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# FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared For:  
Covington County Board of Education

Prepared By:  
Robert J Scoggin  
Mississippi Forestry Comm.

Time Period Covered by This Plan:  
2012 - 2021

Date Plan Prepared:  
2012-01-24

Plan Type:  
Stewardship / Stewardship

This plan was developed in accordance with the rules of the Stewardship program.

**Property Name: Section 16 Township 6 North Range 15 West**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LANDOWNER INFORMATION .....	3
FORESTER INFORMATION .....	3
DISCLAIMER .....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	3
OBJECTIVES .....	4
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION .....	4
GENERAL PROPERTY RECOMMENDATIONS .....	5
SOIL TYPES .....	7
STRATA .....	8
OTHER PLAN ACTIVITIES .....	10
PLAN MAP .....	12
PLAN MAP .....	13
STRATA ACTIVITY SCHEDULE .....	14

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**LANDOWNER INFORMATION**

Organization: COVINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Name: Covington County Board of Education  
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 1269  
City, State, Zip: Collins, MS 39428  
Country: United States of America  
Contact Numbers: Home Number:  
Office Number: 601-765-8274  
Fax Number:  
E-mail Address: bdotsom@cov.k12.ms.us  
Social Security Number (optional):

**FORESTER INFORMATION**

Name: Robert J Scoggin , Assistant District Forester  
Forester Number: 01594  
Organization: Mississippi Forestry Comm.  
Street Address: P.O. Box 348  
2705 Hwy, 15  
City, State, Zip: Bay Springs, MS 39422  
Contact Numbers: Office Number: 601-764-2711  
Fax Number:  
E-mail Address: rscoggin@mfc.state.ms.us

**PROPERTY LOCATION**

County: Covington Total Acres: 640 Latitude: -89.51 Longitude: 31.48  
Section: 16 Township: 6N Range: 15W

**DISCLAIMER**

This information was derived from a small sampling of the forest resources. It reflects a statistical estimation that is only intended to be accurate enough for the purposes of making decisions for the short-term management of these resources. These estimations are temporarily static. Events and circumstances may occur within the survey area that will physically alter the forest resources and therefore will not be reflected in this plan.

**INTRODUCTION**

This Forest Stewardship Management Plan will serve as a guide for accomplishing the goals and objectives for your property. In addition to addressing your specific goals and objectives, this plan includes recommendations for maintaining soil and water quality and protecting your forest from insects, disease, and wildfire. Recommendations are based on observation and assessment of the site.

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **OBJECTIVES**

### *Timber Production*

The primary objective of placing sixteenth section lands under a forest management program is to produce as much revenue as possible for the Covington County School Board. The goal is to produce high value products such as quality sawtimber. These efforts will be directed by regulating the forest resource through reforestation and timber stand improvement practices such as herbicide applications, prescribed burning, thinning at specified intervals and other silvicultural practices. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

### *Wildlife Management - General*

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suitable for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on developing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and the management of trees located within the Streamside Management Zone

## **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

### *General Property Information*

This property consists of one full section of land containing 640 acres. This section is fully forested except for 158 acres of open land. The open land on this property consists mainly of open fields except for a gas pipeline in the northeast quarter. This property is located five miles southwest of Seminary in the southern part of Covington County. Herrin Road is the only access to this section and it is located on the western portion. Beaver Creek severely impairs access to the eastern side of the section. The section received substantial damage from Hurricane Katrina whereas over 300 acres of timberland was damaged. The damaged timber was removed and the areas have been replanted.

### *Water Resources*

There is one perennial water resource identified on the property. Beaver Creek flows across the section from north to south. This branch is in the Bowie River drainage system. This stream will be managed in accordance with Mississippi's Best Management Practices.

### *Timber Production*

The goal is to maximize the production of high quality timber. This will be accomplished through the application of timely thinning and other silvicultural practices designed to enhance timber quality and growth. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Threatened and Endangered Species*

No threatened and endangered species were identified during the reconnaissance and evaluation of your property.

