> <li>• Can work with ODF and others on public and private land through the Wyden Authority</li> </ul>
	<p>Technical support, outreach/ education, planning, implementation, and funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can serve as arbitrator, facilitator, and coordinator</li> <li>• Can provide support, administration, and technical assistance through cooperative agreements</li> <li>• Can conduct outreach, education, and technical expertise as programmatic objectives</li> <li>• Can serve as a conduit from OSU to partners/communities</li> <li>• Can provide direct support to landowners through Extension Foresters</li> </ul>
	<p>Technical support, outreach/ education, planning, and implementation through stewardship foresters and natural resource specialists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide technical forestry support to NRCS through a cooperative agreement</li> <li>• Can provide support to the USFS through the Good Neighbor Authority (e.g. timber sales), the Federal Forest Restoration program, and Supplemental Project Agreements</li> <li>• Can provide direct support to landowners through Stewardship Foresters and the Protection from Fire Program</li> </ul>
	<p>Technical support, outreach/ education, planning, implementation, and funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can apply for Farm Bill funding to be used on private lands for restoration and/or easements</li> <li>• Can provide technical support to landowners</li> </ul>
 <p>Watershed Councils</p>	<p>Landowner outreach, grant writing, fiscal administration, planning, contracting, and implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can apply for funding sources restricted to 501(c)(3) entities</li> <li>• Can contract and administer some funding sources for greater project efficiency</li> <li>• Can act as a liaison to the community and private landowners</li> </ul>
 <p>Other agencies, NGO's, consultants</p>	<p>Technical support, outreach/ education, planning, implementation, and funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide technical expertise and valuable insight as stakeholders in landscape planning</li> <li>• Can apply for diverse and/or restricted funding sources</li> <li>• Can contract and administer some funding sources for greater project efficiency</li> <li>• Can conduct forest restoration and fire management workshops on managed lands (TNC)</li> </ul>
 <p>Private Landowners</p>	<p>Planning, outreach/ education, and stakeholder insight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be a valuable tool for engaging the private sector and ensuring project goals are in line with the community needs</li> </ul>

Roles and mechanisms for each KLFHP key agency and organization