

#### FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN FOR THE WOLF DEN LAND TRUST

SHOEMAKER DEMONSTRATION FOREST SCOTLAND, CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 1993

Daniel F. Donahue

ASCS TRAC	т #	CONNECTICUT LANDO	WNER FOREST STEWAR	DSHIP PLAN	FORM #1 Page 1
LANDOWNER	NAME	Wolf Den Land Tru			// AAA - T-//-/-3
		Last	First	1	Middle Initial
MAILING A	DDRESS	P.O. Box 404 RR, ST, PO Box #	Brooklyn Town	Conn. State	06234 Zip
		Street Street copy of U.S.G.S.	T	own nwo	County
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FILL OUT	A FORM	FOR "CONNECTICUT'S	NATURAL DIVERSITY	DATABASE" _	X Yes, mailed
		CONNECTICUT	'S STEWARDSHIP ETE	iic	
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PLAN PRE	PARED B		rofessional Resour	co Wanager	Date
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		Daniel F. Donah Natural Resourc 41 Mirtl Road, Address	ue, President e Consultants Willington, CT 06	279	429-4958 Phone #
Connection	ut Cert	ificate #	Expirati	on Date	
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Signature	of Land	downer(s)			Date
PLAN APPR	OVED BY				
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DATE SCHE	DULED FO	OR 5-YEAR RECERTIF	ICATION OF STEWARD	SHIP PLAN	

#### DAVID O. SHOEMAKER AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND

The objectives and long term goals of the late David O. Shoemaker are well known by all members of the local committee of the Nature Conservancy. Since 1974, when the first tract of land was donated to the Conservancy until his death in 1982, he attended most monthly meetings and his views were freely expressed.

Dave was a gentleman farmer who used but never abused his land. Realizing that the farming potential was limited by the terrain he concentrated on forest management and related practices. He didn't hesitate to try new procedures and often sought help from consulting foresters. His wood roads, always in excellent shape, were engineered to withstand washouts on steep hillsides and gave ready access to all parts of the tract. He particularly enjoyed his open fields and loved to hunt pheasants that frequented the tall grass of several openings. Trout fishing in the Little River was a favorite activity and he kept the option of allowing his friends to fish from the Conservancy property for as long as he lived. While he cut both firewood and timber at various times, he was more interested in land improvement than in marketing. Money was not a motivating force; he just wanted to enjoy his land.

The following philosophy was expressed by Dave when he was approached about the possibility of deeding Tract III to ECFLA.

- A. He hoped the land would be put to active use.
- B. He was excited about the educational possibilities and expressed hope that activities would be directed towards learning experiences for people who wanted to improve their woodlands, whether they be small land owners or forestry students.
- C. He was glad that a forest oriented group was to take charge. He believed in the tenet that forests should be so managed that maximum potential is realized, within the boundaries of sound land use.
- D. Being a sportsman he hoped that a portion of the land would be used for wildlife enhancement. He believed in the "edge effect" for improving wildlife habitat. He was in favor of population control, open space preservation, and wildlife food plots.
- E. Dave expressed it more than once that he would be glad to see some real use being made of the land. He was a man of action he liked to see things get done!

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS

MANAGEMENT UNIT # 1

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 10

 DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT UNIT (Identify & number unit on the Plan Map.) FOREST TYPE OR COVER TYPE, AND MAJOR SPECIES COMPOSITION (Overstory and understory).

Upland oak/hickory sawtimber: black oak, white oak, and shagbark hickory dominate the overstory - other species include black birch, northern red oak, white ash, and yellow birch; black birch, red maple, shagbark hickory dominate the understory - other species present include yellow birch, American beech, and American chestnut; high bush blueberry and winterberry are the most common shrubs.

SITE QUALITY OR RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY: (good, fair, poor);
Indicate how determined:

Good - SCS soils data: Woodbridge extremely stony fine sandy loam (WzC); growth data from increment core samples.

PROTECTION ISSUES (General condition, past and present problems: insects, diseases, wildlife and weather influences, fire, erosion, boundaries, access, etc.)

Substantial nectria canker on black birch; hemlock wooly adelgid present on solitary hemlock. There is moderate accrued oak mortality due to secondary agents (Armillaria root rot and two-lined chestnut borer) following gypsy moth defoliations of the early 1970's and the mid 1980's.

2. DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCT RESOURCES (Size classes; ages; vigor or condition of growing stock; stand density: understocked, adequate or overstocked - provide criteria used such as # trees/acre, basal area/acre or volume/acre; adequacy and type of advance regeneration, if present; potential wood products and values.)