*Interaction with Surrounding Property*

Prescribed practices should be carried out in a manner that will minimize adverse impacts on surrounding properties. Consideration should be given to potential air, water, visual, and other impacts. In addition, practices carried out should have positive effects on the surrounding community such as improved wildlife habitat and soil stabilization.

*Soils General*

Soils were evaluated on the property to determine the suitability of the site for the proposed activities. Forest practices were planned so as to minimize erosion or other adverse effects on the soil. The following soils are identified for this property: Ruston Fine Sandy Loam.

*Archeological or Cultural Resources:*

No Archeological or Cultural resources were identified during a reconnaissance of the property. However, if Archeological or Cultural resources are discovered anytime on the property special managements measures will be applied immediately in order preserve these sensitive areas. These areas can range from churches, old cemeteries or Indian mounds to old home sites or other areas of historical significance.

## **GENERAL PROPERTY RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Forest Protection*

A healthy vigorously growing stand is the best defense to an attack form a variety of forest insects, plants and pathogens.

*Insects and Diseases*

Trees are subject to attack from insects and diseases. Different insects and diseases affect trees according to the age, species, and condition of the trees. Planted stands of pines and pure stands of hardwoods are particularly susceptible to attack. Since there are many different insects and diseases, no attempt will be made here to explain all of them.

The property should be inspected at least annually for possible signs of insect and disease activity. Some things to look for are:

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Unseasonable leaf fall
- Discoloration of leaves or needles
- Pitch pockets on pine trees
- Heavy defoliation of hardwood leaves
- Groups of three or more dying trees within a stand

This list does not cover all instances of insect or disease attacks. If anything unusual is noticed, report it to a forester. In most cases, insect and disease problems can be controlled if discovered early.

### Fire Protection

Your forest should be protected from wildfire at all times. The best way to protect your investment is by establishing and maintaining firebreaks around the property. Guidelines for establishment and maintenance of firebreaks may be found in Mississippi Forestry Commission publication #107, *Mississippi's Best Management Practices*.

### Grazing

Tree seedlings should be protected from grazing until such time as the terminal bud of the sapling is beyond reach of livestock. Domestic livestock should be denied access to the tree planting area.

### Boundary Lines

It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that all property lines and boundaries designating areas to receive forestry work are clearly identified and visible to all contractors. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will establish and maintain the boundary lines every three years or as needed.

**Note:** Some forest practices may cause temporary adverse environmental or aesthetic impacts. These practices will only cause short-term adverse impacts where they are installed. Special efforts will be made to minimize adverse effects when carrying out any of the practices. Examples include: site preparation, planting, prescribed fires, firebreak installation and maintenance, road installation and maintenance, pesticide applications and timber harvesting.

### *Water Quality Protection*

The objective of the landowner is to protect, preserve and enhance all water sources on or transecting the property. This can best be achieved by implementation of Best Management Practices in all aspects of the management of the property.

### *Aesthetics*

The goal is to assure that the property is managed in such a way that is aesthetically pleasing to the landowner as well as the community. Activities could include, maintaining

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

buffer strips along the road and adjacent to the home site, planting wildflowers along the road, and trees with attractive fall and spring color along the drive and near the home site.

### *Ecological Restoration*

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. A reconnaissance of the property has been conducted and no ecological restoration activities are recommended at this time.

### *Wildlife Mgt. Target Species*

The objective of this practice is to provide habitat best suited for the featured or target species. Habitat management will focus on providing food, cover, water, and space to facilitate the target species.

### *Environmental Education*

Environmental educational goals are to provide educational opportunities for children and adults through the development of items such as nature trails with tree identification markers, wildlife viewing areas, picnic areas, parking, public restroom facilities.

### *Wildlife Management General*

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suited for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on providing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished, in part, by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and leaving mast producing and den trees.

### *Timber Management*

Timber management goals for this property are to manage timber resources in such a manner as to maximize timber production throughout the life of the stand.

### *Recreation*

According to landowner objectives the recreational use of the property could prove to be an avenue for personal enjoyment or for generating income. An evaluation of your property should be conducted and a plan developed to accomplish your specific goals for recreational activities on your property.

