



FSP AND ME

TIME: 1 Hour

OBJECTIVE: To introduce the concept of stewardship.

MATERIALS: Video and poster
(Forest Stewardship video and poster)

BACKGROUND:

Stewardship is the wise use and conservation of natural resources.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is funded through the United States Forest Service and became federal policy and law as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The primary goal of Forest Stewardship is developing productive land and healthy natural resources. The approach is simple: recognize and help private landowners by providing information, education, and technical programs.

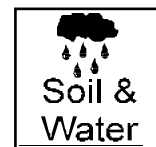
The FSP is a private/public partnership that offers landowners valuable information from one collective source instead of several separate sources. In the past, landowners who wished to manage their land in more than one way, perhaps both as a tree farm and a recreational area, had to visit or call several agencies to obtain necessary information. This process was time consuming and often provided confusing or conflicting information. The FSP partnership saves time and offers detailed resource information to the landowner. Agencies that contribute to FSP and the information they provide include:

- Consolidated Farm Service Agency—farm and conservation programs
- Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture—public forest land management
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service—education, plant identification and cultivation recommendations
- North Carolina Division of Forest Resources—tree planting and forest management
- North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation—soil and water protection
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission—fish and wildlife management and regulation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture—soil conservation and water protection
- Private contractors and natural resource managers—planning and management advice and assistance

Cost sharing assistance, too, is available to landowners who partici-

Branching Out Keys

To simplify your use of this activity guide, each lesson is labled with an icon. Each icon represents a resource area that is targeted in the Forest Stewardship Program.



**For Your Ease,
Follow the Keys!**

BRANCHING OUT The NC Forest Stewardship Activity Guide

pate in the program; plus, landowners who enhance their forest resources may have their property certified as a Stewardship Forest.

In the end, the entire public benefits from the many environmental contributions made by a well managed and healthy forest.

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

View the video entitled FOREST STEWARDSHIP: Wise management for today and tomorrow.

LEAD-IN:

What are some of the land use choices available to a landowner? For example, the land may be developed, let alone, or sold.

We often think that the only way to save our land is to let it alone. Sometimes we think of owning land as an investment only in an economic sense. However, there is more than one way to look at a piece of land.

ACTIVITY:

View the video.

After the video, have a short discussion of the BRANCHING OUT questions. Then ask the students, either individually or in groups of three, to prepare a 3x5 newspaper ad promoting the video. Remind students that their audience is the general public, either small/large town, or urban/rural. These ads may be sent to

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where selected advertisements will be posted on department bulletin boards or published in the *North Carolina Forest Stewardship News*.

BRANCHING OUT:

1. What are some things that may be done to become a Forest Steward landowner? (To manage the forest for timber and wildlife, to manage for timber growth and harvest, to plant for wildlife food and cover, or to put up bluebird, duck or bat houses.)
2. Can a Forest Steward still make money from the land? (Yes, better management techniques and increased information on types of plantings for the soil and climate will help the steward increase production and financial returns. Improved production methods also benefit the natural resources.)
3. If you were a landowner, what activities would you want on your land? (Farming, hunting, enjoying the beauty, producing timber, or growing plants and wildflowers.)
4. How do the decisions of other landowners affect you?
5. Individually or in small groups, have students report about a news article describing a program using good stewardship practices.
6. Assign small groups to prepare a means of promoting forest stewardship to private landowners.

NOTE:

Additional videos are listed in the *Project Learning Tree* resource book. The video *Backyard Wildlife* is also available from your local North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission representative.

Managing Forest For Many Uses

Stewards select trees for multiple benefits: Timber, wildlife, beauty, fall color, and plant diversity.

Open grown trees receive full sunlight, water, and nutrients. As a result, they typically produce great food supplies.



Many Oaks and other mass (fruit and nut) producers are favorite food sources for wildlife especially in autumn and early winter.



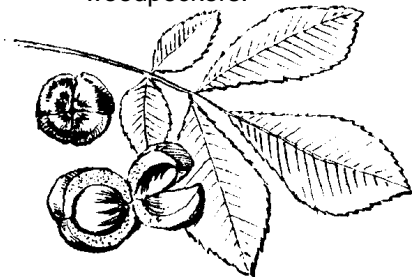
White Oak: Acorns eaten by deer, ducks, turkey, quail, squirrels, grouse, black bears, and some woodpeckers.

Grape: Food for deer, black bears, raccoons, songbirds, foxes, grouse, and turkey. Dried fruit provide food in winter.



Loblolly pine: A favorite for squirrels, songbirds, turkey, quail or mice.

American Holly: Fruit and seeds eaten by songbirds, squirrels turkeys and raccoons.



Shagbark Hickory: Nuts eaten by squirrel, turkey, and wood ducks.