Forests cover 44% of Beaver County. Most of this forestland is in private ownership. Forests are a valuable resource; both ecologically and financially. Landowners can manage their forest acres to improve the environment and provide income. Developing a management plan is the key to providing maximum benefits from your land. Penn State Extension has general information on forest management (click here)

Wildlife habitat, clean water and control of invasive plants are just a few of the many conservation goals which can be achieved by managing your forest acres. Start by developing a land management plan to guide your way. Contact the conservation district Agricultural Conservationist to get started. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has programs to help landowners implement forest management (click here)

Timber harvests conducted with forethought and planning can help landowners meet many land management goals. **Before** a logger harvests your timber, consider contacting the state Bureau of Forestry service forester or the district Agricultural Conservationist. Beware of anyone who suggests a diameter limit cut or similar “select” harvest. Often these harvests remove all the valuable trees and leave only the “weed” trees to grow for decades into the future. Obtaining several bids for your timber is a tool to maximize the value of your timber. Have a legally binding contract for your timber harvest. Consulting foresters can be hired to write and oversee timber harvest plans. (click here)