



# WoodsWISE



## Incentives to Stewardship Enhancement

### Landowner Stewardship Pledge

*Forest Management Planning is partially funded by the USDA Forest Service's Stewardship Program.*

I understand that any practice for which I receive cost-share funds must be maintained for 10 years. In placing my application for participation in Maine's WoodsWISE program, I pledge to conserve, nurture, enhance, and protect the forest resources of my/our land, and will strive to provide a high level of stewardship for all my/our natural resources.

This plan reflects my objectives as the landowner. I accept and approve the recommendations made by the resource professional who prepared the Plan. I pledge that any management practices implemented on my land will be consistent with these recommendations and it is my intention to follow them wherever possible.

I also understand that the Maine Forest Service may contact me for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of this Plan, either by a site visit or other means of communication.

Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Background:*

*The above statement must be signed by the landowner and is considered part of a Forest Management Plan. It means that, in return for accepting funding for assistance in management planning, the landowner will continue to manage their land in a responsible way. It further means that the landowner has accepted the plan as meeting their objectives, and will make a reasonable attempt to follow the plan, though the landowner may amend the plan to meet changing conditions or circumstances. The pledge does not mean that the landowner is obligated to accept or adopt a plan that does not meet their own objectives for their land.*

*The pledge also means that if a landowner who has received cost-share funding for the preparation of the plan later chooses to change the use of the land, e.g. for housing/commercial development, or otherwise engage in activities that are inconsistent with stewardship principles, the landowner who received the cost-sharing is obligated to return the funding that was provided to them for natural resource management planning.*