## SOIL TYPES

### *Ruston Fine Sandy Loam*

The Ruston series consists of nearly level to very steep, well drained soils of the Coastal Plain uplands. These soils are strongly acid, contain a small amount of organic matter and are low in natural fertility. They are moderate in available water capacity. Ruston soils usually occur with the Eustis, Ora and Savannah soils and are widely distributed throughout

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

the county. The native vegetation consists of pines and hardwoods in mixed stands with an understory of dogwood, hawthorn, shrubs and grasses. This section is a natural pine site with site index 78-96 feet for Loblolly Pine.

## **STRATA**

### *Strata 4*

#### Strata Description

This strata is classified as sub-merchantable. It consists of four Stands; 34, 16, 18, 28, 27, and 33 and has a total acreage of 251.

This stand is classified as sub-merchantable and was artificially regenerated with genetically improved Loblolly Pine Seedlings. The stands in this strata are approximately 6 years old.

#### Strata Recommendations

These stands are a mixture of pine plantations 6 years old. They will be evaluated for first thinning at age 15. These stands will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

#### Activity Recommendations

##### Harvest 2021

A first thinning is scheduled in 2021 for Strata 4 on approximately 251 acres that will focus on removing poor quality, diseased, poor formed trees. Residual stocking should be 75 square feet per acre.

### *Strata 5*

#### Strata Description

This strata is classified as Pulpwood. It consists of four Stands; 21, 8, 24 and 25, with a total area of 220 acres.

These stands are classified as pulpwood and were all regenerated artificially with an improved genetic variety of Loblolly Pine. Most of these stands were planted at 605 or 726 trees per acre. Their ages range from 19 to 21 years old. The majority of these stands were planted from open field leases and have already been thinned once.

#### Strata Recommendations

These stands are a mixture of pine plantations ranging from 18 to 19 years old. These stands will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management



**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

Activity Recommendations

Harvest 2014

A second thinning is scheduled in 2014 for Strata 5 on 220 acres that will focus on opening the stand further by removing smaller less well formed trees and focusing on leaving the tallest trees with the largest diameter and crowns. These trees should be the best and highest value trees in the stand that will be the final harvest crop trees. Residual stocking will be 75 square feet per acre.

*Strata 6*

Strata Description

This strata is classified as Chip-n-Saw. It consists of one Stand; 22, with a total area of 7 acres.

These stands are classified as Chip-n-Saw and are all of good form and quality. Their ages range from 21 to 22 years old. The size of the trees in this strata will range from small to large chip-n-saw and some small logs.

Strata Recommendations

Most of the stands in this strata have been thinned once. They are currently being evaluated for a second thinning. These stands will be managed to a 35 to 40 year rotation. During this time management activities as thinnings, mid-rotation release, and prescribed burning will be used to keep stands at full production.

Activity Recommendations

Harvest 2014

A second thinning is scheduled in 2014 for Strata 6 on 7 acres that will focus on opening the stand further by removing smaller less well formed trees and focusing on leaving the tallest trees with the largest diameter and crowns. These trees should be the best and highest value trees in the stand that will be the final harvest crop trees. Residual stocking will be 75 square feet per acre. This sale will be incorporated with other sales on this section for that particular year.

*Strata 7*

Strata Description

This strata is classified as Sawtimber. It consists of three Stands; 30, 31, 24 and 25 with a total area of 99 acres.

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

These stands are classified as pine and hardwood sawtimber. This strata is further classified as an SMZ and will be managed accordingly. They have reached an adequate size, maturity and stocking.

**Strata Recommendations**

The stands in this strata are a mixture of pine and hardwood sawtimber approximately 36 years old. Some harvesting may be incorporated within these stands but the BA will be maintained at a minimum of 60.

**OTHER PLAN ACTIVITIES**

*Boundary Lines*

**Line Description**

Generally, these lines consist of permanent boundary lines that delineate the section boundary. They are usually well established and are readily identifiable by a pushed or painted line.

