



Reserve Forestland Management Standards

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Forests with a critical mass of old forest characteristics can provide important contributions to:

- Native biodiversity
- Wildlife habitat
- Hydrologic regulation
- Carbon storage
- Forest resilience
- Localized cooling and climate buffering

Characteristics include:

- Large old trees
- Spatial variability in tree density and size
- Abundant downed deadwood
- Multiple canopy layers
- Large standing dead trees
- Regeneration
- Unique plant communities (understory plants, mosses, lichens)

Managed to attain old forest values and functions

Key elements of the process:

- 2021 Reserve Forestland Report
- Internal working group
- Private Lands Advisory Committee
- Reserve Forestland website and associated announcement.
- November 4, 2022, input meeting
- November 30, 2022, input meeting
- Current Use Advisory Board
- Property Valuation and Review
- One on one conversations



Standards Development Process

Eligibility

Baseline eligibility:

25 total enrolled forestland acres

20 acres are forested productive soils (Site Class I, II, or III) may be eligible for enrollment of Reserve Forestland. Of these parcels, the following eligibility thresholds apply:

PARCELS WITH \geq 100 ENROLLED ACRES: 30% or more of the parcel's enrolled acres need to be composed of significant and sensitive conditions, per program standards.

PARCELS WITH $<$ 100 ENROLLED ACRES: 50% or more of the parcel's enrolled acres need to be composed of significant and sensitive conditions, per program standards.

Significant and Sensitive Conditions:

- Ecologically Significant Treatment Areas (ESTAs)
- Steep slopes \geq 35%
- Site IV lands, and
- Special places and sensitive sites.

Plan Standards

These standards define what must be included in a forest management plan to satisfy Use Value Appraisal Requirements.

Existing Requirements

- Existing standards used to describe Productive Forestland also apply to Reserve Forestland. *Examples include requirements to inventory the forest, 10-year plan updates, description of forest stands and a schedule of proposed management and more.*

Adapted Stand Description Elements

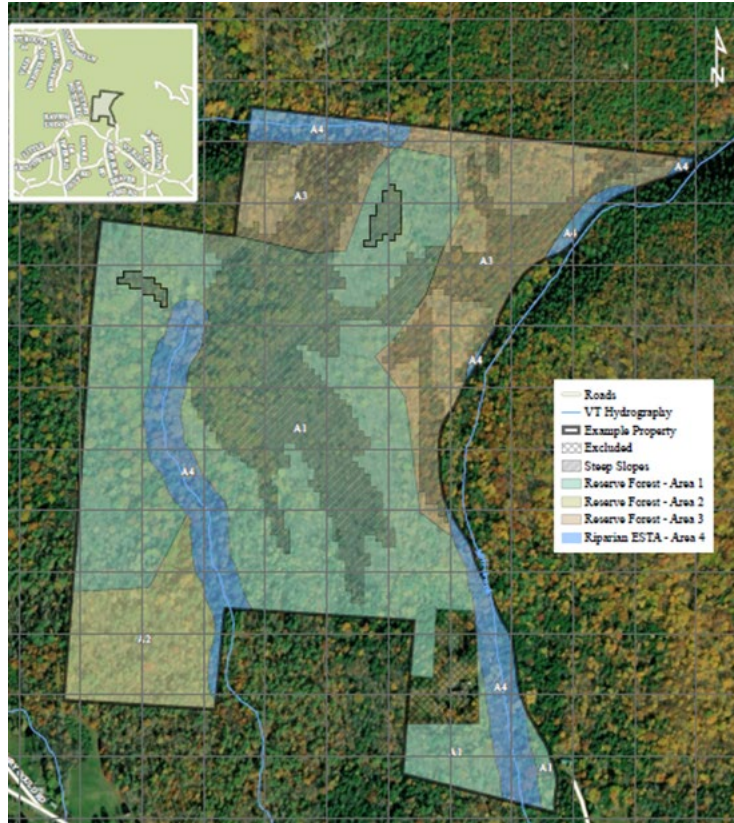
- Specificity and new descriptive requirements were added for Reserve Forestland to improve the relevance of plan data for evaluation of opportunities and barriers to attainment of old forest characteristics and associated values and functions.
 - *Added specificity: regeneration, invasive plants, diameter distribution.*
 - *New Requirements: natural community type, deer browse, coarse woody material and others.*

Prescriptions

- The forest management prescribed, whether passive or active, must result in the accrual and protection of old forest characteristics.

Map Standards

Existing standards and additional requirements for acreage charts apply



| Sample Acreage Chart for Enrollment of Reserve Forestland | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Area | Description | Mapped Acres | Prorated Acres | Mapped Significant Sensitive | Prorated Significant Sensitive |
| 1 | Reserve Forestland Stand 1 (inclusive of Steep Slope) – Northern Hardwoods | 79 | 83.1 | 25.6 | *27 |
| 2 | Reserve Forestland Stand 2 (inclusive of Steep Slope) – White Pine-Northern Hardwoods | 11.4 | 12 | 0 | *0 |
| 3 | Reserve Forestland Stand 3 (inclusive of Steep Slope) – Hemlock-Northern Hardwoods | 30 | 31.5 | 15.2 | *16 |
| 4 | Riparian Area | 17.6 | 18.5 | 17.6 | 18.5 |
| Total Forestland | | 137.9 | 145.2 | | |
| Total Agricultural Land | | | 0 | | |
| Total Enrolled Land | | 137.9 | 145.2 | | |
| Total Significant & Sensitive + Steep Slope Overlay | | | | 58.4 | 61.5 |
| Excluded Acres | | | 4 | | - |
| Grand List Acres | | | 149.2 | | |

**Steep Slope Contribution
(Prorate Factor = 1.05)*

| Sample Reserve Forestland Eligibility Chart | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| Reserve Forestland Chart | Acres | Percent |
| Total Enrolled Land (Forestland + Agricultural Land) | 145.2 | |
| Total Significant & Sensitive | 61.5 | |
| % of Total Enrolled Comprised by Significant and Sensitive | | 42.4% |

Management Standards

Reserve Forestland must be managed with a primary purpose of accrual and protection of old forest functions, values, and associated characteristics.

Restoration

- Water quality practices
- Invasive plants

Required acceleration of old forest characteristics

- Plantations and monocultures

Limits on salvage of fallen trees and collection of sap

Management may include active or passive management, inclusive of the range of silvicultural strategies when consistent with all other standards.



Transitioning Enrollment



When Land Isn't Eligible for Reserve Forestland:

Management of land in the Productive Forestland category is compatible with management for old forest characteristics.

Implementation Process

| Implementation Step | January | February | March | April | May | June | July |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|
| Application Process | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility Resources | | | | | | | |
| Outreach Materials | | | | | | | |
| Forester Trainings | | | | | | | |
| Landowner Workshops | | | | | | | |
| Stewardship Outreach | | | | | | | |
| Category Launch | | | | | | | |

