



## Vermont Town Forest Census

### Main question block

Thanks for contributing to the first VT Town Forest Census! It has 22 question topics and should take roughly 20 minutes for each forest. As a census, we are trying to capture data for **all** forests owned by local government entities in Vermont, so your response is valuable.

**Please submit your responses by October 31, 2024.**

Although this is called the Town Forest Census, we seek to include all "primarily forested" areas of 5 acres or more that are owned by local government entities, which are typically municipalities (e.g., towns, cities) and districts (e.g., school, recreation, and water) plus tribes. These can include, for example, town forests, forest parks, watershed reserves, and forested conservation areas. By "primarily forested," we mean approximately 50% or greater forest cover, recognizing that wetlands, reforestation, and land use history can affect forest cover.

Early in the census form there is a drop down menu where you will select the town or district or tribe that you represent, and a second menu to chose the one forest for which you are completing the form (as indicated in the email with the link to this census form).

We have tried to distribute this census to the appropriate managing body that stewards the forest and to the best contact person. If we got that wrong, please let us know! Also, if you notice that there are forests missing in our list for your town, please let us know in the comment box so we can add them.

We encourage you to provide any additional thoughts in the comment boxes throughout the census form. You may leave the form and resume progress later, as long as you use the same device and browser in which you started the census form. At the end there is a link to our website which has a collection of online resources which may be helpful for you and your forest.

If you have questions, please contact us at [Vermonttownforestproject@uvm.edu](mailto:Vermonttownforestproject@uvm.edu)

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this census and for all you do to steward Vermont's forested lands!

## **Question 1. Select Your Forest**

1a: Municipality or district or tribe, and forest

Please first select the town or local government entity that owns the

forest. Then review the list of forests that are included for that town / district / tribe. Select the one forest for which you are completing this census (as indicated in the email that contained the link for this census). When you click the location drop down, select the location that is provided - this is the best information we have been able to obtain for this forest.

Town / district / tribe

Forest Name

Approximate Location

1b. Do you have any updates or clarifications to the forest name or location (populated from our list) shown above?

1c. Are there any forested areas (5 acres or greater with approximately 50% or greater forest cover) owned by your municipality or local districts that are missing from our list? If so, please provide the various names by which those forests may be known, and if possible, their approximate locations, and the contact person who is responsible for stewarding each forest.

## Question 2. Forest Description

2a: How many total acres is this forest?

2b: In approximately what year(s) was your forest established and perhaps added to?

2c. Any comments or clarifications regarding the description of this forest?

### Question 3. "Town Forest" term interpretation

3a: What does the term "town forest" mean to you?

3b: Do you consider this forest a town forest?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3c: Why do you or why do you not consider this a town forest?

**Question 4. Please tell us about yourself**

4a. Your name

4b. Your role

4c. Length of time in role (years)

4d. Your email address

*Note that this is a required question so that we can follow up with you if*

*needed about your responses.*

4e. We respect your privacy. If you do not want your email address shared with our collaborators (State of Vermont, other researchers, or other towns), or added to our list for general project updates, please indicate that below.

- Do not share my email address with collaborators
- Do not add my email address to the project update distribution list

4f. Your phone number (optional)

4g. Is there additional contact information we should use in future years to conduct the next iteration of this Census?

## Question 5. Governance

5a. Who (individual or committee) has been designated by the municipal, district, or tribal governing body to oversee the stewardship of this forest? If none of the suggestions seem appropriate, please select "other" and describe the designated steward(s).

- City/Town manager
- Conservation Commission
- Department of Public Works
- Recreation Committee or Parks & Rec Dept
- Town Forest Committee
- Other, please specify

5b. Any comments or clarifications regarding who has been designated to guide stewardship of this forest? Does the steward or stewardship committee for this forest have a title?



## Question 6. Online Presence

6a. What official online presence, if any, do the stewards or governmental owners maintain to share information about this forest? Please include website URL and/or social media platforms and profile names.

6b. Where else do people find information about this forest? Check all that apply.

Website or webpage, please indicate URL if known:

Social media, please indicate platform and profile name if known (e.g. "Facebook, @ourtownforest")

- Trail finder app, please indicate platform name if known (e.g., All Trails, Trail Forks)

- Crowd sourced platforms (e.g., Strava)
- Front Porch Forum
- We Intentionally have not publicized this forest
- None
- Unsure

6c. Any comments or clarifications regarding online presence for this forest?

## Question 7. Management Plans

7a. Are there one or more management plans for this forest? Check all that apply.

- Overall / comprehensive management plan

- Forestry Plan (for timber harvest and related vegetation management)
- Trail Plan
- Recreation Plan
- Invasive Species Plan
- We do not have a plan
- Other, please specify
- Unsure

7b. Any comments or clarifications regarding forest management plan(s)?

### Question 8. Protection Status

8a. Is there a conservation easement or other legal mechanism to protect this forest in perpetuity?

- Yes, fully conserved. Please specify mechanism and parties involved (e.g., easement holder)

- Yes, partially conserved. Please specify mechanism and parties involved (e.g., easement holder) and number of acres if known.