**Line Recommendations**

Routine inspections and general maintenance of the roads, firelanes and boundary lines will ensure overall appearance and aesthetics of the property. These lines are usually maintained by painting, pushing or disking. They are generally pushed on a yearly basis and re-painted every 3 to 5 years.

**Activity Recommendations**

**Property Activities 2015**

This line will be repainted with Orange Boundary Line paint in 2015.

Routine inspections and general maintenance of the roads, Firelanes, and boundary lines will ensure overall appearance and aesthetics of the property.

**Property Activities 2020**

This line will be repainted with Orange Boundary Line paint in 2020.

Routine inspections and general maintenance of the roads, Firelanes, and boundary lines will ensure overall appearance and aesthetics of the property.

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Section 16 Township 6 North Range 15 East



**Section 16 Township 6 North Range 15 East**

New Hope  
2012 to 2021  
640 Acres





## Section 16 Township 6 North Range 15 West

### Property

Property (1)

### Category 1: Stands

Sawtimber (3)  
 Pulpwood (1)  
 Sub-Merchantable (4)

### Category 1: Stands (cont)

Chip-n-Saw (1)

### Category 3: Non-Forest Stands

Non-Forest (2)

### Boundary Lines

Property (1)

## MFC Basemap

### County Boundary

County Boundary (1)

### Quadrangle Grid

USGS Quad (1)

### PLS Townships

PLS Townships (1)

### Survey Districts

District 5 (1)

### Blockgroup (Census 2000)

Blockgroup (Census 2000) (2)

### Block (Census 2000)

Block (Census 2000) (4)

### Tract/BNA (Census 2000)

Tract/BNA (Census 2000) (1)

### County Roads

County Roads (1)

### School Sections

School Sections (1)

### Public School Districts

COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS (1)

### US Congressional District

US Cong Dist #3 (1)

### MS Senate

41 (1)

### MS House

90 (1)

### Perennial Streams

Perennial Streams (3)

### Intermittent Streams

Intermittent Streams (1)

### Hydrologic Units (Basins)

UPPER LEAF RIVER (1)

### Historic Forest Boundary

Longleaf Pine with Loblolly Pine-Slash Pine (1)

### MS Forest Habitat

SOUTHERN LOAM HILLS-GENTLE TOPOGRAPHY (1)

### Physiographic Region

Pine Belt (1)

### Soil Associations

ora-smithdale-ruston (1)  
 mantachie-kirkville-jena (1)

### Surface Geology

PASCAGOULA/HATTIESBURG (1)

### MFC Districts

MFC Districts (1)

### MFC Dispatch Units

MFC Dispatch Units (1)

### MS Outline

MS Outline (1)

# Stand Activity Summary for

16 6N 15W

**Filters Applied:** County: Covington  
 Client Class:  
 District:  
 Client:  
 STR: 16 6N 15W  
 Activity:  
 Year: 2012 Through 2021

STR	Strata	Stand	Activity	Acre	Est. Cost	Est. Revenue
<b>2014</b>						
16 6N 15W	5	8	Harvest, Mechanical, 2nd Thin, Machine, Loblolly	121	\$4,235.00	\$46,681.80
16 6N 15W	6	22	Harvest, Mechanical, 2nd Thin, Machine, Loblolly	7	\$245.00	\$3,837.40
Yearly Totals				128	\$4,480.00	\$50,519.20
<b>2021</b>						
16 6N 15W	4	16	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	55	\$1,922.20	\$21,188.14
16 6N 15W	4	18	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	36	\$1,260.00	\$13,888.80
16 6N 15W	4	27	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	5	\$175.00	\$1,929.00
16 6N 15W	4	28	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	52	\$1,824.55	\$20,111.75
16 6N 15W	4	33	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	16	\$560.00	\$6,172.80
16 6N 15W	4	34	Harvest, Mechanical, 1st Thin, Machine, Loblolly	112	\$3,913.35	\$43,136.30
Yearly Totals				276	\$9,655.10	\$106,426.79
<b>Grand Totals</b>				<b>404</b>	<b>\$14,135.10</b>	<b>\$156,945.99</b>