

nonprofit cemetery ➤ Inbox x



➔ **Pugh, Alex L**

to Life ▼

Fri, Jul 28, 1:32 PM



Mel:

I have been in touch with Maine CDC Policy and Compliance, as well as an Assistant Attorney General. I understand that you are moving ahead with forming a nonprofit for the purpose of establishing the cemetery. In previous e-mails I got the impression that there was a problem with setting up the nonprofit before the application was approved. We at Maine CDC have determined, after consulting with our AAG, that you do not currently require approval before setting this nonprofit up, if you are restricting the project to only receive cremains. There is no requirement that the property be designated as a cemetery, because cremated remains may be buried or otherwise disposed of in any manner that does not violate any other law.

I know that you were also planning to accept remains from a natural organic reduction facility. The Legislative Session has ended, and it appears that LD 536 will be carried over to next session, which is expected to convene in October. This bill status means that the legislative committee next session will pick up the bill where it was last left, at the appropriations table. If this bill becomes public law next session, we will have more information for you at that time but cannot predict how your planned facility will be regulated, until we review the specific final language approved as a public law.

Please let me know if you have any further questions at this time. -

Alex Pugh

Sr. Environmental Hydrogeologist

Drinking Water Program

DHHS- Div. of Env. & Community Health

(207) 592-2086, (207) 287-5695

THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATION EASEMENT LANGUAGE IS TO BE PROPOSED AND DEFINED TO MEET THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF WHISTLE RIDGE FARM PER THEIR AGREEMENTS

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

LIFE FOREST, with mailing address of 9 Beard Roadm, PO Box 1821, Hillsborough, New Hampshire 03244, ("Granter"), for consideration paid, grants to the **TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH**, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 7, Hillsborough, New Hampshire 03244, acting through its Conservation Commission pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, being a public entity, (with its successors and assigns, the "Grantee"), with QUITCLAIM covenants, in perpetuity, the following described Conservation Easement on land in the Town of Hillsborough, County of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire, pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 477:45-47, exclusively for conservation purposes, namely:

I. PURPOSE

The purposes of this Conservation Easement are:

1. To assure that the Easement (defined below) will be retained forever in its undeveloped, scenic, and open space condition and to prevent any use of the Easement that will significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values of the Easement; and
2. To protect the significant natural habitat in the watershed of the Shedd Brook and/or Beard Brook; and
3. To preserve open spaces and wildlife land for the scenic enjoyment of the general public and consistent with the clearly delineated Town of Hillsborough conservation policy, and with New Hampshire RSA Chapter 79-A which states: "It is hereby declared to be in the public interest to encourage the preservation of open space in the state by providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation of the state's citizens, by maintaining the character of the state's landscape, and by conserving the land, water, forest, and wildlife resources", to yield a significant public benefit in connection therewith."

4. The public may have access to the land burdened by this Easement for the purpose of enjoying the open space, wildlife, and scenic features preserved by the Easement. Passive outdoor recreational uses, such as pedestrian use of the Easement for walking, hiking, bird watching, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and other similar uses are permitted. All such access by the public shall be consistent with the purposes of this Easement and shall be subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this Easement.

I. EASEMENT AREA

The real estate that is subject to this Conservation Easement is a 5.99 acre+/- portion of 13.12 acre +/- lot of land located in Town of Hillsborough, County of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, said lot being Lot 9 as shown on sheet 9 of 10 of a certain plan entitled: "Plan for Cluster Subdivision at Old Mill Farm Map 8 Lot 106 & Map 11E Lot 9 in Hillsborough, N.H." dated July 21, 2005, prepared by Donald R. Mellen Surveyor, LLC, and recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds ("HCRD") as Plan No. 35600 (the "Plan"); said 5.99+/- acre Conservation Easement shown on said Plan as being part of Lot 9, a 13.2+/- acre parcel of land and identified on said Plan as "Conservation Easement 5.99+/- acres" (hereinafter the "Easement"); reference is hereby made to said Plan for a more particular description of the 5.99 +/- acre Conservation Easement.

Subject to:

- [1] Boundary Line Agreement recorded in HCRD at Book 7478, Page 1549.
- [2] Any and all matters, notes, terms, conditions and easements, including setbacks, shown on HCRD Plan Nos. 35526 and 35600.
- [3] Drainage easement to the Town of Hillsborough recorded in HCRD at Book 7900, Page 1363.
- [4] Slope easement to the Town of Hillsborough recorded in HCRD at Book 7900, Page 1365.
- [5] Certificate of Exemption from NH DOJ recorded in HCRD at Book 7929, Page 821.
- [6] Easement to PSNH and Granite State Telephone recorded in HCRD at Book 8147, Page 2969 and at Book 1165, Page 371
- [7] Existing 50' right-of-way as shown on the Plan.
- [8] Restrictions and obligations in deed at HCRD Book 9261, Page 2840 of Beard Brook Village LLC, its successors and assigns regarding access to and development of Lot 9-1 as

shown on said Plan, for the benefit of Lot 9. Neither Lot 9 nor the Conservation Easement is homestead property.