- No
- Unsure

8b. Why does this forest have / not have a conservation easement?

8c. Any comments or clarifications regarding how this forest may be protected from development?

## Question 9. Selling or Developing

9a. In the last 5 years, have there been any plans to sell, transfer, or develop any part of this forest?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9b. Any comments or clarifications regarding development plans for this forest?

## Question 10. Funding

10a. What sources of funding were used / are being used to **purchase**

**or otherwise establish** this forest? Check all that apply.

- Federal funds
- State funds
- Town general funds
- Town conservation funds
- Forfeiture / failure to pay property taxes
- Private donations or grants (monetary or land)
- Grants from non-profit organizations
- Timber sale revenue
- Others, please specify
- Unknown/unsure

10b. What are the sources of funding to **maintain or steward** this forest? Check all that apply.

- Town general funds
- Town conservation funds
- Private donations or grants
- Federal or state grants
- Grants from non-profit organizations
- Sale of wood products
- Sugaring lease
- Users fees, permits, other non-wood revenue generated by the forest
- Volunteer labor
- No funds available
- Others, please specify
- Unknown/unsure

10c. Any comments or clarifications regarding funding of this forest?

## Question 11. Management Objectives

11a. What is this forest managed for? Check all that apply.

- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Climate resilience
- Cultural practices or ceremonies
- Educational opportunities
- Firewood
- Non-timber forest products (e.g. maple syrup, foraging)
- Preservation of culture/heritage/history
- Protection of forest connectivity, sensitive ecological features, habitats, and species
- Recreation
- Timber
- Watershed protection/ flood mitigation
- Unsure

Others, please specify:

11b. Any comments or clarifications regarding the management objectives of this forest?

## Question 12. Wood harvest

12a. Were wood products harvested as part of a management activity (to support ecological, economic or other objectives) from this forest in the past 15 years?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



12b. Any comments or clarifications about wood harvests in this town forest? For example, if revenue was generated from wood products, how was it used?

### Question 13. Recreational and Educational Activities

13a. Indicate the level of use in this forest for each of the activities below.

	primary use	significant use	minor use	not used for	unsure	not applicable	not allowed
Hiking/walking/running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ATV use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	primary use	significant use	minor use	not used for	unsure	not applicable	not allowed
Skiing/riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fat tire biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sledding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foraging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	primary use	significant use	minor use	not used for	unsure	not applicable	not allowed
Camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social gatherings or events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational walks, talks, events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use by people with varied abilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Viewing and experiencing nature (birding, leaf-peeping, meditation etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visits by schools, afterschool programs and camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13b. Any comments or clarifications regarding recreational and educational activities in this forest?




## Question 14. Monitoring visits or uses

14a. Is visitor use and/or impacts monitored this forest?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

14b. Any additional comments or clarifications regarding the monitoring of visitor use and impacts for this forest? If you do monitor use, can you briefly explain how and what information is collected?



## Question 15. Challenges

15a. How challenging are the following issues and activities in the stewardship of this forest?

	major challenge	minor challenge	not a challenge	unsure	not applicable
Balancing public access and ecological integrity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community's awareness of forest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing, maintaining, or managing trail network	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging the public in planning processes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	major challenge	minor challenge	not a challenge	unsure	not applicable
Ensuring access for all abilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing conflicts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mapping, survey, and GIS capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obtaining legal advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	major challenge	minor challenge	not a challenge	unsure	not applicable
Protecting ecological features and functions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	major challenge	minor challenge	not a challenge	unsure	not applicable
Road access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Securing funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Securing paid staff support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing management, stewardship and/or monitoring plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15b. Any additional comments or clarifications regarding particularly challenging topics for this forest?

### Question 16. Balancing Recreation and Ecological Protection

16a. Are there any trends, challenges, or insights about how you or the stewardship committee seek to balance recreation and ecological protection for this forest?

16b. Have any of these actions been considered or implemented to balance ecological protection and recreation for this forest?

	Have been implemented	Being considered
Seasonal trail/area closures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time of day trail/area closures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weather dependent trail/area closures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Removing or rerouting trails in/near sensitive areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a code of conduct campaign	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limiting types of recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limiting number of people allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to hunting, fishing, or harvesting rules	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designating areas free of human activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educating users of ecological impacts from human activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educating stewards / volunteers of ecological impacts from human activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Periodic assessment of recreation impacts on the ecosystem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have been  
implementedBeing  
considered

Other, please specify

16c. Any additional comments or clarifications regarding activities that balance recreation and ecological protection for this forest?

## Question 17. Interest in Assistance

17a. If resources were available (e.g. funding, technical assistance), how interested would the steward or stewardship committee be in receiving help for this forest with the following topics?

