

# APPENDIX A

## SAMPLE TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT PLAN

### FOREST & WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### TEMPLATE

While there are many ways to develop and format a forest and habitat management plan, how a plan is developed can be effected by the size of the property, the complexity and diversity of the habitat conditions, and the types of interests the landowner may have. Reasons for developing a plan, such as the Vermont UVA requirements for forest management plans, may also dictate the format used. Maps are also an important part of the planning process. Consider using the ANR Atlas (<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>) to create yours. Note: This template is one example of how a habitat management plan could be constructed and organized, and should be used as a general guide.

#### I. Describe the Property

- Property name, location, and plan owner

---

---

---

- History of land use (agricultural use, past timber harvesting, old roads, recent development)

---

---

---

- Acreage of the property

---

- Boundary descriptions (attach a map of the property boundaries)

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Infrastructure (access and roads, historic sites – cellar holes, stone walls, parking areas – these will need to be added to your plan map)

---

---

---

- Landscape Context — how and where the property fits into the neighboring landscape relative to other property owners, conserved lands, forest blocks, nearby development:

---

---

---

- Significant features — any rare species or unusual geological conditions:

---

---

---

- Create a map that illustrates these various features and provide context for where the property is located and how the boundaries are configured relative to other natural resource and cultural resource features. The ANR Atlas tool is a good resource for this.

## II. Explain the Purpose and Outline Goals of the Plan

- Why are you developing a management plan for your property (what is the purpose of the plan)?

---

---

---

- What is your vision for the future of your land?

---

---

---

- What feature/s is/are most important to you about your land?

---

---

---

- What are your goals and objectives for the property?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### III. Inventory and Assess the Habitat Conditions and Other Natural and Cultural Resources

As mentioned above, a map is critical for illustrating much of this information. Creating a comprehensive map will be one of the most important tools for guiding the application of management strategies.

- Describe past and current habitat conditions such as meadows, forest types, natural communities, wetlands, streams, ponds, vernal pools, seeps, ledges, areas of concentrated mast trees.

---

---

---

- Describe fine scale habitats such as number of dead and dying trees per acre, presence or absence of brush piles, number of downed logs per acre.

---

---

---

- Describe observations and evidence of wildlife that occur on the property such as types of songbirds observed or heard, ruffed grouse drumming, animal tracks (e.g., fox, coyote, deer, moose), browsing of saplings by deer or snowshoe hare, nest sites of wood ducks or Canada geese, photos of wildlife from “game cameras”, etc.

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Describe the broader landscape beyond the property boundaries. For instance, if the property is located in the northern Green Mountain biophysical region, it would be important to note whether the property is located within a large block of unfragmented forest habitat (see **ANR Natural Resources Atlas and BioFinder for more information**), or instead, if it's located within an agricultural landscape. Another important landscape factor to consider is where the property fits into any wildlife travel corridors or linkage areas (see the same references above).

---

---

---

- Create a map that illustrates locations of stone walls, roads, old home foundations, monuments or other important cultural features of the property as described in Part I. It may be important to avoid and protect those areas.

- Describe the forest conditions of the property for purposes of managing forest resources. This is important because many habitat management plans will be part of forest management plans that have goals for timber management and production.

---

---

---

---

#### **IV. Develop Management Strategies and a Schedule**

- Describe specific actions that you intend to take in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan. These may include harvesting of timber, mowing of meadows, brush-hogging of young forest, pruning of apple trees, planting trees along stream buffers, controlled burning of grasslands, delayed mowing of grasslands, and installation of artificial nest structures, among many others detailed in these guidelines.

---

---

---

---

- Develop a schedule that establishes dates when the various strategies will be implemented and when they will be complete. If those dates need to be adjusted over time, make the necessary revisions because it will force you to ensure that you complete all the necessary strategies to achieve the goals and objectives.

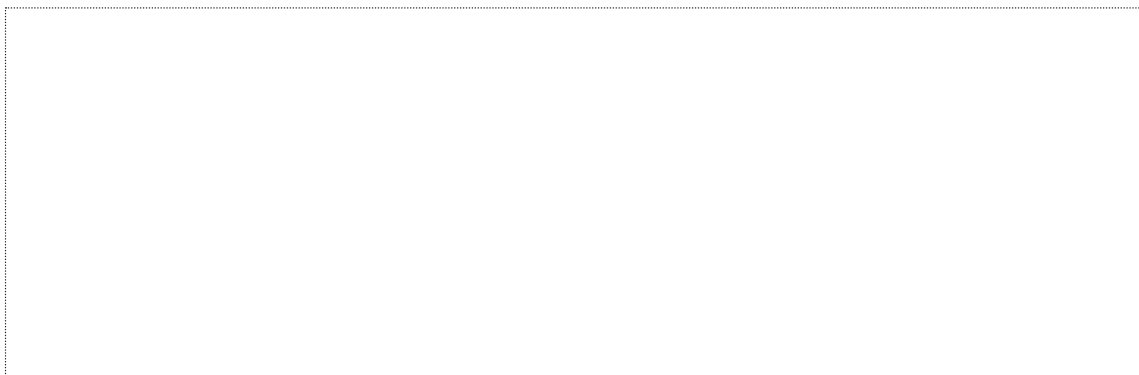
---

---

---

---

- Using the map of features you developed in part three, create an overlay that depicts the location and extent of where the strategies will be applied on the property.



- Take and date photos of the areas where various actions will be implemented prior to and after they have been applied. Photo documentation can be a rewarding way of appreciating the effort that goes into implementing your strategies.