



Managing Your School Forest

What is Forest Management?

Forest management is providing a forest the proper care so that it remains healthy and vigorous to provide the products (timber, firewood, non-timber) and amenities (wildlife habitat, clean air and water, hiking) that you want for your school and community. Forest management involves developing a management plan that includes your vision/objectives, an inventory and assessment of your forest (what's there and what condition is it in), action plan (remove buckthorn), and monitoring schedule to make sure things are going as planned.

Discussing and answering the questions below will help identify your vision/objectives that will help guide the development of a management plan for your school forest in order to reach your short-term (5-10 years) goals that lead to your long-term vision (100 years!)

Why are you interested in helping with the school forest?

Briefly describe your school forest? What do you see, hear, smell, feel, and know about it?

What do you like about the school forest? What don't you like?

What is important to you about your school forest?

What do you want to learn about your school forest?

What is Your Vision/Objectives for Your School Forest?

- Outdoor learning environment
- Scenic quality, aesthetics
- Species diversity: trees, shrubs, plants, etc.
- Wildlife habitat (insects, animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians)
- Investment (future income from timber)
- Non-timber specialty products (nuts, herbs, crafts, syrup, fruit, etc.)
- Firewood source
- Recreation (bird watching, skiing/hiking, photography, camping, etc.)
- Hunting/fishing
- Provide watershed protection
- Provide soil protection
- Other (Please describe)

Look into the future (next year, 5 years, 10 years....), what does your school forest look like? How about 100 years from now?

As you learn more and get more involved in your school forest, these questions might be answered differently, and that's okay. It's important to start somewhere, try some things, and re-evaluate your plan. Forests are living systems that are constantly changing. It is our role to understand our forests and guide the changes as best we can to keep them healthy.

Thank you for participating in the School Forest Program and taking care of your forest!