

Notation 1-1

A planning process for making silvicultural choices.

Steps in Planning a Silvicultural Treatment or Strategy

1. Determine the landowner's objectives
 - determine what an owner seeks as an outcome from the management
 - establish the long-term ecologic conditions that should temper management
 - identify the economic constraints and financial requirements that will ultimately control the decisions
 - recognize the time frame that the objectives impose
 - ascertain what fiscal, institutional, and human resources a landowner will dedicate to the task
 - identify constraints of any rules and regulations that affect forestry operations
2. Evaluate existing stand conditions
 - examine the stand and surrounding area to assess its suitability relative to the objectives
 - inventory stand conditions if the reconnaissance proves favorable
 - analyze the data to describe biophysical attributes of the stand and site
3. Identify the options
 - use the reconnaissance and inventory information to identify an array of potential options
 - develop a prescription to describe each option
 - compute the costs of implementing these treatments
4. Quantify likely outcomes of each option
 - describe likely post-treatment effects
 - determine the probable conditions and values expected from each treatment
 - project future effects and results
 - ascertain if each option serves a landowner's interests and would prove economically acceptable
5. Drop unsuitable options
 - abandon any ecologically unacceptable alternative
 - compare the likely results with landowner objectives and constraints
 - discard any option that clashes with the objectives or violates the financial constraints
 - evaluate whether the remaining options fulfill the purposes
 - seek clarification or adjustment of the objectives if all recognized options fail and reinitiate the planning sequence

(continued)

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6. Describe the viable alternatives for the landowner
 - review and enhance the prescriptions for each viable option
 - determine if the assessment suggested any additional possibilities, and assess these as above
 - assign preference rankings based upon the landowner objectives, particularly if the options differ appreciably
7. Aid the landowner in making a decision
 - discuss the options
 - render advice
 - answer questions
 - make a recommendation
 - review the choice
 - secure an agreement to proceed
8. Implement the prescription
 - review the prescription for completeness and requirements
 - refine the treatments as needed to facilitate implementation
 - arrange for the work
 - institute ecologic safeguards identified by the planning
 - implement the treatment, including any requisite marking
 - supervise the work to ensure compliance with the prescription
9. Evaluate the results
 - assess post-treatment conditions by reconnaissance or reinventory
 - determine the degree of success
 - identify any requisite follow-up