III. TERMS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

1. Use Limitations

Subject to the provisions of this Conservation Easement:

A. The Easement shall be maintained in perpetuity as open space without there being conducted thereon any industrial, commercial, or residential activities. No timber harvest or culling shall be allowed on the Easement. If annual monitoring by the Town of Hillsborough and the Hillsborough Conservation Commission determines that action must be taken in the interest of the health of the Easement (e.g., invasive species management), all action will be taken after consult with the Hillsborough Town Forester in accordance with best management practices, and in ways that are not detrimental to the purposes of the Conservation Easement.

B. The Easement shall not be subdivided or otherwise divided into parcels of separate distinct ownership and may be sold, transferred, devised or conveyed only in its entirety. This Conservation Easement and the restriction in this Section B does not affect the ability of Grantor, its successors, and assigns, to develop the building lot shown on said Plan as part of Lot 9.

C. No structures or improvements of any kind shall be constructed, placed or introduced onto the Easement, except for benches and educational signage which only may be constructed, placed or introduced onto the Easement as necessary for the accomplishment of on-site conservation uses of the Easement and only so long as they are not detrimental to the purposes of the easement. Allowed structures or improvements shall be sited so as to have minimal impact upon the conservation values of the Easement, the scenic views of and from the Easement as viewed from public roads, trails and waters, and the historic and archeological values of the Easement.

D. No removal, filling, or other disturbances of the soil surface, nor any changes in topography, surface or sub-surface water systems, wetlands, or natural habitat shall be allowed until all necessary federal, state and local permits and approvals are secured and unless such activities:

i. Are commonly necessary in the accomplishment of the conservation or habitat management of the Easement; and

ii. Do not harm state or federally recognized rare or endangered species, such determination of harm to be based upon information from the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory or the agency then recognized by the State of New Hampshire as having responsibility for identification and/or conservation of such species; and

iii. Are not detrimental to the purposes of this Conservation Easement.

A. No outdoor advertising structures such as signs and billboards shall be displayed on

the Easement except as may be necessary in the accomplishment of the conservation of the Easement and as are not detrimental to the purposes of the Conservation Easement.

B. There shall be no mining, quarrying, excavation or extraction of rocks, minerals, gravel, sand, topsoil or other similar materials on the Easement, except in connection with any improvement made pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

C. There shall be no dumping, injection, or burial of materials then known to be environmentally hazardous, including vehicle bodies or parts on the Easement.

D. There shall be no motorized vehicles allowed on the Easement, excepting snowmobiles, except in connection with any uses of the Easement and/or improvements made to the Easement pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

E. The Easement shall not be used to meet any designated open space requirements under the provisions of any subdivision approval or land use regulation process or in calculating allowable unit density on other Easement, EXCEPTING AND RESERVING to Beard Brook Village, LLC, its successors and assigns the right to use the easement area to maintain its existing open space requirements under the provisions of any subdivision approval or land use regulation process or in calculating allowable unit density for the Old Mill Farm Cluster Subdivision as shown on HCRD Plan No. 35600.

1. Reserved Rights

A. Grantor reserves the right to post the Easement against hunting and motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles and those vehicles necessary to carry out the Purposes of this Easement described in Section I or the Terms described in Section 111.

1. Affirmative Rights of Grantee

A. The Grantee shall have reasonable access to the Easement and all of its parts for such inspection as is necessary to maintain boundaries, to determine compliance and enforce the terms of this Conservation Easement, to exercise the rights conveyed by this Conservation Easement, and to fulfill the responsibilities and carry out the duties assumed by the acceptance of this Conservation Easement.

B. Prior to the final execution, delivery, and acceptance of this Conservation Easement, Grantor shall clearly delineate the boundaries of the Easement with the Hillsborough Conservation Commission easement placards.

4. Notification of Transfer, Taxes, Maintenance

Grantor agrees to notify the Grantee in writing within 10 days before the transfer of title of the Easement or any division of ownership thereof permitted hereby. The Grantee shall be under no obligation to maintain the Easement or pay any taxes or assessments thereon.

