



species present and whether they are threatened or endangered species, existing trees and their age, ground vegetation, location of water resources, and the particular combination of species of trees, shrubs, grasses and legumes on the site. The area's potential to support other plant or animal species is also estimated.

● Recreational Resources

The assessment of recreational resources includes a visual resource analysis which uses aerial maps, when available, to sketch the location of scenic natural areas and unique historical features, land use activities on neighboring plots, sites for recreational activities, and fragile areas which need to be protected from development. The landowner's own goals for hunting, camping, biking or other recreational activities are listed in relation to the types of facilities needed. A site design is drawn to indicate the most desirable locations for trails, campsites, wildlife observation platforms and fishing holes to minimize environmental impact from recreational activities.

● Soil and Water Resources

Soil conservation specialists gather information to determine the site sensitivity and the need for using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality. Soil type, erodibility, topography, vegetation type, rainfall, pesticide and fertilizer applications, location of streams and wetlands and drainage networks for agricultural activities are recorded. These are used to identify fragile sites such as streams which need special care, predict the effect of management activities on water run-off and estimate timber or forage productivity.

● Grazing Resources

An inventory of the species composition, quantity and distribution of plant communities, especially forage species, shrub canopy cover and timber stand characteristics is a first step in assessing the land for its grazing and shelter capabilities. Current livestock activities such as herd size, class and composition, breeding programs, and grazing systems, combined with a map locating watering holes, fences, pens, gates and roads, are used to determine the location of forage regeneration sites. Alternatives for reseeding, shrub management, stocking densities, fertilization needs and grazing rotations can be developed to offer the landowner many options.

A Final Note on Planning

Is the process of developing a plan time consuming? It can be. Is it worth it? **Yes, definitely!** Just picture yourself trying to build that dream house without a blueprint; you'd probably be sleeping in the kitchen.

Reference

The following readings will provide you with more information. Starred publications can be ordered from the Publications page in this folder.

* **The Florida Forest Stewardship Program: An Opportunity to Manage Your Land for Now and the Future.** Circular 1020. Duryea, M. L., W. Hubbard, D. McGrath and C. Marcus (eds.) Florida Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, University of Florida. 1992.

* **Estimating the Profitability of Your Forestland Enterprise.** Circular 836. Hubbard, W., R. Abt and M. L. Duryea. Florida Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, University of Florida. 1989.

* **Alternative Enterprises for Your Forest Land: Forest Grazing, Christmas Trees, Hunting Leases, Pine Straw, Fee Fishing and Firewood.** Circular 810. Duryea, M. L. (ed.). Florida Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, University of Florida. 1988.