# Spring Forest Management Checklist

Spring is one of the most important seasons for landowners to evaluate forest health, plan timber work, and prepare for the growing season. Use this checklist to stay on track. Need help? ***Contact FORECON's professional forestry team at (716) 664-5602 or marketing@foreconinc.com.***

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## 1 Property Inspection & Assessment

☐ Walk property boundaries and inspect for encroachments (e.g., illegal structures, fencing, dumping)
☐ Check and repaint boundary lines if needed
☐ Inspect gates, culverts, and access roads for winter damage
☐ Look for erosion on skid trails and logging roads
☐ Evaluate stream crossings for stability and sediment issues

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## 2 Forest Health Monitoring

☐ Check for invasive plant species (e.g., Japanese stilt grass, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard)
☐ Follow up with FORECON for treatment options
☐ Look for early signs of insect infestations
☐ Inspect for fungal diseases or unusual dieback
☐ Identify hazard trees near trails, roads, or structures
☐ Monitor regeneration in recently harvested areas
☐ Assess deer browse pressure on young seedlings

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## 3 Silviculture & Timber Planning

☐ Evaluate stands for thinning opportunities
☐ Mark crop trees for release
☐ Assess need for timber stand improvement (TSI)
☐ Plan spring planting projects and order seedlings (if not already secured)
☐ Schedule site preparation for planting areas
☐ Review forest management plan objectives

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## 4 Invasive Species Control

☐ Map invasive populations
☐ Schedule early-season herbicide treatments

☐ Plan mechanical removal where appropriate
☐ Monitor previously treated areas for regrowth
☐ Clean any equipment that is used in your woods to prevent spread of invasive species

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### 5 Wildlife Habitat Improvements

☐ Install or repair nest boxes
☐ Create brush piles for small mammals and birds
☐ Protect mast-producing trees (oak, hickory, etc.)
☐ Maintain wildlife openings and food plots
☐ Evaluate water sources (ponds, streams, vernal pools)

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### 6 Road & Infrastructure Maintenance

☐ Grade and crown forest roads
☐ Clean ditches and water bars
☐ Seed and mulch disturbed soil
☐ Inspect bridges and culverts
☐ Check signage and property access points

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### 7 Fire Prevention & Preparedness

☐ Clear debris from access lanes
☐ Maintain firebreaks
☐ Check water access points
☐ Review emergency access routes
☐ Coordinate with local fire department if needed

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### 8 Administrative & Planning Tasks

☐ Review property tax and cost-share programs (e.g., Clean & Green, PWREN, 480-A, NRCS)
☐ Confirm insurance coverage
☐ Update forest records and maps
☐ Set goals for the growing season

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### 🌳 Need help completing this checklist?

Contact **FORECON's professional forestry team** to schedule a property assessment or management consultation. FORECON offers a wide array of services including: herbicide and pesticide application, timber sales and timber valuations, forest management plans, custom property mapping, boundary line maintenance, custom wildlife management and recreational leasing and much more.