Prioritizing Your Objectives



Understanding and prioritizing your objectives is key to good forest management. On a scale of 1 (least important) through 10 (most important), rate how interested you are in the following objectives. Keep in mind this is only a sample list. If you and your family have other interests not listed, you can cross out and add to this sample as needed. When finished, total each column to help prioritize these objectives. Note that column 4 already totals 40. Water and soil protection is essential for every landowner regardless of your specific management objectives.

income	wildlife habitat	recreation and aesthetics	water and soil protection
Growing timber as an investment.	Enhancing or diversifying wildlife habitat	Developing a trail system for recreation.	Protecting fish and aquatic habitats.
			10
Supplementing your income through the sale of non-timber forest products.	Increasing wildlife populations.	Having a visually attractive forest.	Preserving a clean water supply for now and the future.
Using timber to cover planned family expenses like college or a wedding.	Protecting threatened or endangered wildlife on your property.	Going camping and hiking.	Conserving fertile topsoil.
Leaving a valuable asset for children or grandchildren.	Observing wildlife in its natural state.	Using your forest as a living laboratory to learn more about trees and wildflowers.	Learning about practical ways to conserve water and protect water supply.
			40

totals:

Adapted from Forest Health—Community Wealth, North Carolina State University (Rick Hamilton) and Tennessee Forest *A*Syst:Self Assessment to Prioritize your Forest Uses.