

A DRAFT OF STEWARDSHIP MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY, IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

I. Suggested Mission: (they want two words)

Preservation & Conservation of the White's Woods Nature Center.

II. Goals:

- Root all management activities in public input;
- Honor Project 70 commitments and goals;
- Preserve as a natural area, left largely undisturbed, for passive recreation;
- Promote nature education;
- Support natural forest processes;
- Protect at-risk species; and
- Strictly limit the removal of trees.

III. Objectives:

- Protect the canopy;
- Protect the litter layer and established seed bank; and
- Support understory development by controlling invasive plants and deer browse.

IV. WHITE'S WOODS STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

Following the stewardship models and guidelines provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR):

1. Public input should drive all goals, objectives, and management activities.
2. Ecology is used as the framework to view the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems.
3. Natural area best management practices will guide stewardship.
4. The tree canopy must be protected.
5. This mid-successional forest will be allowed to mature to old growth.
6. A major responsibility for taking care of a public forest requires taking care of its multiple, interlocking ecosystems, including at-risk , vulnerable, and federally-protected plant and animal species, along with addressing climate change mitigation concerns such as stormwater management, air quality, and temperature mitigation

V. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Management philosophy and objectives will lead directly to guidelines for implementation and these guidelines need to be articulated. With a commitment to natural succession, protection of at-risk species, passive recreation, and ecological management, guidelines for implementation include:

- Least-intrusive management strategies;
- Assessment of any proposed project or recreational use for potential collateral damage;
- Reliance on volunteers for management activities; and • reliance on ecologically-trained, natural area experts.
- Need for a clear statement addressing risks of herbicide use
- Reliance on forest ecologists, who use natural forest development processes as a focal point for all intervention.
- Rely on natural area management specialist consultants..
- Unite multiple forest management stakeholders under one strategy for forest management, by relying on regular/constant Township - regional public collaboration in all management steps.

Note: Always work with FWW and other regional conservation groups to plan and implement every management step.

It is important to note that heavy equipment kills trees by compacting soil and inflicting direct damage. An article posted by the USDA (Clatterbuck 2006) reports that 75% of remaining trees were damaged in a selective logging operation. Other studies have indicated that eight trees are destroyed or damaged for every tree removed. Least-intrusive techniques are critical in the care for a natural area.

VI. SPECIFIC POLICIES (yet to be identified)

VII. OPTIONS - transfer to land conservancy; OGFN; land acquisition to increase/preserve forest connectivity