This stand is overstocked (106%); 8.5" average tree diameter; 116 sq. ft. per acre basal area - 59UGS/57AGS (UGS = unacceptable growing stock; AGS = acceptable growing stock); 293 trees per acre. Principal forest products are sawtimber and fuelwood.

Sawtimber: 80-100 years old, moderate vigor (12-14 rings per inch in most recent increment growth), 4879 board feet of merchantable volume per acre; 50 trees per acre.

Poletimber: 50-70 year old poles, low vigor (15-18 rings per inch in most recent increment growth.

Regeneration: advanced, adequate; principal species are oaks, hickories, and American beech.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS (Continued)

MANAGEMENT UNIT # 1

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES

10

DESCRIPTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES SIGNIFICANT HABITAT FEATURES AND CORRESPONDING WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS (Quantity and quality of den trees and snags, winter cover, vines, alder or aspen stands, apple trees, seep or vernal pools, wetland and watercourses, beaver ponds, mast producing trees, fruiting shrubs, etc. Identify associated wildlife and locate important features on the Map.):

15 snags per acre/2.9 den trees per acre - 70% are in the 6"-10" diameter classes, only 1.3 per acre in larger diameters; good hard mast production from mature oaks and hickories; dead logs widely scattered on forest floor. At least three individual aspens present (9"-12" DBH). Highbush blueberry is the predominant fruiting shrub.

Wildlife species observed on-site include tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, grey squirrel, and white-tailed deer.

4. DESCRIPTION OF WETLAND, WATER, AND FISHERIES RESOURCES (Assess their extend and condition, and their value for management. Major water resources on and near the parcel must be identified on the Plan Map. Riparian buffers or wetland and water protection zones must also be delineated on the Map. Identification of Connecticut Inland Wetland Soils - optional, depending on landowner objectives.):

Not applicable

5. DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION RESOURCES (Identify existing and potential recreation uses and opportunities, such as access areas, roads and trails, scenic vistas, unique areas and geologic formations, hunting and fishing areas, picnic and camping sites, etc. Identify important features on the Map.):

A simple picnic/gathering site could be constructed at the entrance to the forest; existing walking trails can be expanded to provide a more complete recreational/educational experience. A variety of natural features and proactive land stewardship opportunities exist that can be incorporated into educational programs for various audiences.

6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES (Cultural, historic and aesthetic resources; rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, exemplary natural communities; adjacent land uses having a significant impact on management decisions; special concerns and opportunities; special uses such as Christmas trees, sugarbush, etc.):

A large, old growth white oak tree (53" DBH) can be found in the southwest corner of the stand. A large limb has recently fallen, providing an opportunity to estimate the tree's age (approximately 150 years).

MANAGEMENT UNIT # 1 (Refer to Plan Map) NUMBER OF ACRES 10
LANDOWNER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Demonstrate environmentally sound timber management integrated with upland wildlife habitat enhancement.

1. WOOD PRODUCTS AND FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT (Forest management system and silvicultural prescriptions that conform to Connecticut's Forest Practices Act Regulations and BMP's; products and amounts to be removed; timing of treatment; other forest protection actions to safeguard forest from insects, diseases, other pests, fire, adverse weather conditions. Specify related activities such as road maintenance and construction, soil erosion control practices, etc.):

Due to the relatively small size of this timber stand and the desire to manage for diverse educational objectives, the long-term goal will be to promote the development of a healthy, diverse, uneven-aged forest. A single-tree selection thinning will be implemented for the purpose of reducing unacceptable growing stock, maintaining current increment growth rates over the next ten years, and providing some opportunities for the establishment of a new age class of trees. Total tree stocking will be reduced to B level (60 sq.ft.) by removing 25% of sawtimber basal area and 51% of pole (4"-11" diameter trees) basal area. One patch opening (about 1/2 acre) will be created in a location where all tree stocking is unacceptable. Reduce the relative amount of cankered black birch.

In order to prevent excess soil disturbance the harvest should occur in the winter months when the ground is frozen or in the summer months when precipitation is low and evaporation high. Truck access must be created on the west side of the intermittent watercourse and a small clearing will be needed to accommodate the concentration of forest products. One main skid trail will be designed to bisect this stand, but not over the existing walking trail system.

2. WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Prescriptions or actions to establish, enhance or protect habitat for locally native wildlife species):

Maintain diversity of existing vegetative cover. Create additional diversity by utilizing a small patch cut (about 1/4 acre in size) to introduce a new age class of young forest growth through an underplanting of eastern white pine. Protect the shrub layer from unnecessary damage, retain a variety of the best hickory and oak seed trees for long-term hard mast production. Retain all existing snags; mark significant den trees with small aluminum or plastic tags that will permanently identify their special habitat value; girdle suitable culls or UGS trees in the 12"-16" diameter classes. Plant about 300 eastern white pine trees in patch cut.

(Continued)

MANAGEMENT UNIT # 1

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 10

 WETLANDS, WATER, AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (Actions to restore, enhance or protect water quality, wetlands and riparian areas, and fisheries habitat):
 Not applicable

4. RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Actions to establish, enhance or protect an area for forest recreation):

The ojectives for this forest require that recreation management be combined with creating and maintaining educational opportunities. The principal feature in this effort will be the design and construction of a nature study trail system with a variety of interprative stations designed to instruct the public on issues relating to land preservation and stewardship, natural resource management, forest ecology, and the natural history of various wildlife species.

The following are some specific topics that may be addressed in the design of the trail system: the mechanisms by which this parcel of land was permanently preserved, local land use history, current issues regarding resource management within a holistic ecological framework, the concept of ecology and man's place in nature, the need to preserve habitat for threatened and endangered species, basic habitat requirements of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, and insects, as well as demonstrations of proactive resource stewardship practices.

5. SPECIAL AREAS MANAGEMENT (Actions to manage, enhance or protect cultural, historic and aesthetic resources, threatened and endangered species, and other significant resource features or uses, etc.):

The 150 year old growth white oak tree provides a valuable perspective on the land use history of this area. Although it has lost most of it's live crown and may not live much longer, it should be the focus of one of the nature trail interpretive stations.

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

GEMENT UNIT # 2

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 10

DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT UNIT (Identify & number unit on the Plan Map.) FOREST TYPE OR COVER TYPE, AND MAJOR SPECIES COMPOSITION (Overstory and understory).

Forested wetland/riparian habitat - dominant overstory trees include red maple, white ash, yellow birch, and American elm. Forest understory is primarily occupied by yellow birch, white ash, and ironwood (Carpinus caroliniana). The shrub layer is predominantly spicebush, swamp azalea, and winterberry.

SITE QUALITY OR RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY: (good, fair, poor); Indicate how determined:

Good productivity for habitat functions - hydrology and observation. Good productivity for forest tree growth - increment core samples.

PROTECTION ISSUES (General condition, past and present problems: insects, diseases, wildlife and weather influences, fire, erosion, boundaries, access, etc.)

Forest product extraction and logging access should be limited to the upland margins of this habitat so as to protect against downstream water quality impact.

DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCT RESOURCES
(Size classes; ages; vigor or condition of growing stock; stand density: understocked, adequate or overstocked - provide criteria used such as # trees/acre, basal area/acre or volume/acre; adequacy and type of advance regeneration, if present; potential wood products and values.)

Not applicable.

DESCRIPTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
SIGNIFICANT HABITAT FEATURES AND CORRESPONDING WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS (Quantity
and quality of den trees and snags, winter cover, vines, alder or aspen
stands, apple trees, seep or vernal pools, wetland and watercourses, beaver
ponds, mast producing trees, fruiting shrubs, etc. Identify associated
wildlife and locate important features on the Map.):

This perennial watercourse and riparian habitat appears to function as a wildlife corridor, linking the farmland on Pudding Hill to a marsh or swamp on Merrick Brook. Numerous snags and den trees provide cover for songbirds and small and large mammals. Snags - 6"=10.2/acre; 8"=11.6/acre; 10"=3.6/acre; 12"=2,5/acre; 18"=1.1/acre; 24"=.64/acre.

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS (Continued)**

ANAGEMENT UNIT # 2

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 10

DESCRIPTION OF WETLAND, WATER, AND FISHERIES RESOURCES (Assess their extend and condition, and their value for management. Major water resources on and near the parcel must be identified on the Plan Map. Riparian buffers or wetland and water protection zones must also be delineated on the Map. Identification of Connecticut Inland Wetland Soils - optional, depending on landowner objectives.):

This water course and forested wetland lies near the headwaters of an approximately 199 acre watershed. The diffuse drainage character of the stream precludes the occurrence of most fish species. A minimum 50' riparian buffer, expandable to up to 100' in some cases, should be maintained as a wildlife management corridor free of commercial timber extraction.

DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION RESOURCES (Identify existing and potential recreation uses and opportunities, such as access areas, roads and trails, scenic vistas, unique areas and geologic formations, hunting and fishing areas, picnic and camping sites, etc. Identify important features on the Map.):

The proposed nature study trail can enter and bisect this area so as to provide outstanding wildlife viewing and educational opportunities.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES (Cultural, historic and aesthetic resources; rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, exemplary natural communities; adjacent land uses having a significant impact on management decisions; special concerns and opportunities; special uses such as Christmas trees, sugarbush, etc.):

Not applicable.

NAGEMENT UNIT # 2 (Refer to Plan Map) NUMBER OF ACRES 10 NDOWNER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Protect downstream water quality and enhance bitat for wetland dependent species.

wood PRODUCTS AND FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT (Forest management system and silvicultural prescriptions that conform to Connecticut's Forest Practices Act Regulations and BMP's; products and amounts to be removed; timing of treatment; other forest protection actions to safeguard forest from insects, diseases, other pests, fire, adverse weather conditions. Specify related activities such as road maintenance and construction, soil erosion control practices, etc.):

Although periodic salvage of high quality timber may occur along the periphery of this stand, the principal objectives are to manage this area for the enhancement of wildlife habitat.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Prescriptions or actions to establish, enhance or protect habitat for locally native wildlife species):

Lightly thin upper canopy to increase sunlight penetration, promoting regeneration of tree seedlings and more vigorous fruiting of subcanopy shrubs. Trees to be removed from competition will be girdled and left standing, providing additional nesting and winter cover.

WETLANDS, WATER, AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (Actions to restore, enhance or protect water quality, wetlands and riparian areas, and fisheries habitat):

Protecting current conditions is the principal objective over the next ten years. Restricting machinery access and protecting a flexible buffer area will meet this objective.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Actions to establish, enhance or protect an area for forest recreation):

Provide walking access to and through this area for nature study and wildlife observation. (see map for proposed location of trail)

SPECIAL AREAS MANAGEMENT (Actions to manage, enhance or protect cultural, historic and aesthetic resources, threatened and endangered species, and other significant resource features or uses, etc.):

Not applicable.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### MANAGEMENT UNIT # 3

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 15

 DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT UNIT (Identify & number unit on the Plan Map.) FOREST TYPE OR COVER TYPE, AND MAJOR SPECIES COMPOSITION (Overstory and understory).

Even-aged upland oak poles and small sawtimber - northern red oak/black oak/red maple overstory; red maple/yellow birch/American beech/black oak understory; highbush blueberry is the dominant understory shrub.

SITE QUALITY OR RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY: (good, fair, poor); Indicate how determined:

Good - SCS soil data: Woodbridge extremely stony fine sandy loam; growth rates from increment core samples.

PROTECTION ISSUES (General condition, past and present problems: insects, diseases, wildlife and weather influences, fire, erosion, boundaries, access, etc.)

Overcrowded oaks are at risk from shoestring root rot (Armillaria mellea), a fungus that attacks trees weakened from a variety of environmental stress factors.

2. DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCT RESOURCES (Size classes; ages; vigor or condition of growing stock; stand density: understocked, adequate or overstocked - provide criteria used such as # trees/acre, basal area/acre or volume/acre; adequacy and type of advance regeneration, if present; potential wood products and values.)

This stand is fully stocked (93%); 7.0" average tree diameter; 96 sq. ft. basal area - 52UGS/44AGS; 365 trees per acre. Principal forest products are sawtimber and fuelwood.

Sawtimber - 50-70 years old, good vigor (8-10 rings per inch recent growth rates); 3361 board feet per acre of merchantable volume; 32 trees per acre.

Poletimber - 50-70 years old, low vigor (14-20 rings per inch), 150 trees per acre.

Regeneration - inadequate.

3. DESCRIPTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
SIGNIFICANT HABITAT FEATURES AND CORRESPONDING WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS (Quantity and quality of den trees and snags, winter cover, vines, alder or aspen stands, apple trees, seep or vernal pools, wetland and watercourses, beaver ponds, mast producing trees, fruiting shrubs, etc. Identify associated wildlife and locate important features on the Map.):

A small aspen clone occurs near the center of the stand.

Snags and den trees are in relatively short supply; 4"DBH=11.5 per acre; 8"=2.9 per acre; 10"=1.8 per acre; 12"=1.3 per acre.

