

## Whole Woods Inventory Assessment

### Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of this worksheet is to document the characteristics of the forest during your whole woods assessment. These are suggested topics to be discussed and questions that need to be addressed to complete a whole woods assessment. Collecting this information will be very helpful as this will be the baseline knowledge for prescribing strategies for planning and implementing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and related activities in the forest.

Note: Not all of these questions will be answered during the forest walk. You may need to research the answers prior to or after the forest walk.

Download and print the pdf document to take with you on your forest walk.

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Date of the visit:

Time of the visit:

Name of the land steward (owner):

Location/address:

What is the weather today?

Temperature:

### GPS Mapping (optional)

1. Begin your GPS instrument documentation to be used for the Google Earth software application. See pages 8 - 31 of [\*Inventory and Mapping: A Beginner's Guide to Basic Inventory and Digital Mapping of Non-timber Forest Products on Small Private Forestlands\*](#) in the Field Journal Resources folder in the online database for more information about using Google Earth.

What to document on your map:

1. Notable plant, animal, fungi species.
2. Any wildlife or livestock presence.
3. Structures
4. Trees (specie name, age, health, size)
5. Water
6. Anything else significant.

Photograph notable items and document its location.

1. Is there a map of the woodlot? (obtain or make a copy) If not, create a map using a GPS handheld device, print a map of the property, or sketch (for future reference and planning).
2. How did you access the woodlot (walk or drive)? Was it difficult to access?
3. What plants, animals, and fungi species did you observe in the woodlot (What are the predominant tree species, understory species, etc.)
4. What is/are the landscape(s) of the woodlot? (ie. grades or steepness of slope, aspect)
5. To determine the range of elevations, measure the elevations of the woodlot at different points.
  - a. Top of the slope \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
  - b. Bottom of the slope \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
  - c. In between \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
  - d. Other comments?
6. How would you describe the forest canopy? (ie. open to sunlight, dense canopy with little light)
7. Do you see invasive species? If so, please explain or describe.
8. Do you see wildlife? Footprints or feces?
9. Are there any notable springs, streams or bodies of water in the forest?
10. What other site related factors might impact NTFPs? I.e., (predation that might require fencing, steep slope that might hinder planting or harvesting)
11. Is there a forest management or stewardship plan for the woodlot? (obtain a copy)

12. What NTFPs are currently produced?
13. What NTFPs are found or being cultivated on nearby/neighboring lands?
14. Are there any structures or other features in the woodlot that should be noted that may impact NTFP production? (ie. fencing, hunting sheds, roads) (Note: these features should be included on the map.)
15. Some NTFP plantings or fungi might require occasional watering (i.e., after planting or inoculation). Is there an adequate source of water for irrigation? If so, describe?
16. Is hunting allowed on the land? By the landowner or by others?
17. Have there been any wild fires on the woodlot or in nearby forests?
18. What is the average temperature range throughout the year?
19. What is the estimated rainfall throughout the year in the forest?
20. Please add other notes that may help determine the potential for NTFP production on the woodlot in the space that follows.