

Guidelines for Preparing a Forest Stand Map

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A forest stand map is a graphical representation of the forest stands on a forested property. Occasionally these maps may be referred to as a “forest **type** map.” County Assessors and current use taxation staff may use the term “**site** map.”

The easiest way to prepare a stand map is to base it on a tracing of an orthophotograph. Orthophotographs are aerial photographs which have been geometrically corrected so the scale is uniform. Measurements such as acreage can be accurately computed from an orthophotograph. Make a couple of color copies to draw on. Using a dark colored pencil or fine marker, sketch on preliminary forest stands. Once you have finished your field assessment and finalized the location of the stands, trace all of the above elements you can off the orthophotograph. It helps to tape to a window to see your lines.

Elements to include on a well prepared forest stand map include:

- Property boundary lines.
- Forest stands identified with numerical or letter code corresponding to the stewardship plan. Stands should be labeled with acreages.
- Streams, wetlands, lakes or ponds (unless they are on a separate map).
- Areas excluded from forest use such as residences, buildings, roads, driveways, trails, and easements. These areas should be labeled with acreage.
- Title, north arrow, legend, scale, parcel number, name of map preparer, and date prepared.
- Stand acreages.

For detailed instructions and examples of delineating stands and computing stand acreages, please review pages 5-8 in *Basic Forest Inventory Techniques for Family Forest Owners* (in your notebook).