

# ARKANSAS FIRE & ICE PRACTICE FOREST STEWARDSHIP HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission has been awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant through the US Forest Service for wildfire hazard reduction on property in Arkansas impacted by the ice storm of January 2009. A portion will be used to assist non-industrial private forest landowners through grants to implement forest practices on affected property.



A Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation Plan must be written by an Arkansas registered forester that has successfully completed the Forest Stewardship Training provided by the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC).

A well-prepared Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation plan must:

- Clearly state landowner's objectives.
- Provide for authorship and/or signature line for all preparers.
- Contain Casualty Loss evaluation/assessment
- Have a professional map. Items that should be considered for inclusion on the map are as follows:
  - ◊ Show north arrow.
  - ◊ Have a legend.
  - ◊ Show who prepared the map and date.
  - ◊ Designate major roads and access roads, woods roads, etc.
  - ◊ Describe boundaries of property (ex. fences, painted lines, etc.)
  - ◊ Show major and intermittent streams.
  - ◊ Designate SMZ areas along applicable streams.
- Have a summary page or schedule table of work to be completed and date to be accomplished.
- Address the following resource elements in every plan whether present on the property or not:
  - ◊ Timber
  - ◊ Forest Health
  - ◊ Archeological, Cultural and Historic Sites

◊ Threatened and Endangered Species

• Address additionally the following resource elements in every plan if the landowner lists one of these as one of their objectives when making their application:

- ◊ Agro Forestry
- ◊ Recreation
- ◊ Wildlife and/or Fish Management
- ◊ Aesthetic Quality
- ◊ Soil and Water (soil interpretations and Best Management Practices)

• Address additionally the following resource elements in every plan if applicable:

- ◊ Range
- ◊ Wetlands

• All of these resource element recommendations should be listed under specific "headings" (which is preferable) or integrated in the stewardship plan. Recommendations should be stand or site specific.

• Other items to be considered to be in the forest stewardship hazard mitigation plan are:

- ◊ Have a cover page.
- ◊ Have a Table of Contents.
- ◊ Have information page of available cost-share assistance.

## Plan Guidelines

- Forest Slash Treatment recommendations will be included if needed and will be in accordance with AFI practice standards.
- Fire Lane Construction recommendations will be included if needed and will be in

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[www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html](http://www.arkansasforestry.org/arra.html)

*To learn more about how stimulus funds will be distributed in Arkansas, visit the Arkansas State Recovery Office web site at [www.recovery.arkansas.gov](http://www.recovery.arkansas.gov), or call the Arkansas Recovery Hotline at 1-877-682-1515. The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

accordance with AFI practice standards.

- Prescribed Burning recommendations will be included if needed and will be in accordance with AFI practice standards.
- Note any areas needing protection from wildfire, insects, and disease.
- Give specific silviculture recommendations on wooded areas that need either site preparations or release by herbicides, stating specific targeted vegetation and application method.
- For mechanical site preparations, specify what results are desired and the reasons for its use and type of equipment recommended. (For both mechanical & chemical recommendations, indicate time of year to be performed).
- For tree planting recommendations, include species, spacing, seedlings per acre, and give the preferred planting method - machine or hand.
- For any burning recommendations, state the acres to be burned with specific burning recommendations to follow later in this plan. If more than one area is to be burned, combine under one burning plan, if possible.
- If a streamside management zone (SMZ) is needed, include the specifics for this recommendation and follow Best Management Practices. (SMZ areas should be designated on the map along appropriate streams). Specify any wetlands that need maintained also.
- Protect any unique plant communities, critical wildlife habitat, and endangered species habitat.
- If the area needs harvesting, formulate

regeneration plans if the area is to remain in timber.

- Describe the property boundaries and any maintenance needed.
- Enclosures should be included. These might include:
  - ◇ Description of available assistance and incentive programs.
  - ◇ Educational materials.
  - ◇ An explanation of applicable federal, state and/or county regulatory programs as they apply to:
    - \* Archeological, Cultural and Historic sites
    - \* Wetlands
    - \* Threatened & Endangered Species

### **Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation Management Tracts**

A Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation Plan should be written for the forested portion of a contiguous tract of land. Open areas to be scheduled for afforestation will be included, also. All contiguous acres on the tract whether forested or not must be included in the plan and on the map. Tracts separated by a quarter of a mile or more could have separate plans, especially if the landowner's objectives are different on various parcels.

A landowner can request a Forest Stewardship Hazard Mitigation Plan for any single contiguous tract; he is not required to include all his forested property in a county, state, etc. The same rule applies when it comes to certification as a "Stewardship Forest" and/or when a consulting forester prepares the plan.

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