



Some Things to Consider When Buying Forestland (For Central New York)

What are your goals? / What do you want to use the forestland for?

- Timber
 - Harvesting standing trees for income over time.
 - Short-Term Return
 - Medium to large diameter trees, preferably hardwoods, in need of harvesting (Crop trees- mature tree that contains a large volume of quality wood).
 - Long-Term Return
 - Smaller trees, able to conduct pre-commercial thins to improve size and shape of future crop trees.
- Firewood
 - Harvesting standing and downed wood for heating or sale as firewood.
 - Look for small-medium diameter hardwood trees, misshapen or in conflict with potential crop trees, can often be culled from timber stands.
- Agroforestry
 - The use of agriculture under a forested canopy: i.e. mushroom, ginseng (herbs), nut crops, and maple syrup.
 - Desired canopy is dependent upon Agroforestry activity. Also consider water availability and slope.
- Wildlife
 - Alteration of the landscape to increase wildlife habitat for wildlife viewing or hunting.
 - Trees possessing qualities for the individual wildlife species you would like to attract (i.e.- nesting trees, mass producing trees, tight canopy, open canopy, etc.).
- Water Resources
 - Preservation of water in areas for consumption or fishing habitat.
 - Presence of water system (pond or stream).
- Home site
 - Creation of a location for a seasonal or year-round house.
 - Soils suitable for construction and sanitary purposes.
 - Available water source.
 - Availability of utilities (either on or off grid).
- Recreation and Aesthetics
 - Development of trail systems, campsites, etc. for human use.
 - Any forest type will do- all dependent on owners tastes

- Preservation
 - Owning land to preserve it for future generations (no management done).
 - Any forest type will do- all dependent on your tastes.

Does the forestland possess the qualities needed for your management goals?

If not, can your goals be met with an acceptable amount of forest modification and labor?

Is the forestland an acceptable distance from your home/business/community?

Is the price of the forestland acceptable to you?- check with prices of similar property in the area.

Is the acreage the right size, not too big or too small?

If you wish to have roads on your property: Are passable roads present?

If not, is the cost to construct drivable roads acceptable?

If you answer yes to the above questions- the property is right for you.

Once you have decided on a piece of forestland:

- Have the boundaries surveyed and marked by a professional surveyor- at the sellers expense, so you know exactly where your property is.
- If you want to manage your forest, especially for timber, consider hiring a forester.
- Get to know your property and enjoy!
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For more information about wildlife, timber and agroforestry go to: Cornell Cooperative Extension's Forestry Extension Program web site <http://www.forestconnect.org/>.