5. Benefits and Burdens

A. The burden of the Easement conveyed hereby shall run with the land and shall be

enforceable against all future owners and tenants in perpetuity; the benefits of this Easement shall not be appurtenant to any particular parcel of land but shall be in gross and assignable or transferable only to the State of New Hampshire, the U.S. Government, or any subdivision of either of them, consistent with Section 170(c)(1) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to any qualified organization within the meaning of Section 170(h)(3) of said Code, which organization has among its purposes the conservation and preservation of land and water areas, agrees to and is capable of protecting the conservation purposes of this Easement, and has the resources to enforce the restrictions of this Easement. Any such assignee or transferee shall have like power of assignment or transfer.

6. Breach of Easement

A. When a breach of this Easement comes to the attention of the Grantee or its agent, it shall notify the Grantor in writing of such breach, delivered in hand or by certified mail, return receipt requested.

B. The Grantor shall have 30 days after receipt of such notice to undertake those actions, including restoration, which are reasonably calculated to swiftly cure the conditions constituting the breach and to notify the Grantee of the cure.

C. If Grantor fails to take such curative action, the Grantee, may undertake any actions that are reasonably necessary to cure such breach, and the cost thereof, including the Grantee's expenses, court costs and legal fees shall be paid by the said Granter, provided the said Granter is determined to be directly or indirectly responsible for the breach.

D. Nothing contained in this Easement shall be construed to entitle the Grantee to bring any action against the Granter for any injury to or change in the Easement resulting from causes beyond the Grantor's control, including, but not limited to, unauthorized actions by third parties, natural disasters such as fire, flood, storm, disease, infestation and earth movement, or from any prudent action taken by the Granter under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Easement resulting from such causes. The Grantee and the Granter reserve the right, separately or collectively, to pursue all legal and/or equitable remedies, as set forth in Section 14, "Breach of Easement - Grantee's Remedies" against any third party responsible for any actions inconsistent with the provisions of this Easement.

7. Condemnation

A. Whenever all or part of the Easement is taken in exercise of eminent domain by public, corporate, or other authority so as to abrogate in whole or in part this Conservation Easement, the Granter shall, and the Grantee at its sole option may, act to recover the full damages resulting from such taking with all incidental or direct damages and expenses incurred by them thereby to be paid out of the damages recovered.

B. The balance of the damages (or proceeds) recovered shall be divided between the Granter and Grantee in proportion to the full and fair market values of the respective interests of the Granter and Grantee in that part of the Easement taken. Any increase in value attributable to improvements made after the date of this grant shall accrue to the party who made the improvements. The Grantee shall use its share of the proceeds in a manner consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement.

8. Severability

If any provision of this Easement, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Conservation Easement, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, as the case may be, shall continue to be effective.

9. Executory Interest

A. If the Grantee ceases to enforce this Conservation Easement or fails to enforce it within thirty days after receipt of written notice requesting such enforcement delivered by hand or by certified mail, return receipt requested, then the State of New Hampshire shall have the right to petition the court to designate a party to assume and exercise the authority and responsibilities of the Grantee of this Conservation Easement.

B. Upon court approval to exercise such rights, the State of New Hampshire or other party designated by the Superior Court must notify the Grantee by certified mail that such rights are being assumed and notice of the court order shall be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

10. Existing Easements

The Easement is subject to an easement granted by Roswell A. Whitcomb to Public Service Company of New Hampshire, dated May 23, 1947, and recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds at Book 1165, Page 371. Any future easements that are granted across the Easement shall be consistent with the terms of this Conservation Easement and shall be subject to prior review and approval of the Grantee.

11. Compliance

By accepting and recording this Conservation Easement, the Grantee agrees to be bound by and to observe and enforce its provisions and assumes the rights and responsibilities provided for and incumbent upon the Grantee in this Conservation Easement.

12. Resolution of Disputes.

A. The Granter and the Grantee desire that issues arising from time to time concerning uses or activities in light of the provisions of the Easement will first be addressed through candid and open communication between the parties rather than unnecessarily formal or adversarial action. Therefore, the Granter and the Grantee agree that if either party becomes concerned whether any use or activity (which together for the purposes of this Section, "Resolution of Disputes," shall be referred to as the "Activity") complies with the provisions of this Easement, wherever reasonably possible the concerned party shall notify the other party of the perceived or potential problem, and the parties shall explore the possibility of reaching an agreeable resolution by informal dialogue.

