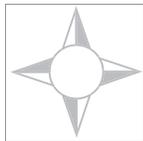


MAP Your Property



The next step in designing a customized management strategy is to inventory the features and uses of your property on a land use map. Below is an example that illustrates the types of features to include when developing a map of your own property. The base image of the schematic below is a print out from the **Web Soil Survey**, a free online natural resource information system. Web Soil Survey is available to the public at:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

To create your map, download an image from the *Web Soil Survey* or another map source as your base. Then, mark the fields, structures, land forms, water bodies, problem areas, and other notable uses and features. Or, you can sketch a basic hand drawing of the property's main features on the following page.

The map you create will be your reference point for planning future activities, such as placement of fences or tree plantings. Keep the map as a record of your baseline, or starting point. As you implement changes, update your property map to indicate any added measures.

Using Web Soil Survey

You can do much more than generate a map with *Web Soil Survey*. Go to the **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use** section under the **Soil Data Explorer** tab. The information available here includes:

Land Classification: Maps and reports for Farmland Classification to identify areas of prime farmland or Capability Class (a ranking of soil suitability for cropland).

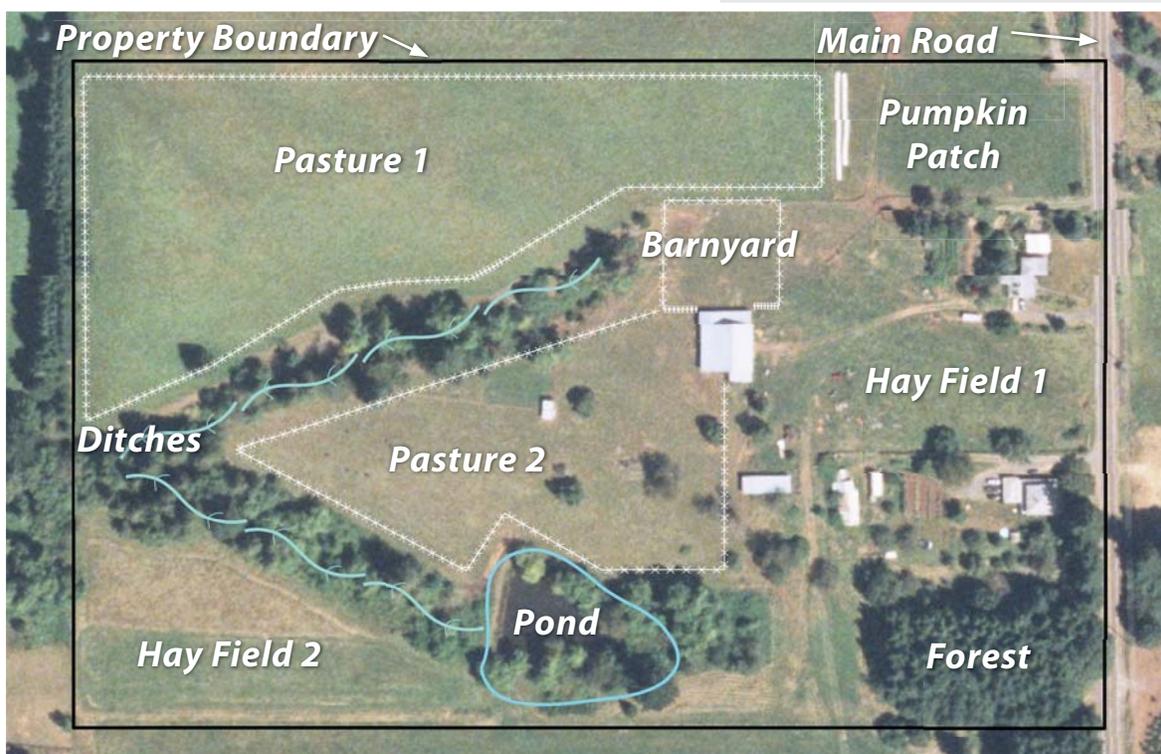
Vegetative Productivity: Maps and reports of expected crop yields for a variety of crops, including hay and pasture.

Building Site Development: Maps and reports with information on soil limitations for home sites.

Soil Properties and Qualities: Information on depth to seasonal high water tables as well as flooding and ponding frequency.