*We know this list is long, but a principal goal of this Census is to understand the kinds of assistance communities want most to address issues they face. Your responses here will guide opportunities for peer learning, state assistance, and future research.*

	very interested	somewhat interested	not interested	unsure
Accessibility for people with varied abilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carbon storage and sequestration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change impacts and adaptation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation easements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecological assessment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitation and assistance with difficult community conversations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	very interested	somewhat interested	not interested	unsure
Flooding and flood resilience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indigenous heritage and contemporary use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invasive species management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Management Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Media or online presence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	very interested	somewhat interested	not interested	unsure
Monitoring wildlife and environmental impacts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to learn from other town forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting sensitive areas and critical habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable harvest of wood and non-wood forest products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	very interested	somewhat interested	not interested	unsure
Trail and/or road maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail system development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unauthorized use or unsanctioned trail building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify <input style="width: 250px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17b. Any comments or clarifications regarding interest in assistance for this forest?

### Question 18. Acknowledging Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Stewardship

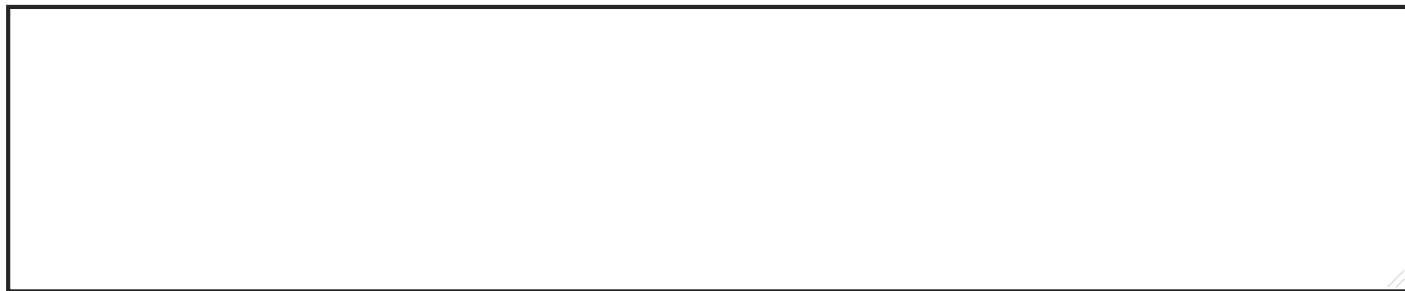
18a. Which, if any, activities below regarding Indigenous peoples and cultures are you or the stewardship committee interested in pursuing for

this forest? Check all that apply.

- Conducting an archeological review
- Consulting Indigenous knowledge-keepers about traditional ecological knowledge
- Developing a land acknowledgement
- Engaging Indigenous partners in planning, implementation, or governance
- Hosting Indigenous cultural or educational events
- Incorporating Indigenous art, education, wayfinding, language, or history in interpretive signs or trails
- Managing species of indigenous cultural value (e.g. black ash for basketry)
- Providing for hunting/fishing/gathering rights for Indigenous people
- Using Indigenous language for naming places, features, trails, etc.
- Others, please specify

18b. What activities, if any, regarding Indigenous peoples and cultures have already been implemented for this forest?

18c. Any comments or clarifications regarding Indigenous peoples and cultures and this forest?



## Question 19. COVID-19 Pandemic Trends

19a. How, if at all, have the following forest uses and issues changed, comparing 2024 (now) to before March 2020 for this forest?

	Significant decrease	Some decrease	No change	Some increase	Significant increase	Unsure
Different types of recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events and educational programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Formal trail development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Informal trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of visitors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Significant decrease	Some decrease	No change	Some increase	Significant increase	Unsure
Maintenance issues (sanitation, vandalism, repairs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking demand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Significant decrease	Some decrease	No change	Some increase	Significant increase	Unsure
Quality of wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wild-crafting and gathering forest products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19b. Any comments or clarifications regarding pandemic related trends for this forest?

## Question 20. Carbon Markets

20a. Forests that sequester and store carbon above a baseline level may be able to generate revenue by participating in a high quality carbon offset program. Are you and/or the stewardship committee interested in exploring or pursuing forest carbon market opportunities for this forest?

Yes

- No
- Unsure

20b. Please use the comment box to describe any on-going efforts, to ask questions, and/or to provide reasons for interest or disinterest in forest carbon credits or markets.

### Question 20. Flooding

20a. For this forest, which of these were impacted by flooding in 2023 and/or 2024?

	no impact	some impact	major impact	unsure
Area closure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bridges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culverts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drainage patterns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	no impact	some impact	major impact	unsure
Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Timber or fuelwood harvest operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree damage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20b. Any comments or clarifications regarding flooding and this forest?

## Question 21. Invasive Species

21a. Which statements below describe the issue of invasive plant and animal species in this forest? Check all that apply.

- We are not aware of any invasive species.
- We know we have invasive species.
- We have taken some action to treat invasives.

- We have taken considerable action to treat invasives.
- We need help with invasive species, such as \_\_\_\_\_ (please provide any specific assistance ideas if known.)

21b. Any comments or clarifications regarding invasive species in this forest?

## Block 1

### Question 22. Final Comments

22. Is there anything else unique, exciting, or challenging about this forest and its stewardship? What is most loved about it? What would you want everyone in your community to know about it? What do you or the stewardship committee worry about? Don't hold back, we want to know!



**This is the end of the Census form. If you want to go back to a previous question, please do so now. By hitting the "Submit" button below, you will complete the survey and will be unable to return to it.**

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