B. If informal dialogue does not resolve a disagreement regarding the Activity, and the Granter agrees not to proceed or to continue with the Activity pending resolution of the disagreement concerning the Activity, either party may refer the disagreement to mediation by written notice to the other. Within ten (10) days of the delivery of such a notice, the parties shall

agree on a single impartial mediator. Mediation shall be conducted in Concord, New Hampshire, or such other location as the parties shall agree. Each party shall pay its own attorneys' fees and the costs of mediation shall be split equally between the parties.

C. If the parties agree to bypass mediation, if the disagreement concerning the Activity has not been resolved by mediation within sixty (60) days after delivery of the notice of mediation, or if the parties are unable to agree on a mediator within ten (10) days after delivery of the notice of mediation, the disagreement shall be submitted to binding arbitration in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 542. The Granter and the Grantee shall each choose an arbitrator within twenty (20) days of the delivery of written notice from either party referring the matter to arbitration. The arbitrators so chosen shall in turn choose a third arbitrator within twenty (20) days of the selection of the second arbitrator. The arbitrators so chosen shall forthwith set as early a hearing date as is practicable, which they may postpone only for good cause shown. The arbitration hearing shall be conducted in Concord, New Hampshire, or such other location as the parties shall agree. A decision by two of the three arbitrators, made as soon as practicable after submission of the matter, shall be binding upon the parties and shall be enforceable as part of this Easement.

D. Notwithstanding the availability of mediation and arbitration to address disagreements concerning the compliance of any Activity with the provisions of this Easement, if the Grantee believes that some action or inaction of the Granter or a third party is causing irreparable harm or damage to the Easement, the Grantee may seek a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction or other form of equitable relief from any court of competent jurisdiction to cause the cessation of any such damage or harm, to enforce the terms of this Easement, to enjoin any violation by permanent injunction, and to require the restoration of the Easement to its condition prior to any breach.

13. BREACH OF EASEMENT - GRANTEE'S REMEDIES.

A. If the Grantee determines that a breach of this Easement has occurred or is threatened, the Grantee shall notify the Granter in writing of such breach and demand corrective action to cure the breach and, where the breach involves injury to the Easement, to restore the portion of the Easement so injured to its prior condition.

B. The Granter shall, within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice or after otherwise learning of such breach, undertake those actions, including restoration, which are reasonably calculated to cure swiftly said breach and to repair any damage. The Granter shall promptly notify the Grantee of its actions taken hereunder.

C. If the Granter fails to perform its obligations under the immediately preceding paragraph B. above, or fails to continue diligently to cure any breach until finally cured, the Grantee may undertake any actions that are reasonably necessary to repair any damage in the Granter's name or to cure such breach, including an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Easement, to enjoin the violation, *ex parte* as necessary, by temporary or permanent injunction, and to require the restoration of the Easement to the condition that existed prior to any such injury.

D. If the Grantee, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation features of the Easement,

the Grantee may pursue its remedies under this Section, "Breach of Easement - Grantee's Remedies", without prior notice to the Grantor or without waiting for the period provided for cure to expire.

E. The Grantee shall be entitled to recover damages from the party directly or primarily responsible for violation of the provisions of this Easement or injury to any conservation features protected hereby, including, but not limited to, damages for the loss of scenic, aesthetic, or environmental attributes of the Easement. Without limiting the Grantor's liability therefore, the Grantee, in its sole discretion, may apply any damages recovered to the cost of undertaking any corrective action on the Easement.

F. The Grantee's rights under this Section, "Breach of Easement - Grantee's Remedies", apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened breach of this Easement, and are in addition to the provisions of the preceding Section, "Resolution of Disputes," which section shall also apply to any disagreement that may arise with respect to activities undertaken in response to a notice of breach and the exercise of the Grantee's rights hereunder.

G. The Grantor and the Grantee acknowledge and agree that should the Grantee determine, in its sole discretion, that the conservation features protected by this Easement are in immediate danger of irreparable harm, the Grantee may seek the injunctive relief described in the third paragraph of this Section, "Breach of Easement - Grantee's Remedies" both prohibitive and mandatory, in addition to such other relief to which the Grantee may be entitled, including specific performance of the terms of this Easement, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies. The Grantee's remedies described in this Section, "Breach of Easement - Grantee's Remedies", shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.

H. Provided that the Grantor is directly or primarily responsible for the breach, all reasonable costs incurred by the Grantee in enforcing the terms of this Easement against the Grantor, including, without limitation, staff and consultant costs, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and expenses of suit, and any costs of restoration necessitated by the Grantor's breach of this Easement shall be borne by the Grantor; and provided further, however, that if the Grantor ultimately prevails in a judicial enforcement action each party shall bear its own costs. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Grantee initiates litigation against the Grantor to enforce this Conservation Easement, and if the court determines that the litigation was initiated without reasonable cause or in bad faith, then the court may require the Grantee to reimburse the Grantor's reasonable costs and reasonable attorney's fees in defending the action.

