



*Sustainable & Comprehensive Forest Management*

## **Federal & State Forest Landowner Programs**

Several states offer landowners a substantial tax benefit by having an approved forest management plan in place.

### **Ohio - Ohio Forest Tax Law**

OFTL provides a 50% reduction of property taxes on qualifying forested acreage.

Minimum qualifications include: 10 acres of forestland, marked boundaries, & approved forest management plan.

Source: [Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Ohio Forest Tax Law](#)

### **Ohio - Current Agricultural Use Value**

CAUV provides tax savings to landowners by assessing the forested property as commercial agriculture rather than its "highest and best" potential use. Results in typically >50% reduction of taxes on qualifying acres.

Minimum qualifications include: 10 acres of forestland, marked boundaries, & approved forest management plan.

Source: [Ohio Dept. of Taxation, Current Agricultural Use Value](#)

## **West Virginia - Managed Timberland Program**

MTP provides significant tax incentives for forest landowners who practice sustainable forestry on their property.

Minimum qualifications include: 10 acres of forestland, halt on timber harvest until plan approved, & approved forest management plan.

Source: [West Virginia Div. of Forestry, Management Assistance](#)

## **Nationwide - Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

EQIP is a program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the USDA, that provides financial & technical assistance to landowners to address natural resources concerns on their property. Funding may be available to qualified landowners for practices such as: invasive species removal, forest stand improvement, & more.

Source: [USDA, Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)

# Management Plan Styles

Select the forest management plan style that best suits your goals & objectives! All styles qualify for the programs listed above.

## **Basic Forest Management**

Priced by the acre

**This management plan style is geared towards the landowner who is primarily interested in saving tax dollars on the forested acreage.**

**This plan incorporates scientifically-backed and ecologically-sound forest management principles and techniques in order to grow, maintain, and reproduce commercially-viable timber species while providing periodic income for the landowner.**

### **Includes:**

- Landowner Goals & Objectives
- Long Term Forest Sustainability & Health Priority
- Stand Maps
- Soil Map
- Treatment Schedule
- Treatment Map
- Forest Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Forest Resources Description

## **Forest Wildlife Habitat Management**

Priced by the acre

**This management plan style's priority is both the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of wildlife habitat throughout your property as the primary priority as well as the sustainable growth and eventual harvest of commercial timber products as a secondary priority.**

**This style incorporates scientifically-backed and ecologically-sound habitat management principles and techniques in order to promote and reproduce commercially-viable timber species while also prioritizing wildlife habitat enhancement practices such as: creation of bedding thickets, edge feathering, vertical and horizontal forest diversity, promotion of herbaceous species, etc.**

### **Includes:**

- Landowner Goals & Objectives

- Long Term Forest Sustainability & Health Priority
- Stand Maps
- Soil Map
- Treatment Schedule
- Treatment Map
- Forest Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Forest Resources Description
- Historical Maps
- Habitat Conditions & Analysis
- Openlands Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Threatened & Endangered Species Lists

## **Commercial Timber Management**

Priced by the acre

**This management plan style's primary priority is the sustainable growth and eventual harvest of commercial timber products off your land. This plan incorporates scientifically-backed and ecologically-sound forest management principles and techniques in order to grow, maintain, and reproduce commercially-viable timber species while providing periodic income for the landowner.**

**Typical forest management practices include but are not limited to: timber stand improvement through midstory treatment of non-desirable species, crop-tree release, periodic forest thinning, and so forth.**

**You will be provided a statistically-sound timber inventory in order for us to collect relevant data to decide if/when a commercial timber sale operation is feasible, as well as an estimated valuation and projected timber sale removal volumes for a future sale.**

**A detailed Excel spreadsheet with the results of the timber inventory will be provided to you. Using the most recent Ohio Timber Price Report provided by Ohio State University Extension, we will estimate the value of the standing timber as of the date of the timber inventory.**

### **Includes:**

- Landowner Goals & Objectives
- Long Term Forest Sustainability & Health Priority
- Stand Maps
- Soil Map
- Treatment Schedule
- Treatment Map
- Forest Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Forest Resources Description
- Timber Appraisal
- Timber Tax Basis Inventory
- Stand & Stock Tables
- Diameter Distribution
- Forest Productivity Map
- Statistical Forest Inventory Information

## **Combination Forest Management**

Priced by the acre

**This plan is exactly as the heading implies! You receive both the wildlife habitat management recommendations as well as the commercial timber management details and treatment recommendations as described above.**

