

Examples of aesthetics, recreation, and access sections:

Aesthetics and Recreation
Property Access/Roads and Trails

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 1

The way our forest looks is very important to us. Our woodlands are highly visible not only from our own home, but from our neighbors' homes and the private/public roads bordering 3 of the 4 cardinal boundaries. Any of our activities in the woods will require very careful work. Where possible, screening will be used to soften the visual impact of forest activities. However, it must also be acknowledged that some of the forest management activities we have proposed in this plan will have a visual impact in the short term. We will endeavor to keep this disruption to a practical minimum.

Our woods are an important part of our recreation. We enjoy walking in the woods, observing the birds and just being among the big trees. We have one very defined trail that winds down from the upper level to the lower and another that is off the north end of our house and winds down and back up the slope to our drive way entrance. The latter trail makes getting the mail a truly enjoyable experience!

The general public can see our forest along the eastern boundary, the Douglas-fir on the northern boundary, and the Scotch Pine on the western boundary while traveling on the private roads. Our management plan will enhance our enjoyment of the forest by keeping it healthy, dynamic, vibrant and accessible.

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 2

Currently, there are no specific recreational resources on the property. However, it is our desire to use the property recreationally, through the development of trails suitable for hiking, cart-pulling by dogs, and mountain bike riding.

Recommendations: Development of skid trails and other activities related to logging should be done with the development of recreational trails in mind. Where possible, access for logging activities should be made where recreational trails would be desired. Trails should be surfaced with material found on-site where possible. Forestry activities will result in a large amount of slash, which should be chipped or ground into a consistency suitable for covering trails. In certain high-traffic areas, gravel may be warranted, but otherwise chipped or ground slash should be used. In the unlikely event that insufficient debris is available for the maintenance of low-traffic trails, degradable material such as recycled hazelnut shells should be used.

At strategic places along the trails, sites for resting, picnicking, reflection, etc. should be placed. These should exist in locations comprising a variety of characteristics (see "variable density thinning" under "Fish and Wildlife Habitat"), so that use of the sites can suit the mood of the

user. Facilities should include, at a minimum, benches or tables and may also include cultivated plants, architectural statues, or even gardens.

Aesthetics and Recreation Example 3

No substantial negative aesthetic impacts to the property are anticipated as a result of any of the proposed practices. The practices proposed above will probably serve to enhance the long term aesthetics and recreational value. Conifer pruning may be found desirable from an aesthetic and recreational point of view, and also provide some defense against wildfires.

Recommended plantings for wildlife and any efforts which can be made to remove and/or control invasive species such as Reed Canary Grass and Himalayan blackberries will also move the forest to a more natural state.

It should be recognized that some minor disturbances in the stand, such as scattered blowdown or a few dying trees are a part of the normal processes of disturbance in the forest which may not be immediately pleasing to the eye, but are important in keeping the forest ecosystem functioning naturally.

Proper construction and maintenance of trails (or old logging roads) throughout the property will allow easy access and better opportunity to monitor the forest. Maintaining vistas from the house by removing select trees could also be considered when other harvesting operations are implemented.

Property Access Example 1

Considerations: Current and planned roads and trails, vehicle access, road and trail maintenance, access restriction and improvement needs, etc.

A. Current resource conditions, issues, needs, and opportunities

Our site and six other of the 5-acre lots are accessed from a private gravel road, Happy Tree PL SE. We have a very strong road use and maintenance agreement. The road is currently one year over-due for grading and rocking. Maintenance activities are scheduled for summer 2012. It is also subject to Road Maintenance and Abandonment Planning (RMAP) under Forest Practice Rules and Regulations, which requires the road to meet current FP standards.

B. Any management practices which the owner plans to protect, enhance, or restore these resources

Ground based equipment operations should avoid the rainy season to avoid causing compaction (which can then lead to surface erosion and ponding). Our property can all be operated on from the existing gravel road and yard area. A road maintenance plan and schedule addresses surface drainage. Competing vegetation can be severe so monitor for signs of stress to regeneration trees caused by other vegetation or invasive species.

Property Access Example 2

Considerations: *Current and planned roads and trails, vehicle access, road and trail maintenance, access restriction and improvement needs, etc.*

A. Current resource conditions, issues, needs, and opportunities

Access is via a ¼ mile private paved road with other 5 acre properties, east of its junction with (road). The south side of the property is bordered by several residential lots, while all other borders are adjacent to undeveloped private property.

B. Any management practices which the owner plans to protect, enhance, or restore these resources

Proper construction and maintenance of trails throughout the property will allow easy access and better opportunity to monitor the forest.

Property Access Example 3

Access is by a rather rough jeep track, 3.5 miles from a county road. There are three jeep tracks that cross the land; The Southern entrance is the route to our cabin site and sees perhaps 10-20 trips a year. The Northern entrance (Happy Tree Way) is an old access route which we gated off completely during 2010 except for emergency fire. In both of these cases, the road is at the bottom of a draw, and the erosion potential is small, since the drainage is low angle (< 5%). With the exception of some of the skid tracks, there is little disturbance in these soils, and even though the potential for erosion is great according to the soil map, there seems to be little danger of problems. In the most exposed skid tracks, we will re-seed with native grasses.

The third jeep track is the common easement to all parcels in the upper portion of the neighborhood, and crosses the southeastern portion of the land. Since the gradient here is very low (mainly flat, with a few gentle hills) the erosion over the many years of its use is slight, despite the perhaps 10-15 trips a day it receives. However, there is a portion some 100 yards long which has suffered damage from heavy equipment during the fire of 2011; efforts will be made to stabilize the roadbed during the spring of 2012.