**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
**Division of Lands and Forests, Region 8**
6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon NY 14414
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Joe Martens
Commissioner

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

*Forest stewardship is the wise management and use of forest resources to ensure their health and productivity for the future with regard for generations to come. It requires the understanding that human life spans are short and that we are the caretakers of something that future generations will need to use. The recommendations in this plan are made assuming that the owners have a decent land ethic for their property and are protecting it from damage that would reduce its capacity to produce the multiple benefits that forest lands provide to both to the owners and to society in general.*

DATE: April 2011

TOWN: Ovid

OWNER: Seneca Waterways Council BSA

COUNTY: Seneca

ADDRESS: 7294 County Rd 132
Ovid, NY 14521

AERIAL PHOTO: see satellite image

WATERSHED: Finger Lakes 04140201

Email: hroenke@verizon.net
PHONE NUMBER:
Hank- 315-789 -1676

HOME ADDRESS: same

Stewardship Analysis Project (SAP)
Ranking of land Potential H – 75
M - 121
L - 14

TOTAL ACRES: 282 acres

STEWARDSHIP ACRES: 210

LANDOWNER GOAL STATEMENT: To manage the land for multiple benefits including timber, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics.

REPORT BY: Brice June
Service Forester

ADDRESS: NYS DEC
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414

PHONE: 585.226.5330

## PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

This parcel contains native hardwoods, softwoods, and plantation softwoods. The property is on the north side of DEC Wildlife property and south of the golf course. This property offers recreational opportunities, and a variety of wildlife habitat. The entire parcel is 282 acres, of which 210 acres are forested, 2 acres are ponds, 63 acres are fields, and the last 7 acres are buildings and open space. Good road frontage provides access to the property and allow for recreational pursuits and timber management. The topography is partially flat with patches of wet soil, moderately sloped areas, and some steep ravines. Due to some steep areas and proximity to Seneca Lake BMPs must be followed during timber harvesting activities. Logging has been done three or more times in the last 20 yrs, parts of the property are under even aged management and some areas are under uneven aged. Some problems noted on the property are vines and invasive plants such as Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Japanese Barberry. The managers have expressed an interest in forest management. For more detail, aerial maps are included.

## SOILS

The majority of soils on the property are rated as good for timber productivity –Aurora silt loam 15- 25% slope, Aurora and Farmington soils 25 -70% slopes, Cazenovia silt loam 3 – 40% slope, Darien-Danley-Cazenovia silt loams 3 – 8% slope, Honeoye silt loam, 2- 25% slopes, and Lima silt loam 0 – 8% slope make up the six soil types on the property. There is also a Federal land classification of Stewardship Analysis Potential (SAP), they categorize by a 1-3 ranking system. For soil information see www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov

## STAND DESCRIPTIONS

The following is a description of the various forest stands found on the property. A stand is considered to be an area of the forest that is relatively uniform in species composition or age and can be managed as a single unit. At the top of each description the forest type is listed along with size class, level of stocking, site class and acreage. Please refer to the forest type map on the satellite image for stand delineations

Three size classes are recognized: (1) *Seedling-Sapling* [1"- 3"], (2) *Pole* [4"-11"] and (3) *Sawtimber* [12" and up]. Three categories are used for the level of stocking: (1)*Understocked*, (2) *Well-stocked*, and (3) *Overstocked*. An understocked stand would lose growth by not having enough stems to utilize the growing potential of the site adequately. An overstocked stand has too many stems in competition, and a corresponding reduction in the growth rate. A well-stocked stand represents a somewhat ideal density for realizing the growth potential on a site. Site class is a quality measure of the ability of the area to support tree growth. It is based on tree height at age 50 for natural stands and age 25 for plantations. Sites will be classified either *Poor, Good* or *Excellent.*

Timber Stand Improvement = (TSI)

Sample basal area points were taken in some of the stands with ocular estimates for species composition.

**Stand 1.**
**Acres - 35; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is a Transition Hardwoods type stand that was mostly Oak Hickory in the past but now is heading into Northern Hardwoods. Tree species consist of Sugar Maple, Hickory, Red Oak, Red Maple, Ironwood, Beech, White Ash, White Pine, and Black Walnut. The stand has gone to an uneven aged management schedule with mostly poletimber and scattered sawtimber large hickory, white pine, and a few oak. Stocking is variable due to some 20 year old harvesting. The large white pines are great roosting trees for turkeys and raptors. Some of the larger trees could be harvested in the next harvest. Some timber stand improvement would be beneficial to remove cull and undesirable trees such as ironwood. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs after thinning.