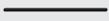
Site Breezy Hills Farm

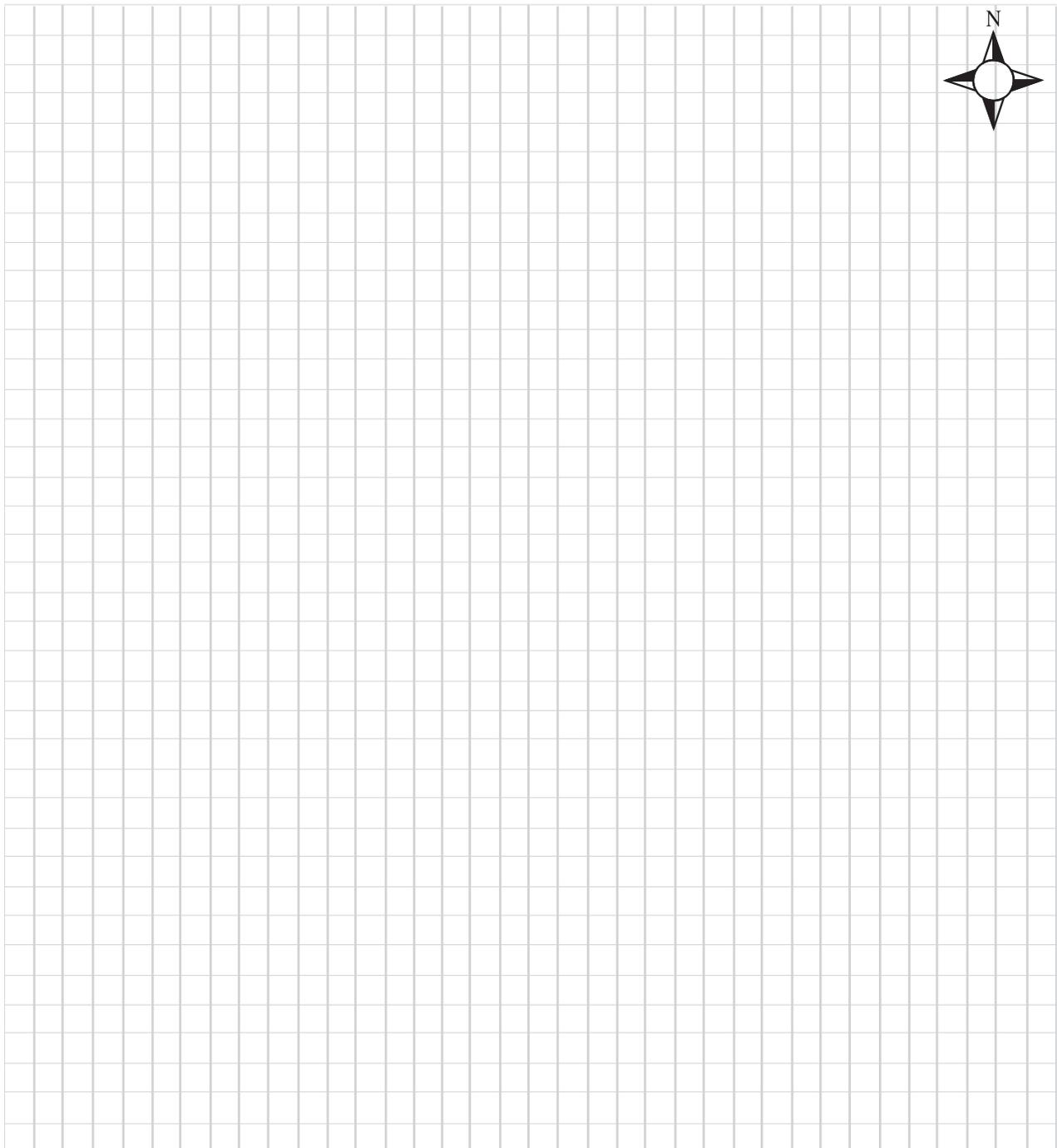
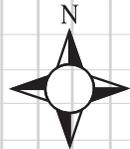
Date Sept. 2008



Property Map	Site	Date
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Legend (common symbols to use for hand-drawn maps):

	Fence		Stream		Manure Storage		Pasture
	Property Boundary		Pond		Forest		Field Number
	Cropland		Well		Slope		

INVENTORY

Your Natural Resources



Now that you have mapped your property, use this worksheet to capture more detailed information about each distinct section of the property, including land use, size, soils, plants, problems and general observations about conditions. The example below is based on the sample property that was mapped in the previous section.

