Setting the Stage: Inventorying Resources

Rationale

Small-acreage landowners must understand that what they do on their land involves a system. This system includes the physical layout of their properties, social aspects of interactions with neighbors and communities, and the participants' economic situations. This module helps participants recognize these issues and acknowledge the need to inventory their resources. Thus equipped, they can proceed with subsequent modules that address specific management issues. As a preface to the remainder of the curriculum, this module helps participants compile information about their properties and requires very active participation.

Objectives

Participants will:

1. Clearly identify goals for their property.
2. Identify their resources, including labor, financial, environmental, and technical information, or outside sources of expertise.
3. Learn techniques to identify potential problems in attaining their goals, including environmental, community, and personal issues.
4. Sketch a map of their properties' physical layout and identify resources and potential problem areas.
5. Obtain a list of resources, including technical assistance and relevant local regulatory agencies.

Introduction

This module is the introductory module for the "Living on the Land" series. The module consists of two lessons. The first lesson concentrates on encouraging the participants to set goals for their property. It also includes a physical resource inventory of participants' properties. At the end of the first lesson or by the start of the second lesson, participants will have completed a map of their property with physical features and assets noted. This map will then be consulted and revised during the remaining modules. The second lesson focuses on human, financial and community issues as they relate to the participants' properties. Additionally, it helps participants identify constraints resulting from federal, state, county, city and local regulations. At the end of the module, participants should have map of their properties, a set of goals for their properties, and a rough understanding of the assets and constraints of their properties. Subsequent modules will help participants clarify, modify and optimize the goals and potential of their properties.