



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION: BY MICHAEL C. THOMPSON, RF

10 Major Goals

of Forest Management: 'Know Where You're Going'

I wrote the following list of major goals based on my experience in land management, combined with textbook knowledge. If the goals can be attained, you should be in good shape from a timber management standpoint.

- 1** Manage the forest to achieve the landowner's objectives within economic, legal and biological constraints.
- 2** Regulate timber harvest to provide a long-term sustained yield of desired products and value from the forest, without impairing the natural productivity of the soil.
- 3** Maintain fully-stocked stands at all stages of their development, from seedlings up to mature trees.
- 4** Through regular timber harvest, create a generally even distribution of age/size classes for each major forest type in the forest, ranging from seedlings up to mature trees.
- 5** For each stand, grow the tree species that will yield the maximum volume growth and/or monetary return to the landowner, or will otherwise achieve desired objectives.
- 6** Minimize damage to or loss of soil, from which all tree growth begins.
- 7** Provide for other forest products, services or benefits, such as clean water, wildlife, aesthetics, grazing, wilderness and recreation.
- 8** Provide adequate year-round access throughout the forest property.
- 9** Protect forest resources from loss due to fire, insects, disease, weather, theft and encroachments.
- 10** Conduct the final harvest at maturity.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael C. Thompson is a registered forester and a retired Montgomery Community College (MCC) instructor. He taught forest management and technology at MCC for 23 years. A graduate of Colorado State University's Forestry Program, Thompson worked for Champion International, Edward Hines Lumber Company and others for 23 years prior to becoming an educator. As a veteran of the forest industry, Thompson wrote the list of forest management goals outlined on the previous page to serve as a guide for his students and individuals practicing forestry. Now that he's retired, Thompson enjoys traveling with his wife and spending time with his grandchildren. "I look forward to opportunities where I get to share my forestry knowledge and experience whenever the opportunity presents itself," he noted. ■

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