Field/Acres: List each distinct section of the property and the approximate size.

Land Uses: List the major land uses for each section.

Soil: Look up your soil types online at the *Web Soil Survey* Web site at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. While you are there, be sure to take notes on—or print out—the soil suitabilities, limitations, properties and reports for soils in your area as appropriate. You may also want to print and attach a soil map. Further information on using Web Soil Survey can be found on pages 7 and 14, on the Web Soil Survey home page, or from your local NRCS or SWCD office.

Concerns: Note anything about each section of property that may be an eyesore, natural resource concern, seasonal problem, maintenance hassle or production issue. Or, simply note those things that you would like to improve over time.

Site *Breezy Hills Farm* **Date** *Sept. 2008*

Field	Acres	Land Use	Soil Type & Characteristics	Concerns: Natural Resource, Maintenance & Others
<i>pasture 1</i>	<i>5 ac</i>	<i>grazing</i>	<i>mapped as clay surface layer 8-15% slope slow intake rate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>uneven grazing</i> • <i>poor grass stands</i> • <i>muddy area on south side</i>
<i>pasture 2</i>	<i>3 ac</i>	<i>grazing</i>	<i>same as above</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>uneven grazing</i> • <i>poor grass stands</i> • <i>muddy area on north side</i> • <i>weeds</i>
<i>hay field 1</i>	<i>1.25 ac</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>same as above</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>weeds</i> • <i>lack of water during dry months</i>
<i>hay field 2</i>	<i>2 ac</i>	<i>hay</i>	<i>sandy surface 5% slope</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>weeds</i> • <i>lack of water during dry months</i> • <i>erosion into ditch</i> • <i>voles</i>
<i>forest land</i>	<i>1 ac</i>	<i>wildlife</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>weeds</i> • <i>excess debris on the ground</i>
<i>barnyard</i>	<i>.75 ac</i>	<i>feeding livestock</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>mud</i> • <i>removal and storage of manure</i> • <i>dirty runoff into other areas</i>
<i>pumpkin patch</i>	<i>1.25 ac</i>	<i>pumpkins</i>	<i>mapped as clay surface layer slow intake rate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>weeds</i> • <i>soil fertility</i> • <i>sprayed chemicals could drift over homestead</i>



Your Resources

Natural Resource Inventory			Site	Date
Field	Acres	Land Use	Soil Type & Characteristics	Concerns: Natural Resource, Maintenance & Others

COMPLETING Your STEPS Worksheets

Reference TIPS brochure, pg. 1

Worksheets



Once you have established your land management goals and have inventoried your property, you are ready to complete the STEPS worksheets on the following pages.

As you go through the following worksheets, keep in mind that helpful information can be found in the TIPS brochure. Also consider contacting local natural resource professionals and conservation groups to locate additional information that may be useful.

As you answer the questions provided on the STEPS worksheets, you will begin to assess conditions on your land and learn about a number of management options. Keep in mind that the alternatives provided are general in nature. The distinct features of your land—and the specific uses and goals you have for it—make each situation unique. As you begin to identify actions that may be appropriate, consider whether you can begin to make these improvements on your own. Many options will require specific considerations pertaining to the unique geography, hydrology, plants, wildlife and other features and conditions on your property. Some of these activities could require technical expertise; you may want to contact a natural resource professional for detailed assessments, conservation planning and recommendations. Sources for more information and assistance are listed in each section.

In addition, you should know that regulations and permit requirements vary depending on location, land use and other factors. As a landowner, it is your responsibility to learn about the regulations applicable in your area.

As you move forward with your land management goals, remember that an abundance of information and assistance is available through natural resource agencies and businesses.

If You Want to Go a Few More Steps

You may find that while the STEPS worksheets have helped you advance your land management goals, you would also like to address additional objectives or more complex issues.

More detailed evaluation processes are available through a variety of outlets. In addition, more comprehensive technical assistance is available through businesses and local, state, federal and non-profit entities. If you would like to additional assistance, contact one of the entities listed below:

- *Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD):* www.oacd.org
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):* www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

Additional information and assistance can also be found through the many other organizations listed in the worksheets and the **Resources** section on page 57.