

## THE TREASURE FOREST PROGRAM

Alabama has over 22 million acres of forestland. These forests provide valuable resources which directly affect the quality of life of every Alabamian. They provide wood products that we depend on every day. These same forests also provide habitat for wildlife, clean the air, purify water, protect valuable topsoil, and provide scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. For all these reasons, Alabama's forests are vitally important to all citizens. The majority of these forests are owned by non-industrial, private landowners. It is important that these private landowners are provided the assistance they need to manage these forests on a sustainable basis to ensure continued public benefits.

The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee, made up of forestry and natural resource agencies and groups in the state, initiated the TREASURE Forest Program in 1974. TREASURE is an acronym that stands for Timber, Recreation, Environment, Aesthetics, for a Sustained Usable REsource. In 2005, the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee changed its name to the Alabama Natural Resources Council.

The TREASURE Forest Program is a voluntary program that encourages landowners to promote sound and sustainable, multiple-use forest management, while at the same time to wisely meet their own needs. There are absolutely no costs or commitments with participating in the program. The TREASURE Forest Program promotes this management ethic through two avenues: education and recognition.

Education is provided through information and on-the-ground technical assistance from the member agencies and groups of the Alabama Natural Resources Coordinating Council. Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine is a quarterly publication that offers valuable insight on management according to TREASURE Forest principles. This magazine is published by the Alabama Forestry Commission. Recognition of landowner accomplishments occurs through the TREASURE Forest Award.

## WHAT IS THE TREASURE FOREST AWARD?

The TREASURE Forest Award is earned by private landowners who display their commitment to manage their forestland for multiple-uses on a sustainable basis. This recognition program includes a numbered and signed TREASURE Forest certificate, a TREASURE Forest sign to display on the property, and a TREASURE Forest hat. When the award is given, the land is called a Certified TREASURE Forest and the landowner is called a TREASURE Forest landowner. Since the inception of the TREASURE Forest Program in 1974, over 2,000 TREASURE Forests have been certified, collectively totaling over 1.9 million acres of Alabama forestland.

## SIX STEPS TO THE TREASURE FOREST AWARD

Anyone owning ten or more acres of forestland can receive the TREASURE Forest Award. To be eligible, a landowner must do the following with respect to all their forestland in Alabama:

1. Identify one primary and at least one secondary management objective for the property based on the following choices: Timber Production, Wildlife, Recreation, Aesthetics, Environmental Education.
2. Possess a written multiple-use forest management plan for the property. This plan can be provided at no cost.
3. Actively practice multiple-use management on the property consistent with TREASURE Forest Minimum Standards and Basic Guidelines.
4. The property must be nominated by a member of the Alabama Natural Resources Council. You may contact them and suggest a nomination if you feel a particular property qualifies for the award.
5. The property must be inspected by a registered forester and a wildlife biologist. This will be arranged for you at no cost.
6. The inspection team will submit their findings to the TREASURE Forest Subcommittee of the Alabama Natural Resources Council for review and final approval.

Any member of the agencies and groups of the Alabama Natural Resources Council can either directly assist you with any of the six steps above or refer you to the appropriate cooperating member agency or group to see that you receive appropriate assistance.

## WHERE SHOULD YOU BEGIN?

If TREASURE Forest interests you or you know of someone who may be deserving of the TREASURE Forest Award, contact your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission or other member agency or group of the Alabama Natural Resources Council. These agencies and groups are listed on the back of the brochure and are ready to assist you with the management of your forestlands.

## HELENE MOSLEY MEMORIAL TREASURE FOREST AWARD

The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award was initiated in 1978 to annually recognize the most outstanding TREASURE Forests in Alabama, especially with respect to their educational value and use.

The Alabama Natural Resources Council and the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Awards Program, which is administered by Auburn University, sponsor the award.

The award is based on how well a landowner displays the TREASURE Forest philosophy of good stewardship. This philosophy is reflected by the accomplishments the landowner has performed and by the educational activities the landowner has conducted on the property that demonstrates sound forest stewardship to others.

## ALABAMA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Established in 1974, TREASURE Forest is a voluntary program that promotes good forest stewardship through sound, multiple-use forest management. TREASURE Forest also seeks to formally and publicly recognize landowners who practice this ethic on their land. The TREASURE logo is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics for a Sustained, Useable, REsource and characterizes the multiple-use ethic. The TREASURE Forest Program is maintained by the Alabama Natural Resources Council; a group that includes the following:

- School of Agriculture and Environmental Science, Alabama A&M University
- Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES)
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
- Alabama Dept. of Education, Vocational Division, Agribusiness Education
- Alabama Farmers Federation
- Alabama Forestry Association (AFA)
- Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC)
- Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA)
- Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF)
- Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc., Alabama Chapter (ACF)
- Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University
- College of Agriculture, Auburn University
- School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- College of Agriculture, Env. and Natural Sciences, Tuskegee University
- USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA-Forest Service, National Forests in Alabama
- USDA-Forest Service, Southern Region, State and Private Forestry
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- USDA-Rural Development



Please visit our web page at:  
<http://www.aces.edu/forestry/anrc/>

The Alabama Natural Resources Council policy prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or handicapping condition.

# TREASURE FORESTS



Program Information and Basic Guidelines

## TREASURE FOREST MINIMUM STANDARDS AND BASIC GUIDELINES

The following TREASURE Forest Minimum Standards and Basic Guidelines are designed to help landowners, natural resource managers, and others involved in promoting the TREASURE Forest Program know what level of achievement is required to earn the TREASURE Forest Award. To use the criteria, a primary and at least one secondary management objective must be identified. Based on the identified objectives, appropriate minimum standards and basic guidelines are listed below. Many accomplishments will fit the requirement for both primary and secondary objectives. Generally, the primary objective accomplishments are more intensive and should reflect a higher percentage of the work performed on the property. In addition to the necessary accomplishments by objective, the following non-objective accomplishments must also be met regardless of the primary and secondary objective.