I. Forbearance by the Grantee to exercise its rights under this Easement in the event of any breach of any term thereof by the Grantor shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by the Grantee of such term or of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term of this Easement or of any of the Grantee's rights hereunder. No delay or omission by the Grantee in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by the Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver. The Grantor hereby waives any defense of laches or estoppel.

J. Nothing contained in this Easement shall be construed to entitle the Grantee to bring any action against the Grantor for any injury to or change in the Easement resulting from causes beyond the Grantor's control, including, but not limited to, unauthorized actions by third parties, natural disasters such as fire, flood, storm, disease, infestation and earth movement, or from

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
My Commission Expires

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



A Template for Your Wildlife Habitat Management Plan

Authors

Emily Tauber, Jarred Brooke, Mitch Zischke,
Fred Whitford, Phil Cox, Jonathan Ferris, William Horan



Introduction

Creating a wildlife habitat management plan is a worthwhile endeavor for any landowner interested in providing habitat for wildlife. A well-thought-out plan will help determine the necessary steps to make your property more attractive to wildlife. In essence, a plan is a roadmap to meet the long-term wildlife goals for your property.

Some landowners may be interested in writing their own habitat management plan and would benefit from having a template — like the one provided by this publication — as a guideline. Others may choose to seek help from a professional while writing their plan. Either way, having a plan for your property before you start is an important step in your long-term success.

How to use this template

The publication is a template to help you start writing your own wildlife habitat management plan. All the sections on this PDF are fillable — you can type directly in the boxes and save your file. However, if you prefer, you can print the template and fill it out by hand. We have also created a companion publication to this template, FNR-616-W *Creating a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for Landowners*, which helps provide more information about each section. That publication can be found at <https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/>.

Filling out this plan — especially Section 2 — is also helpful if you plan to work with a professional biologist. Much of the information in this template is information a biologist will want to know when creating a plan. Thinking about this information prior to meeting with a biologist can help them create a plan better suited to you and your property.



Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Template

1. Property Information

Complete this section by providing basic information about your property.

Date of Plan

Property Owner

Property Address

County

Township

Name and Contact Information for Local Natural Resource Professionals (e.g., Wildlife Biologist, Forester, Private Consultant, etc.)

Habitat Management Equipment List

What equipment do you have to use on the property? You can also list equipment that you can rent (e.g., seed drill from local Soil and Water Conservation District), or borrow.

Check the box
if you have
access to
this tool

Equipment

Tractor
ATV and/or UTV

TRACTOR OR ATV/UTV IMPLEMENTS

No-till drill
Rototiller
Brush mower
Disk
Cultipacker
Herbicide sprayer
Other implements (list):

HAND TOOLS

Chainsaw
Handsaw
Brush saw
Backpack sprayer
Leaf blower
Drip torch
Other hand tools (list):
Other equipment (list):

Property History and Management

What past practices, natural events, or land uses have occurred on your property before and during your ownership? (e.g., timber harvest, prescribed fire, windstorm, farming, invasive species control, conservation or utility easement, drainage work/tiling)



Conservation Program Information

Is your property enrolled in any conservation programs? (e.g., CRP, EQIP, WRP, Classified Forest and Wildlands Program).
Are there any management restrictions for areas enrolled in these programs?

2. Property Goals and Objectives

Determining goals and objectives for your property will help you decide the right management practices to improve your property for wildlife. Goals should be broad and long-term, whereas objectives should be more focused and achievable in a few years.

Overall Property Goals

Which of the following are important goals or uses for your property? (Check all that apply)
Once you have selected your goals, rank their importance to you with 1 being most important.

Check the box
if this is an
important goal

Property Goal

Rank

Income from the property (timber, crops, etc.)
Recreation (hunting, hiking, birdwatching, etc.)
Aesthetics (scenic beauty, enjoying nature, etc.)
Wood products (wood for woodworking, firewood, etc.)
Non-wood products (maple syrup, beekeeping, etc.)
Wildlife
Other
Other

Wildlife Goals

Which of the following species or species groups interests you? (Check all that apply)
Once you have selected important wildlife, rank their importance to you with 1 being most important.

Check the box
if this is an
important goal

Wildlife Species or Group

Rank

White-tailed deer
Wild turkey
Ring-necked pheasant
Northern bobwhite
American woodcock
Ruffed grouse
Mourning dove
Squirrels
Cottontail rabbit
Furbearers (coyote, fox, raccoon, beaver, etc.)
Bats
Grassland songbirds
Forest songbirds
Hawks and owls
Waterfowl
Reptiles
Amphibians
Other

Priority Wildlife Species: From the list above, what are the most important wildlife species to you and why?

