



## Woodland Owner Goals Maine Forest Service



Owners of small woodland parcels, 5-500 acres may have many different values and goals for their woodland – wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, privacy, natural beauty are just a few. To make good decisions about your woodland, to protect these goals both now and in the future, it's very important to have thought about what it is you value most, how you use the property, and what values you are hoping to protect or enhance for the future.

This sheet is simply intended as food for thought. It may also be helpful in communicating your situation and your values to other family members, a forester you have hired, or others.

1. Who actually owns the woodland? Who makes decisions about the property? (e.g. name(s) on the deed, members of a family, name of legal entity, organization, group, etc.)

2. How did you become owner? When? \_\_\_\_\_(year)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ purchase
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ family/inheritance
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you live

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ on the property?
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ in the same town/near the woodland?
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ within 1-2 hours' drive?
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ more than 2 hours' drive from the property?

4. How often do you spend time in the woods?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ every day
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ every week
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ every month
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ a few times per year
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ hardly ever

5. What activities do you do in your woods?

- a. Observing nature
- b. Walking/Snowshoeing/Skiing
- c. Hunting/Fishing
- d. Camping
- e. ATVs/Snowmobiling
- f. Working/Harvesting
- g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. How much time do you spend working in or enjoying your woods (hours, days, weeks...)?

7. What kind of equipment do you have available, that you are comfortable using in the woods? (hand tools, power tools/chainsaw, tractor, ATV, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the property part of a **working farm**?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the property have a **forest products business** (sawmill, maple syrup, Christmas trees, etc.) associated with it?

8. What other people use your woodland? (children, family, friends, neighbors, groups, clubs, schools, general public, etc.) How?

9. Do you want to encourage or discourage use by others in the future?

10. Which of the following things do you value? Which are most important to you?

Enhancing the natural beauty of my land

Maintaining my sense of privacy or seclusion

Providing the benefits of healthy forests to the environment

Earning money from timber harvesting, now or in the future

Hunting or fishing on my land

Clearing/maintaining trails for walking, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiles, etc.

Camping or picnicking

Protecting the land from development

Providing good wildlife habitat and/or protecting lakes, wetlands, rivers, or streams

Learning about or studying nature

Getting firewood, maple syrup, or other non-timber products

Creating a valuable legacy for my family

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What activities/values will change in the future? What activities will you continue/discontinue?

12. What are your most important goals/hopes for the future of your woods? Your greatest concerns?

13. Who will likely be your long-term successor(s) in owning/managing your woodland?

14. Do you have an estate plan (will, trust, etc.) that will protect your accomplishments & legacy?