**This is Heritage Habitat & Forestry's signature product!**

### **Includes:**

- Landowner Goals & Objectives
- Long Term Forest Sustainability & Health Priority
- Stand Maps
- Soil Map
- Treatment Schedule
- Treatment Map
- Forest Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Forest Resources Description
- Historical Maps
- Habitat Conditions & Analysis
- Openlands Stand Descriptions & Analysis
- Threatened & Endangered Species Lists
- Timber Appraisal
- Timber Tax Basis Inventory
- Stand & Stock Tables
- Diameter Distribution
- Forest Productivity Map
- Statistical Forest Inventory Information

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**For all our management plan styles, the landowner will receive the follow data package:**

- Your personalized, property-specific management plan with recommended treatments and practices to improve your property based upon your goals & objectives
- A soil report of your property
- Any maps used to create your plan
- All digital GIS files used to create your maps
- Inventory data, both raw & refined in Excel worksheets
- Any relevant landowner fact sheets provided by the NRCS & OSU Extension, among others

*All recommended management practices are based on proven science and are only applied if they meet the following criteria: 1) ecologically and environmentally sound and will do no harm to the sustainability of the natural resource, 2) fits the landowner's goals and objectives, and 3) is realistically able to be accomplished given the landowner's constraints*

*The health and sustainability of natural resources is Heritage Habitat & Forestry's primary focus.*

## Management Plan Comparison

	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Timber</b>	<b>Combination</b>
Landowner Goals & Objectives	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Qualifies for OFTL, CAUV, MTP	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Long-term Forest Sustainability & Health Priority	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Stand Maps	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Soil Map	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Treatment Schedule	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Treatment Map	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Forest Stand Descriptions & Analysis	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Forest Resources Description	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Historical Maps		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Habitat Conditions & Analysis		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Openlands Stand Descriptions & Analysis		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Threatened & Endangered Species List		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Timber Appraisal			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Timber Tax Basis Inventory			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Stand & Stock Tables			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Diameter Distribution			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Forest Productivity Map			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Statistical Forest Inventory Information			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

# Step-By-Step Guide

How to proceed with receiving a forest management plan.

## Step 1: Choose Your Management Plan Style

- Heritage Habitat offers four distinctive management plan styles (Basic, Wildlife Habitat, Timber Management, and Combination), all of which are detailed in our flier “Management Plan Styles”.
- Depending upon the style you chose, our plans are geared specifically to that style.
- It is up to you, the landowner, to decided which style you want your management plan prepared in. All four styles qualify for Ohio’s CAUV and OFTL programs!

## Step 2: Schedule a Site Visit

- This will consist of Heritage Habitat meeting you on your property to walk your land and discuss with you what your goals and objectives are for your property. Do you hunt? Do you have a desire to tap maple syrup? Have you cut firewood in certain areas or planted trees somewhere? These types of questions will be asked in order to get a better understanding of your goals for your property.
- Typically, depending on acreage, this takes a couple hours.
- This is the only field step that requires your direct involvement. Unless, of course, you wish to skip this walk with us!

## Step 3: Forest Inventory

- This step is crucial for the development of your management plan and not all forestry companies offer this service for the development of landowner management plans.
- A forest inventory consists of Heritage Habitat collecting data on numerous GPS sample points plotted on your property. Once on plot, trees are determined to be in/out (counted or not counted) for the sample and the following data is collected: tree species, number of trees, merchantability of tree, diameter of tree, and other related points dependent upon which style plan you chose.
- This data is then worked up in our office to provide us and you, the landowner, with accurate and concise information on what is actually growing on your property.

- With this data, we can determine the following that are relevant to the style of management plan you chose: volume of timber, value of timber, species composition, average diameter, forest density, etc.

#### **Step 4: Data Work-Up**

- Heritage Habitat will then use information from the site visit and the forest inventory to write your management plan that is geared towards your goals and objectives
- All data, maps, and related documents relevant to your plan will be provided to you in a compressed zip folder digitally. Again, not all forestry companies provide the landowner with this wealth of information.
- These files include:
  - Your personalized, property-specific management plan with recommended treatments and practices to improve your property based upon your goals and objectives
  - A soil report of your property
  - Any maps used to create your plan
  - All digital GIS files used to create your maps
  - Inventory data, both raw and refined in Excel worksheets
  - Any relevant landowner fact sheets provided by the NRCS and OSU Extension, among others

#### **Step 5: Landowner Plan Submission**

- The final step is for you, the landowner, to submit your new management plan to the appropriate agency for whose program you are applying for.
- Heritage Habitat will aid you the best we can in this process.

