The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers programs that provide technical and financial support to agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners. NRCS and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, work together to help landowners obtain technical and financial assistance to develop forest management plans and implement various conservation practices to manage private forest land. Contact your local USDA NRCS office to determine if you are eligible for assistance. A Forest Management Plan must be developed and followed prior to beginning EQIP-funded conservation practices on forestland.

**Forest Management Plan**
A Forest Management Plan (FMP) is a site-specific plan developed for a client that addresses resource concerns on land where forestry-related conservation activities will be applied. The landowner obtains the services of a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop the FMP. The FMP includes planned practices, the amounts of each to be applied, the schedule for implementation, and appropriate specifications for each practice. Practices included in a FMP are designed to meet the client’s objectives to address natural resource concerns such as:

- Soil quality and condition
- Water quality
- Wildlife habitat
- Forest productivity and health

**Brush Management**
Brush Management is used to remove, reduce or manipulate woody plants to achieve the desired level of control and the protection of desired plants. This practice can be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, and biological methods alone or in combination. Brush Management can:

- Restore natural plant communities
- Create the desired plant community
- Restore desired vegetative cover
- Control invasive species
- Maintain, modify, or enhance wildlife habitat
- Manage fuel loads

**Herbaceous Weed Control**
Herbaceous Weed Control is used to remove or control non-woody plants including invasive, noxious and prohibited weeds. Weed control can:

- Restore, release, or create native or desired plant communities
- Control invasive species
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Protect soils and control erosion
- Reduce fire hazard

**Upland Wildlife Habitat Management**
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management is used to provide and manage upland habitats and create connectivity within the landscape for wildlife. Techniques address upland wildlife habitat concerns identified during the conservation planning process, to enable wildlife movement, and to provide shelter, cover, and food in proper amounts, locations, and times to sustain wildlife.
**Tree/Shrub Establishment**

Tree/Shrub Establishment introduces woody plants to an area by planting seedlings or cuttings. Woody plants can be established for:

- Forest products
- Wildlife habitat
- Erosion control
- Water quality improvement
- Improving or restoring natural diversity
- Enhancing aesthetics

**Early Successional Habitat Development/Management**

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management is used to manage the natural succession of plant communities (progressing from grasses to trees) in order to benefit wildlife or the natural plant communities. Various techniques such as the use of selected herbicides, brush management, light disking, mowing, or a combination of these techniques can be used to maximize plant and animal diversity.

**Forest Stand Improvement**

Forest Stand Improvement is used to manage tree species, forest stand structure, and forest stocking by cutting trees and undergrowth or using herbicides to kill selected trees and understory vegetation. These practices can:

- Reduce wildfire hazard
- Improve forest health
- Restore natural plant communities
- Improve recreation and wildlife
- Increase quantity and quality of forest products

* Financial assistance for forestry activities is also available through NRCS’s Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).