Wildlife Interests: Why are you interested in improving your property for wildlife (providing a home for wildlife, increasing wildlife diversity, improving hunting, improving wildlife viewing, etc.)?

Property Goals: Combine the information from the sections above and write out your top 1 to 3 goals. Write them out in clear and concise statements.

Property Objectives: How do you plan to reach your goals? How can you balance your different goals? Create 1 to 3 short objectives for each goal.

3. Property Assessment

A property assessment provides a starting point for your management plan. It helps determine the current condition of the property for wildlife.

Description of Entire Property

This should include a brief description of the property, current land uses, and number of acres for each land type.

Total # of acres

Woodland acres

Grassland acres

Wetland acres

Cropland (including food plots) acres

Other (describe) acres

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



General description of property, surrounding properties, and nearby geographical features (rivers, lakes, topography, etc.)

Important property features: think of areas that are special that you may want to preserve like unique vegetation types, geological features, rare plants, cultural resources, etc.

Wildlife Species: What wildlife species have you seen on your property? List them here.


Current Condition: What is the quality of the current habitat on your property? Think in terms of the habitat needs (food, water, cover, space) of your priority wildlife species. Refer to Section 8 for additional resources about the habitat requirements of different species.

Limiting Factors: What factors on your property and the neighboring properties may be limiting the habitat quality for your priority wildlife species from Section 2 (e.g. low amount of woody cover for northern bobwhite)?

Ideal Condition: What does ideal habitat look like for the priority species on your property in 5, 10, or 20 years?

4. Maps (checklist)

Include any maps that you think will be helpful. Add any maps you find useful at the end of this document as a supplement to your plan.

Checkbox  **Maps** Refer to Section 8 for online resources for acquiring maps.

Property Boundary Map

Soil Map

Topography Map

Property Inventory and Habitat Management Unit Map

Other Maps – describe

5. Habitat Management Units and Practices

Once a property inventory has been completed and maps have been created, next you can decide how to improve the property for wildlife. Include general plans for each individual habitat management unit (or the entire property as a whole). A habitat management unit is an area that has similar vegetation, soils and/or other features and will have similar management.

**If you have more than two habitat management units for each cover type, templates for each additional unit can be printed off and added to the end of this plan as a supplement.*

WOODLANDS
Use for any forested areas on your property.

Woodland Unit #1

Habitat management unit name and #

Size (acres)

Soil type(s)

Drainage

Habitat management unit objective

Current condition

Ideal condition

Woodland Unit Characteristics

Overstory tree species composition

Hard and soft mast-producing trees and shrubs (number, species, description)

Snags and live cavity trees (number of each)



Understory composition

Invasive species

Areas of concern

Woodland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? *(check all that apply)*

- No management
- Timber harvest
- Forest stand improvement
- Create snag(s)
- Create wildlife opening(s)
- Prescribed fire
- Invasive species control
- Edge feathering
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Create wildlife wetlands
- Create brush piles
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

1.

2.

3.

Woodland Unit #2

Habitat management unit name and #

Size (acres)

Soil type(s)

Drainage

Habitat management unit objective

Current condition

Ideal condition

Woodland Unit Characteristics

Overstory tree species composition

Hard and soft mast-producing trees and shrubs (number, species, description)

Snags and live cavity trees (number of each)

Understory composition

Invasive species

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Areas of concern

Woodland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? *(check all that apply)*

- No management
- Timber harvest
- Forest stand improvement
- Create snag(s)
- Create wildlife opening(s)
- Prescribed fire
- Invasive species control
- Edge feathering
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Create wildlife wetlands
- Create brush piles
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



GRASSLANDS
Use for old fields, native grass/pollinator plantings, pastures, and hayfields on your property.

Grassland Unit #1

Habitat management unit name and #

Size (acres)

Soil type(s)

Drainage

Is the field tiled (drain tiles)?

Habitat management unit objective

Current condition

Ideal condition

Grassland Unit Characteristics

Herbaceous composition (grasses and forbs)

Woody composition (brambles, shrubs, and trees)

Invasive species

Areas of concern (tile holes, drainage ditches, wet areas, hidden debris, etc.)