### NON-OBJECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Forest health must be maintained through timely thinning and harvests as well as other appropriate silvicultural methods.
2. Timber protected from fire, insects, disease, and invasive species.
3. Damaged timber salvaged unless it interferes with primary or secondary objective.
4. Definitive plans to regenerate all forestland before final harvest, unless land-use will change.
5. Management for primary and secondary objectives performed in a manner least damaging to other resources.
6. Water quality protected and erosion minimized by following Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry.
7. Unique plant communities, critical wildlife habitat, and endangered species habitat are protected.
8. Historical and archeological sites identified and protected.
9. Management for primary and secondary objective done in the most aesthetically pleasing manner.
10. Litter and garbage should be controlled throughout property.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

#### As Primary Objective

##### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD:

- Sponsoring or organizing environmental education programs
- Developing environmental education areas such as demonstration plots, nature trails, outdoor classrooms, etc.

- Featuring plant/animal species and communities and/or multiple use management practices for educational purposes
- Examples of Environmental Education include the following:
  - Soil and water protection education/demonstration
  - Plant and/or animal species identification
  - Endangered species identification and management
  - Landowner field day
  - Demonstration forest
  - Ecology workshop

#### As Secondary Objective

##### SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS MUST BE SHOWN TOWARD:

- Sponsoring or organizing environmental education programs
- Developing environmental education areas such as demonstration plots, nature trails, outdoor classrooms, etc.

Featuring plant/animal species and communities and/or multiple use management practices for educational purposes

### WILDLIFE

#### As Primary Objective

- Feature species identified and wildlife management recommendations followed
- Enough suitable habitat deliberately created, maintained, and/or improved to support healthy populations of desired species
- Wildlife populations kept from becoming so dense that they are damaging their own habitat, or the habitats of other species
- Other resources managed so as to enhance the habitat of featured wildlife species

#### As Secondary Objective

- Desired species identified and wildlife management plan followed
- Adequate habitat deliberately created, maintained, and retained for desired species consistent with primary objective
- Wildlife populations kept from becoming so dense that they are damaging their own habitat or the habitat of other species
- Other resources managed in ways that supply some habitat needs of desired wildlife species

### FOREST RECREATION

The recreational activities must be related to the use of the forest and other natural resources. Non-forest related activity areas for softball, basketball, volleyball, etc. will not be accepted as accomplishments. The management, maintenance, and utilization of forestry and natural resource related recreational activities on the property must be documented.

#### As Primary Objective

INTENSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT, AS A RESULT OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, TOWARD CREATING, MAINTAINING, UTILIZING, OR ENHANCING RECREATION MUST BE SHOWN:

- Recreational use specified and management plan followed
- The recreation must be connected to forestry land usage. Some examples include walking, birding, four wheeler and horse back riding trails, hunting, fishing, camping and related activities.
- Areas with recreational opportunities such as picnic areas, campsites, walking trails, boat docks, etc. should be created, actively maintained, and/or retained.
- Actual management practices and recreational usage of the property must be listed
- Environmental impact of recreational activities minimized
- Areas with hunting as recreational use must show evidence of developed hunting opportunities beyond wildlife management such as hunting blinds, camping areas, etc.

#### As Secondary Objective

- Significant accomplishments toward maintaining, using, or enhancing recreation opportunities must be shown:
- Recreational use specified and management plan followed
- Areas with recreational opportunities such as picnic areas, campsites, walking trails, boat docks, etc. should be actively created, maintained, and/or retained.
- Actual management practices and recreational usage of the property must be listed
- Environmental impact of recreational activities minimized
- Areas with hunting as recreational use must show evidence of developed hunting opportunities beyond wildlife management such as hunting blinds, camping areas, etc.

### TIMBER PRODUCTION

#### As Primary Objective

- Active protection of stands from fire, insects, disease, and invasive species risks
- Timely salvage of damaged timber
- Planned regeneration occurring soon after final harvest
- Timber harvested before biological maturity
- Stands thinned as needed to maintain vigor
- Size and shape of harvest areas compatible with other objectives
- Tree species favored and managed that are best adapted to specific sites
- Non-merchantable trees controlled as compatible with other objectives
- Stands managed toward achieving adequate stocking for the specified objectives

#### As Secondary Objective

- Salvage of damaged timber unless it interferes with primary objective
- Timely regeneration occurring after final harvest
- Stands thinned as needed to maintain vigor

- Trees may reach biological maturity but must be harvested before decline becomes evident
- Tree species favored and managed that are best adapted to specific sites, unless a conflict with other objectives
- Non-merchantable trees managed, unless a conflict with other objectives
- Adequate stocking maintained as compatible with other objectives
- Size and shape of harvest areas compatible with other objectives

### AESTHETICS

#### As Primary Objective

##### INTENSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT TOWARD MAINTAINING OR ENHANCING AESTHETICS MUST BE SHOWN SUCH AS:

- Retaining trees with good fall colors
- Planting or maintaining flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers throughout property beyond that around houses and yards.
- Identifying and maintaining and, where appropriate, enhancing scenic overlooks, unique geological features, and waterfalls.
- Improving access to scenic areas.
- Limit size of harvested areas
- Minimize negative visual effect of timber harvesting (such as retaining buffer, strategic placement of logging decks and management of logging debris
- Management to improve visibility within forested areas such as thinning, prescribed burning, mulching, pruning, buffers and screens.

#### As Secondary Objective

##### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD MAINTAINING OR ENHANCING AESTHETICS MUST BE SHOWN.

- Retaining trees with good fall colors
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