

Important Places Worksheet

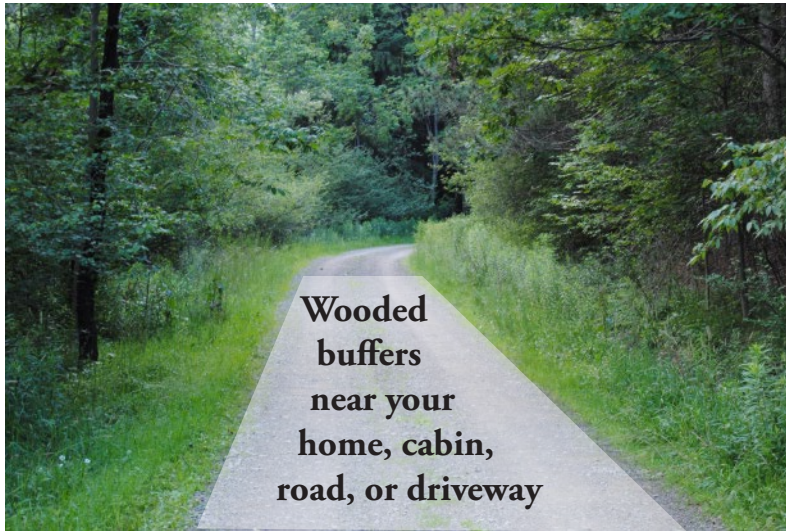
Instructions:

This worksheet provides ideas of places where you may want to take special precautions during timber harvests. Use this sheet and a property map (if you have one) to note where these areas are on your land. You can also take photos of these spots to include with this sheet and the map.

You might have places that are especially important to you but that aren't listed in this worksheet. That's ok! The last page is an "Any Others" section where you can write in these unique areas.

Once you know the places you want to protect, you can use this worksheet to record those wishes and share them with your consulting forester and logger. We've suggested protection measures based on logging best management practices, but you should work with your forester to translate these recommendations into actions that make sense for your property.

Important Place Type 1: VIEWS



Recommendation:

1. Review the fact sheet “How to Create a Visual Buffer during a Timber Harvest” for tips on how wide to make visual buffers and ways to incorporate them into your timber sale contract.

Where do you have views of your woods that you see often because they're near your home, road, or driveway?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these views?

Scenic views



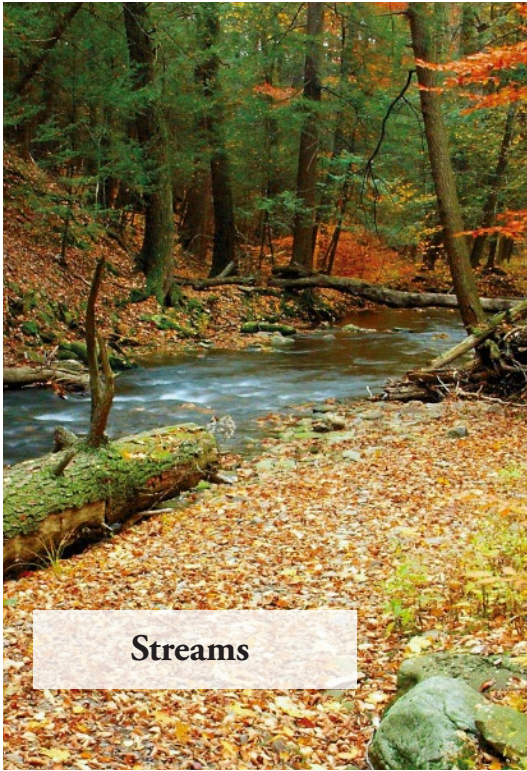
Recommendation:

1. Removing select trees at a higher-elevation point on your land might open up a viewing area.

Where do scenic views occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect or enhance these views?

Important Place Type 2: WATER



Recommendations:

1. Limit tree removal within the first 15 feet from the stream, especially along the stream banks.
2. Maintain a diversity of tree sizes and species. This will keep the stream banks more stable.
3. Have loggers cut trees so they fall away from the stream rather than into it.
4. Have loggers winch trees out of the streamside area with cables rather than drive equipment into it.
5. Have as few stream crossings on your logging job as possible.
6. Ensure your logger has obtained the necessary stream crossing permit, if required.
7. Have loggers cross streams at a 90-degree angle and at sites with firm streambanks.
8. Portable, temporary bridges are the preferred method to cross streams.
9. After logging, have the logger spread hay and grass seed to stabilize the crossing site.

Where do streams occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect your streams?



Ponds

Recommendations:

1. Limit tree removal within the first 15 feet from the pond. You may want a wider buffer if you're concerned about visual impact.
2. Maintain a diversity of tree sizes and species.
3. Have loggers cut trees so they fall away from the pond.
4. Have loggers winch trees out of the pond area rather than drive equipment into it.

Where do ponds occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect your pond or ponds?



