

2/11/24

Andrews Community Forest

Developing a Wildlife Stewardship Plan

1. Select umbrella species¹
 - a) Engage state or university wildlife biologists for this and overall project assistance.
 - b) Review ecological assessments of the forest.
 - c) Select species likely to find the ACF suitable habitat for feeding, shelter and denning, or providing habitat connectivity. Identify natural communities and other forest attributes supportive of those needs.
2. Identify stewardship best practices for selected species and their habitat and movement needs. Consider:
 - a) Monitoring locations: On/near trails, trail-free zones, EPZ's, etc
 - b) Benchmarks and metrics (target species, key resources, threats, etc..
 - c) Monitoring frequency: Yearly, quarterly, etc
 - d) Wildlife stewardship practices of other town forests (Preston Pond, Raven Ridge, etc.)
3. Design a monitoring program that:
 - a) Gives us useful data
 - b) Can integrate the community into the Forest
 - c) Coordinates with studies on adjacent plots, if those exist
 - d) Includes provisions for its management, such as identifying a point person responsible for implementing the Plan.
 - c) Supports development of pre-emptive measures for improving habitat, such as controlling the spread of invasive species, as well as responding to program findings
4. Periodically review the Plan's effectiveness and revise as necessary.

¹ "A species of plant or animal that has a large home range and broad habitat requirements, both of which overlap with other species, so that if it is given a large enough area for its own protection the other species will also benefit."
<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803110558777>