**Stand 2.**
**Acres - 15; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is Transition Hardwood heading towards Northern Hardwoods. Tree species consist of mainly Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Hickory, White Oak, Basswood, Red Maple, Beech, White Pine, White Ash, and Ironwood. The trees are mostly poletimber with scattered Sawtimber remaining. Stocking is variable due to some long past harvesting. TSI could be done to remove cull and undesirable species. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs after thinning.

**Stand 3.**
**Acres - 27; Sawtimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is Mixed Hardwoods Hemlock consisting of Hemlock, Red Oak, White Pine, Aspen, White Ash, Soft Maple, Hickory, Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, White Oak, Cedar, and ironwood. Some areas were harvested in the past, trees are mostly Sawtimber or Poletimber. The understory contains high levels of Multiflora rose, Honeysuckle, and vines in places and should be managed accordingly. TSI and herbicide spraying of invasive plants may be needed to encourage desirable regeneration along with cutting and treating vines. Some low grade logging could be done during next harvest. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs after thinning.

**Stand 4.**
**Acres - 5; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
The stand is partially failed Softwood Plantation transitioning to Hardwoods with camp sites mixed in. Species consist of White Pine, White Ash, Black Walnut, and Sugar Maple. Larger Walnuts were harvested in the past. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand 5.**
**Acres - 57; Sawtimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is Mixed Hardwoods Hemlock consisting of Hemlock, Red Oak, White Pine, Tulip, White Ash, Soft Maple, Hickory, Sugar Maple, Beech, White Oak, Basswood, and ironwood. A few trees were harvested in the past, but steep slopes create difficulties for management. Trees are mostly Larger Sawtimber with good form and great heights. The stand is mostly ravine corridor throughout the property. Some minimal logging could be done during next harvest. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs after thinning.

**Stand 6.**
**Acres - 11; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
The stand is mixed Softwood Plantation transitioning to Hardwoods with openings mixed in. Species consist of White Pine, Red Pine, Red Cedar, White Ash, Black Walnut, Red Oak, Ironwood, and Sugar Maple. Scattered trees were harvested in the past. Some TSI could be done by removing cull and working on spacing. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand 7.**
**Acres - 11; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is Mixed Hardwoods consisting of Red Oak, White Pine, Sugar Maple, White Ash, Soft Maple, Hickory, Black Cherry, Basswood, and ironwood. A few trees were harvested in the past, but mostly uniformly stocked. Trees are mostly larger poletimber and small sawtimber with good form and heights. Some TSI could be done to remove cull and work on crop tree release. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs after thinning.

**Stand 8.**
**Acres - 4; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
The stand is partially Black Locust Plantation transitioning to mixed hardwoods consisting of Red Maple, Tulip, Red Oak, White Ash, and Black Walnut. Black locust would be a good source of posts and firewood if needed. Some crop tree release should be done along with cull removal. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand 9.**
**Acres - 36; Sawtimber stand; Site - good; over-stocked**
The stand is a mixture of Softwood Plantations consisting of Norway Spruce, White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Larch, White Ash, Aspen, Red Oak, Ironwood, and Sugar Maple. Some variation in size exists between sawtimber and poletimber. Some thinning should be done by removing every third row in stands where the rows are evident and every third tree in area where rows are not clear. Thinning might be able to be done commercially if local markets are found. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand 10.**
**Acres - 3; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
This stand is Black Walnut type consisting mostly of Black Walnut. Trees are mostly large poletimber transitioning to sawtimber. No work is needed at this time. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand 11.**
**Acres - 3; Poletimber stand; Site - good; well-stocked**
The stand is Softwood Plantation with openings mixed in. Species consist of Norway Spruce. No work is needed at this time. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Stand Young Plantation.**
**Acres - 3; Seedling sapling stand; Site - good; under-stocked**
The stand is Softwood Plantation with openings mixed in. Species consist of Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Red Cedar, and White Pine. No work is needed at this time. Reevaluate in 7-10 yrs.

**Fields: 63 acres**

**Buildings and open space: 7 acres**

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

They are administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Seneca County (315 568 6346 ex. 191) or see the national website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs
**EQIP 666 - Thinning** - some areas could benefit from TSI, and some with spraying.
**EQIP 655 - Forest Trails and landing improvement -** trails could have water bars added to reduce erosion.

**RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

A check of the Natural Heritage database found no threatened species to be present on the property.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES and HERITAGE AREAS**

A search of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP) database found 50% of archeological significance on the wooded part of the property. Typical forestry management operations are not likely to be curtailed within these designated areas. However, contacting the OPRHP prior to any substantial land use changes to ascertain their impact is advisable. The OPRHP general number is 518-237-8643 and their website
that contains an interactive map for archeological and historic sites is
http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/resources/index.htm

**SOIL AND WATER PROTECTION**

Generally, forest management activities are exempt from the Environmental Conservation Law that regulates fresh water wetlands. However, road building (placing fill in a wetland), drainage activities, clear cutting, or building dwellings in a wetland or within 100 feet of a wetland all require permits. Consult a DEC wetland specialist for wetland boundary delineation or when planning any major disturbance in a wetland. By applying the Timber Harvesting Guidelines for New York, and following Best Management Practices (BMP's), soil and water resources can be protected.
Research has shown that it is not the act of cutting trees or their absence that causes erosion. Studies made to date estimate that 90 to 95 percent of erosion results from exposed soil in roads and from concentrated water runoff on poorly drained soils.http://www.dec.state.ny.us
For wetlands information see www.boquetriver.org
Federal regulations are administered by the Army Core of Engineers see www.wetlands.com/regs/tlpgeola.htm
For DEC regulations see www.dec.state.ny.us

**WILDLIFE HABITAT**

The potential for wildlife species is linked to the combination of environmental factors, such as food, water, cover, and their spatial distribution, that a given species needs to survive and reproduce in a given area. Each species has unique habitat requirements. Food sources include fruit and nuts, foliage, wood, insects and other animals. Cover includes hiding places that provide animals with protection from weather, predators, or other dangers. Specialized types of cover include breeding cover, escape cover, resting cover, and travel cover. Sources of water are streams, ponds, temporary pools and springs.

To increase species richness (the number of different species) in your forest, it is important to increase both horizontal and vertical diversity to provide as varied a habitat as possible. Horizontal diversity is the intermixing of plant communities across a large area. For example, a northern hardwoods community, a grass community, and a spruce/fir community located near each other creates a high degree of horizontal diversity. Vertical diversity occurs when there are many layers of plants. For example, moss on rocks, vines over logs, flowers and grasses, small bushes and tree seedlings, saplings and other small trees, and tall trees, all growing in a small area create many layers.

If you have a small area and you are interested in species richness, it is especially important to consider the surrounding area. The forest cover type on your property may be unique and by modifying it, you could decrease the overall richness of your neighborhood. Or, if your cover type is the same as your neighbors, changing it could increase the diversity considerably.

Proper forest management benefits many species of wildlife by creating more diverse habitat, increasing food producing plants and creating cover. The landowner can improve wildlife on the property by accomplishing one or more of the following projects:

*1.* Creating Brush Piles - These will serve as cover for small mammals, especially snowshoe hare, birds and reptiles and amphibians. Piles can be created from limbs and logging debris.

*2.* Releasing and Caring for Apple and other Fruit Trees - These trees are an important source of food for many species of wildlife. By releasing them from competing, their wildlife value will be prolonged.

*3.* Den and Cavity Tree Preservation - Many species of birds and mammals require cavities in dead or living trees for nesting or shelter. The number of these trees can be a limiting factor in the number of bird and wildlife species found on the property. Snag trees may already be present on the property or they can be created by girdling trees.

*4.* Nest boxes and other nesting structures installed by the landowner can provide additional cover.

*5.* Trees, shrubs and vines that have wildlife value can be planted as food sources. Seeds of herbaceous plants can be sown.

*6.* Creating and Maintaining Openings - These will serve to enhance both the horizontal and vertical diversity of the property. Openings are dominated by shrub and herbaceous plant growth. Openings can be created during harvesting activities or by cutting trees and leaving them. Downed trees provide additional cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

## FISHERIES HABITAT

The management practices that occur on individual parcels have the potential to affect fisheries and water quality on other properties in the watershed. Utilization of Best Management Practices can prevent a negative watershed and fisheries impact. Further advice or guidance can be obtained by the DEC Fisheries Department at 226-5343. Every property does not contain fisheries habitat.