**Springs, Seeps,
and Wetlands**

Recommendations:

1. Make sure your logger obtains any necessary permits to work in or around wetlands.
2. Hang flagging around the edge of the wetland so your logger knows where it is.
3. Have your logger keep equipment out of these areas as much as possible.
4. Keep roads and trails out of these areas.
5. Plan harvests in these areas for frozen times of the year.
6. Where equipment has to cross these areas, have your logger use brush mats and corduroy (excess limbs and branches from logging) to reduce the impact of driving over the area.

Where do springs, seeps, and wetlands occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these areas?

Important Place Type 3: ACCESS AND RECREATION



Recommendations:

1. You will need at least one of these staging areas—sometimes called landings—for your timber harvest.
2. Keep them small—less than a half-acre if possible.
3. Keep them at least 200 feet from streams, wetlands, seeps, or ponds.
4. Keep them on firm, well-drained ground with a slight slope to prevent pooling of water.
5. If your staging area needs to be in a poorly drained area, have your logger use gravel and geotextile fabric to firm it up.
6. If your staging area needs to be within 200 feet of a stream, have your logger use straw bales, silt fencing, or straw wattles along the edges to keep soil from washing into the stream.
7. When logging is over, spread grass or wildflower seed and hay over the landing.

Where are the log landings on your property, or where will they be when you log?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to locate and restore these areas?

Logging Roads and Skid Trails



Recommendations:

1. Have your logger use existing roads and trails when they can rather than build new ones.
2. Avoid really steep slopes when possible.
3. After logging, the road should be smoothed and have erosion control structures like broad-based dips or water bars installed to control water.
4. Have your logger spread grass or wildflower seed where trails are excessively wet or steep.
5. If a trail is in really bad shape, consider closing it down and not using it for logging.

Where do logging roads occur on your property, or where will they be when you log?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to locate and care for these roads?

Recreation Areas



Recommendations:

1. Do you have a favorite spot to hunt, picnic, camp, or otherwise have fun on your woodlot? Note these areas and consider a buffer around them to keep them intact.
2. Hang flagging around these areas so your logger can tell where they are while in the woods.
3. If your access to these areas is poor, you might be able to work with your logger to create or improve a trail that leads to them.

Where are your favorite recreation spots on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these areas?

Important Place Type 4: WILDLIFE HABITAT



Recommendations:

1. Have your logger leave dead and exceptionally large, limby trees as den and nest spots for birds and mammals.
2. Create small patches where sunlight can reach the forest floor to favor berry bushes that provide food for wildlife.

Where do unusual habitats occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these areas?

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species



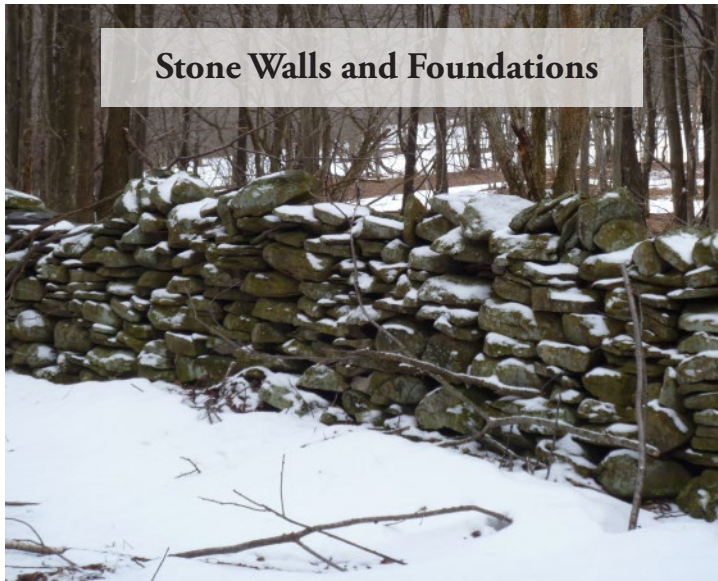
Recommendations:

1. Have your forester check the New York Natural Heritage Program database to see if your property has any rare, threatened, or endangered species. If you want to check yourself, visit the Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Resource Mapper.
2. If your property contains rare, threatened, or endangered species, work with your forester and the New York Natural Heritage Program to determine the unique protection measures for the species on your land.

Where do rare species occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these species?

Important Place Type 5: HISTORICAL AND SENTIMENTAL FEATURES



Recommendations:

1. Avoid placing roads or trails that cross stone walls.
2. If a road or trail must cross a stone wall, choose a spot where the wall is shorter or has already fallen down.
3. If there is no choice but to cross the wall at a built-up point, you can make arrangements with the logger to repair the wall after logging finishes
CAUTION: rebuilding a stone wall is time-consuming and expensive. Loggers may not take on your job if repairing a stone wall is required.

Where do stone walls occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect your stone walls?



Recommendations:

1. “Special” trees may include very large trees, trees of unusual species, or those with sentimental importance to you or your family.
2. Flag these trees ahead of time so the logger knows where they are during operations.
3. Leave a buffer of at least the height of one tree to protect these trees from damage.
4. If your logger is cutting trees near the one you want to protect, have them fell those trees away from your special tree.

Where do special trees occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these trees?

ANY OTHERS

What are they, and where do they occur on your property?

What actions would you like your forester and logger to take to protect these areas?