Several mature black oaks along the northern property line possess crown branching characteristics suitable for accommodating the large stick nests of of red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS (Continued)

MANAGEMENT UNIT # 3

(Refer to Plan Map)

NUMBER OF ACRES 15

4. DESCRIPTION OF WETLAND, WATER, AND FISHERIES RESOURCES (Assess their extend and condition, and their value for management. Major water resources on and near the parcel must be identified on the Plan Map. Riparian buffers or wetland and water protection zones must also be delineated on the Map. Identification of Connecticut Inland Wetland Soils - optional, depending on landowner objectives.):

An intermittent surface water drainage swale bisects this stand, joining the main watercourse near Brooklyn Turnpike. (refer to riparian area on Plan map)

5. DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION RESOURCES (Identify existing and potential recreation uses and opportunities, such as access areas, roads and trails, scenic vistas, unique areas and geologic formations, hunting and fishing areas, picnic and camping sites, etc. Identify important features on the Map.):

A preexisting access trail is available for possible expansion.

6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES (Cultural, historic and aesthetic resources; rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, exemplary natural communities; adjacent land uses having a significant impact on management decisions; special concerns and opportunities; special uses such as Christmas trees, sugarbush, etc.):

Not applicable.

IGEMENT UNIT # 3 (Refer to Plan Map) NUMBER OF ACRES 15

NOWNER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: Demonstrate an integrated approach to forest and and wildlife management on a "small woodlot".

WOOD PRODUCTS AND FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT (Forest management system and silvicultural prescriptions that conform to Connecticut's Forest Practices Act Regulations and BMP's; products and amounts to be removed; timing of treatment; other forest protection actions to safeguard forest from insects, diseases, other pests, fire, adverse weather conditions. Specify related activities such as road maintenance and construction, soil erosion control practices, etc.):

An intermediate thinning of suppressed poles is required to reduce tree stocking to B level (60) - remove 66% of poles and no sawtimber. Fuelwood will be main product.

To avoid a wetland crossing of the primary perennial watercourse, semi-permanent truck access should be established along the northern property line, or if possible through a neighboring property.

Harvesting activity should be limited to dry or frozen ground conditions.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT (Prescriptions or actions to establish, enhance or protect habitat for locally native wildlife species):

Patch cut 1/4 acre to regenerate a group of four mature aspens; construct ruffed grouse drumming log in center of patch.

Retain several overmature black oak trees along the northern property line to serve as potential raptor nesting sites.

WETLANDS, WATER, AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (Actions to restore, enhance or protect water quality, wetlands and riparian areas, and fisheries habitat):

A temporary crossing of the secondary drainage swale will be required to permit access to most of this stand. The narrowest point between the two upland soil areas has been located. The frequency and duration of surface water runoff is such that a temporary crossing will have no significant impact on downstream water quality. A corduroy structure of large poles will be installed to reduce the impact of traffic on wetland soils.

(Continued)

4.	RECREATION MANAGEMENT (Actions to establish, enhance or protect an area for forest recreation):
	Refer to the Recreation Management section under Management Unit #1 to review details of the proposed nature study trail.
5.	SPECIAL AREAS MANAGEMENT (Actions to manage, enhance or protect cultural, historic and aesthetic resources, threatened and endangered species, and othe significant resource features or uses, etc.):
	Not applicable.
 ADDI	TIONAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE LANDOWNER
ADDI	TIONAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE LANDOWNER  Financial (tax) and estate planning considerations pertaining to forestland

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN SUMMARY OF PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

MANAGEMENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN NEXT 10 YEARS

UNIT #

(Timing/scheduling of priorities, brief description, products, amount,
projected income or cost, federal c/s practices to be used, etc.)

- 1 1993 single-tree selection thinning, sawtimber & fuelwood;
   create patch opening for white pine planting;
   girdle culls for snag tree development;
- 1 1994 plant 300 white pine in patch opening; SIP FUNDING MAY AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- 1994 intermediate thinning, fuelwood;
   create patch opening for aspen clone regeneration; SIP FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- 1,2,3 1994 design and construct interprative walking trail system; SIP FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- 3 1995 construct ruffed grouse drumming site in patch opening; SIP FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR CREATING THE FOREST OPENING.
- 2 1995 thin overstory by girdling culls and UGS for snag tree development; SIP FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- 1 1995 brush shelter construction; SIP FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- 1 1998 reevaluate forest condition, collect growth data;
- 3 1999 reevaluate forest condition, collect growth data;
- 1,2,3 1999 revise stewardship plan as needed.

ATTACH MANAGEMENT PLAN MAP OF PARCEL SHOWING MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL, AESTHETIC AND NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES AS IDENTIFIED ABOVE, PLUS BOUNDARIES, AND ALL OF THE MAJOR MANAGEMENT UNITS (numbered). Use more than one if necessary. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, attached.