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Grassland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? *(check all that apply)*

- No management
- Cool-season grass control
- Old field management
- Plant native grasses and forbs
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Disking
- Prescribed fire
- Interseeding native grasses and forbs
- Herbicide application
- Woody cover or brush piles
- Plant food plot
- Invasive species control
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

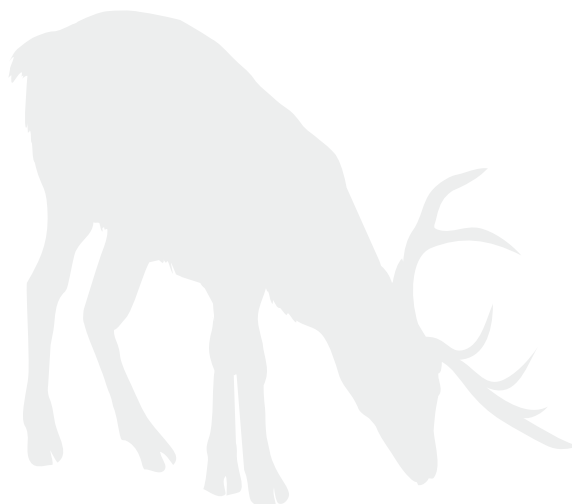
Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Grassland Unit #2

Habitat management unit name and #	
Size (acres)	
Soil type(s)	
Drainage	Is the field tilled (drain tiles)?
Habitat management unit objective	
Current condition	
Ideal condition	

Grassland Unit Characteristics

Herbaceous composition (grasses and forbs)	
Woody composition (brambles, shrubs, and trees)	
Invasive species	
Areas of concern (tile holes, drainage ditches, wet areas, hidden debris, etc.)	

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Grassland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? *(check all that apply)*

- No management
- Cool-season grass control
- Old field management
- Plant native grasses and forbs
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Disking
- Prescribed fire
- Interseeding native grasses and forbs
- Herbicide application
- Woody cover or brush piles
- Plant food plot
- Invasive species control
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



WETLANDS
Use for any wetlands on your property.

Wetland Unit #1

Habitat management unit name and #

Size (acres)

Soil type(s)

Drainage

Habitat management unit objective

Current condition

Ideal condition

Wetland Unit Characteristics

Herbaceous composition (grass and forbs)

Woody composition (brambles, shrubs, and trees)

Invasive species

Areas of concern (leaks in dam, old or current water control structures, etc.)

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Wetland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? *(check all that apply)*

- No management
- Wetland construction or repair
- Wetland restoration
- Water level management
- Water control structure
- Add nesting structures
- Plant food plot
- Invasive species control
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Wetland Unit #2

Habitat management unit name and #

Size (acres)

Soil type(s)

Drainage

Habitat management unit objective

Current condition

Ideal condition

Wetland Unit Characteristics

Herbaceous composition (grass and forbs)

Woody composition (brambles, shrubs, and trees)

Invasive species

Areas of concern (leaks in dam, old or current water control structures, etc.)

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Wetland Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? (check all that apply)

- No management
- Wetland construction or repair
- Wetland restoration
- Water level management
- Water control structure
- Add nesting structures
- Plant food plot
- Invasive species control
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



CROPLAND
Use for any crop fields or food plots on your property.

Cropland Unit #1

Habitat management unit name and #	
Size (acres)	
Soil type(s)	
Drainage	Is the field tilled (drain tiles)?
Habitat management unit objective	
Current condition	
Ideal condition	

Cropland Unit Characteristics

Current crop and management (tillage, cover crops, etc.)

Future crop and management (tillage, cover crops, etc.)

Invasive or weedy species

Areas of concern

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Cropland and Food Plot Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this unit for wildlife? (check all that apply)

- No management
- Delay crop harvest
- Leave crops unharvested
- Plant cool-season food plot
- Plant warm-season food plot
- Plant native grasses and forbs
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Take soil samples
- Fertilize or lime
- Weed control
- Create field border
- Create riparian buffer
- Create wetland
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY

DATE SCHEDULED

DATE COMPLETED

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Cropland Unit #2

Habitat management unit name and #	
Size (acres)	
Soil type(s)	
Drainage	Is the field tilled (drain tiles)?
Habitat management unit objective	
Current condition	
Ideal condition	

Cropland Unit Characteristics
Current crop and management (tillage, cover crops, etc.)
Future crop and management (tillage, cover crops, etc.)
Invasive or weedy species
Areas of concern

HABITAT MANAGEMENT



Cropland and Food Plot Management Practices

What needs to be done to improve this compartment for wildlife? (check all that apply)

- No management
- Delay crop harvest
- Leave crops unharvested
- Plant cool-season food plot
- Plant warm-season food plot
- Plant native grasses and forbs
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Take soil samples
- Fertilize or lime
- Weed control
- Create field border
- Create riparian buffer
- Create wetland
- Other

Habitat Management Activities

Describe in more detail what habitat management activities need to occur to improve this habitat management unit.