## RECREATION AND AESTHETICS

The development of access roads and trails, which are important in managing for forest products, can also be used for hiking, skiing, nature interpretation, or other recreational pursuits. Seeding these trails and roads with native grasses can increase the aesthetics and be valuable to wildlife. Areas that have served as log landings, when properly located and seeded, can be effective food plots for wildlife and parking/turnaround areas for recreational use. Thinning, when timed properly, will allow the trees to grow at faster rates, becoming larger

and creating a more aesthetically pleasing woodlot. Retaining the services of a forester is highly recommended to ensure that the work be carried out with proper management and care to protect future recreation and aesthetic values. Recreational opportunities are as varied and diverse as the many individuals owning forest land; the landowner's objectives and goals will dictate the possible recreation and aesthetics scenarios.

**FOREST HEALTH**

A healthy forest is more likely to be compatible with forest stewardship plans than an unhealthy forest. Just like people, healthy forests are better able to resist damaging agents than unhealthy ones. Agents that cause damage to individual trees include insects, diseases and wildlife pests, along with adverse weather events and undesirable activities by people, such as wounding of trees and air pollution. Types of damage range from reduced visual quality, deformity, growth loss, or wood destruction, to dying back of branches or premature mortality. The extent of damage ranges from a few trees to whole forest stands. When a few trees are affected the forest remains healthy, but when most of the trees are damaged the forest is at risk.

Most insects, diseases, wildlife and weather events are part of a set of natural forces changing your forest. Some of these are beneficial or do not cause much damage. Others are extensive and cause severe damage (for example, insect outbreaks). Maintaining the health of the forest to help prevent serious damage is something to keep in mind. Preventive care will help ensure that the forest provides the desired benefits.

Maintaining the health of the forest is important to help prevent damaging problems from interfering with the benefits received from the forest. Consider the following general guidelines to maintain forest health:

1. Consider that some amount of damage from disease, wildlife pest, insects, and weather is normal and can be beneficial to the overall health of the forest.
2. Remove excessive numbers of over mature, weak or damaged trees that are most likely to be affected by damaging agents. However, consider that some of these trees are beneficial to certain wildlife species.
3. Encourage mixtures of tree species to minimize damage from problems that attack specific types trees.
4. Discourage tree species that are not well adapted for the climate and soil properties in the area.
5. Maintain a density of trees that provides them with adequate growing space.
6. Avoid wounding your trees and compacting the soil during treatments and recreational activities.
7. Prevent livestock from grazing in the woods.
8. Avoid implementing treatments during or soon after events like droughts or outbreaks of insects or diseases.
9. Stay informed of pest alerts and current problems.
10. Monitor the forest frequently for symptoms of damaging agents.
11. Consider utilizing pest suppression programs recommended by the state or county forestry agency.
12. Support regulations geared toward reducing the spread of non-native pests, and reducing levels of air pollution.
13. Follow quarantine regulations for specific pests and their host plants.
14. Salvage dead or damaged trees after a problem occurs.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**American Tree Farm System -** consider joining; for more information contact your DEC service forester or NYS Tree Farm 800-836-3566
**New York Forest Owners Association -** consider joining - see brochure enclosed with your management plan.
**Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program -** these programs are available to landowners to assist them in undertaking projects on their property by providing technical advice and financial assistance. They are administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Seneca County (315 568 6346 ex. 191) or see the national website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/

*As owner(s) I(we) agree that this stewardship plan reflects my(our) goals and objectives for management of this property.*

_____ _____

*Signature* *Signature*

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN - ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
## 10 Years

Owner: BSA Prepared by: Brice June

Date: April 2011

| YEAR | STANDS | MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY | PRIORITY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2011-14 | 3,7 | Invasive plant treatments, trail work, vine cutting. | High |
| 2011-16 | 1, 3, 7, 8 | TSI and or firewood harvest. | High |
| 2011-15 | 6, 9 | Consider commercial softwood sale to focus on row thinning. | High |
| 2016-20 | ALL | Work on any uncompleted work | Med |
| always | ALL | Continue to treat invasive plants and grapevine/Ivy to keep it in check | High |
| 2020 | ALL | Update management plan, reevaluate stands. Evaluate stands 1,3,5, 7 for low grade scrag sale. | High |
| | | | |
| 20__ | | | |
| 20__ | | | |
| 20__ | | | |

(10/2000)