Habitat Management Activities Schedule

ACTIVITY	DATE SCHEDULED	DATE COMPLETED
1.		
2.		
3.		



6. Inventory and Monitoring Wildlife

In order to determine if your management is working, you need to evaluate the response. This can be creating an inventory of wildlife species before and after management or tracking wildlife populations over time. It should also involve monitoring the habitat created through management. The information you collect will help guide your future management decisions.

<i>Check if you plan to use</i>	Monitoring technique	What is being monitored?	Description
	Species checklist	All species (plants and wildlife)	Maintain a species checklist for the property. Add species as you see or hear them. Used for presence/absence.
	Trail cameras	White-tailed deer, eastern wild turkeys, and furbearers (coyote, fox, bobcat, etc.)	Use multiple cameras and set in same location each year. Used for presence/absence and population index.
	Scent stations	Mammals, especially furbearers	Different scents can be used to attract various mammals. Used for presence/absence.
	Call counts	Birds and amphibians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breeding bird surveys (songbirds) ▪ Whistle/crow counts (bobwhite and pheasant) ▪ Gobble counts (turkey) ▪ Peent counts (woodcock) ▪ Drumming counts (ruffed grouse) ▪ Call surveys (frogs and toads) 	Call counts will differ between species. Call counts for songbirds and upland gamebirds should occur around sunrise during the breeding season. Call counts for amphibians should occur in the spring and/or summer just after dark in the evening. Used for presence/absence and tracking populations trends.
	Gamebird brood surveys	Pheasant, bobwhite, and turkey	Count the number of hens and young in a brood as you encounter them on your property during the summer (Jun-Sep). Used to provide index of reproductive success.
	Nest box, roost, or bat house survey	Cavity-nesting birds, wood ducks, and bats	Observe birds using nest boxes. Observe bats leaving roosts or bat houses at dusk. Used to determine presence/absence and use of nest box or bat house.
	Coverboards	Amphibians (salamanders) and reptiles (snakes).	Coverboards made of wood, plastic, or sheet metal can be placed in the woods or fields and checked periodically. Used for presence/absence.
	Plant surveys	Trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers	Used to track plant diversity or identify invasive species on your property.
	Permanent photo locations	Habitat condition	Take pictures at the same spot before and after management. Provides a visual of how habitat conditions have changed.
	Hunting and trapping harvest records	Game species - pheasant, bobwhite, turkey, furbearers, deer, waterfowl, etc.	Species checklist of what is seen and what is harvested. Used to measure presence and abundance; compare harvests year to year.



7. Plan or Goal Change

As time goes on, the habitat on your property or your personal goals may change. List those changes below.

Plan or Goal Changes

How have your plans or goals changed? How will that impact future management to improve wildlife habitat?

8. Additional Resources

Resources that will be helpful in creating a wildlife habitat management plan are listed below. You should also keep a list of other resources (publications, professionals, etc.) you used to help you create your wildlife management plan.

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan Resource List

Purdue Extension Pond and Wildlife Habitat Management Website - <https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/>
Find Your County Pond and Wildlife Management Contact - <https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/county-resources/>
Managing Your Woods for White-Tailed Deer – Purdue Extension FNR-596-W - https://edustore.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=FNR-596-W
Renovating Native Warm Season Grasses for Wildlife: A Land Manager's Guide – Purdue Extension FNR-548 - https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=FNR-548
Assessing Your Land's Potential for Wildlife – Purdue Extension FNR-175-W - <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-175-W.pdf>
Indiana DNR Habitat Factsheets - <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3025.htm>
My Land Plan - <https://mylandplan.org/>
Property Boundary Maps - <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>
Soil Maps - <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>
Property and Topography Maps - <https://maps.indiana.edu/>
Historical Aerial Imagery for Indiana - <https://igws.indiana.edu/IHAPI/>

Find Out More

The Purdue Extension Education Store offers a variety of publications related to forestry and wildlife management.
edustore.purdue.edu



Managing Your Woods for White-Tailed Deer
(FNR-596-W)



Creating a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for Landowners
(FNR-616-W)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mike Mycroft and Jason Wade, Wildlife Biologists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife and Brian MacGowan, Purdue University for providing feedback that improved this publication.
Thanks to Dawn Minns for help with layout and design.



Reference in this publication to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm, or corporation name is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or certification of any kind by Purdue Extension. Individuals using such products assume responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.



Forestry and Natural Resources

extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife

Find out more at
THE EDUCATION STORE
edustore.purdue.edu

An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity University

February 2021