Getting Started with the Land Stewards Journal

Overview

> The Land Stewards Journal (LSJ) is a software tool to help landowners, organizations and businesses organize and review their land stewardship work and progress. LSJ is organized around the cycle of planning, action and monitoring that is the core of successful land stewardship projects.
>
> This Quick Start Guide is an abbreviated version of the help system provided with the program and on-line. The help system is the best resource for detailed information on using the software.

Web site:

- Home: www.shdworks.com/lsj

- About: gives an overview of program features.

- Download: the download page is where you can get the most recent program install file and supporting documentation files.

- Support: Here you can find an on-line version of the help system and contact information for reporting bugs, getting help or suggesting improvements.

Install

- LSJ is a Windows desktop application. Mac and Linux versions are not currently available.

- Download the LSJ setup file, then run it by double clicking on it. Windows might ask you if you really want to run this untrusted file. You can click Yes.

- If you are running Windows 10 and you get a message which says "Windows protected your PC", then click on the "More info" link and click "Run anyway".

- The program can be uninstalled either by opening the Control Panel and choosing "Programs and Features" or by selecting "Computer" in the file manager and then selecting "Uninstall or Change a Program" in the window header. The uninstall will not delete your user data.

Help

- HTML help is included with the program and is the best resource for explanations of the program's functionality. You can press the F1 key or click the Quick Help question mark in the navigation bar to pull up the help page for the screen you are on. The help system can also be accessed using LSJ's Help menu.

- Blue asterisks next to data inputs indicate that an LSJ right click operation is available for that item. These reminders can be hidden using program Options.

Sample Data

- The Land Stewards journal comes with a set of sample data to help you get a feel for the program. You can modify this data as you wish and you can delete it when you are ready to set up your own property.

Screen layout

- The LSJ screen is divided into several areas. At the very top is the program menu. Below that is the Navigation Bar. On the left side is the summary bar with information about the current owner, property and management unit. The center of the screen is your work space.

Workflow

- **Property Setup:** The first step when getting started with your own property is to record basic information about you, your property, and the management units you are working on. This information is managed by clicking the "Owner", "Property" or "Unit" buttons in the navigation bar. You should NOT type your own data over the sample data to set up your own restoration. Delete the sample owner and click the "Add Landowner" button to create a new owner instead. The program will create a property and management unit along with the owner. Only a name is required for these, although filling in more of the data for each will help later on in synthesis and reporting.

- **Multiple Owners:** LSJ can operate in single landowner mode or with multiple landowners. You switch between modes using the setting in the program Options. By default the program comes with single owner mode enabled. If you have not deleted the sample data when you create a new owner, a message will be displayed asking if you want to switch to multiple owners.

- **Navigation Trees:** The Planning, Actions and Monitoring screens each have a navigation tool on the left that allows you to view the items associated with the

screen. Right clicking on a node in the tree will display a popup menu with the operations appropriate for that node. The nodes displayed in the tree are filtered by the year range shown in the Timeline at the bottom of the main screen. In the case of the Planning screen, the tree is also filtered by whether goals and objectives have been marked as completed. A checkbox allows you to hide or show completed items.

- **Planning:** Planning in LSJ consists of setting goals and objectives. To view planning items, click on "Planning" in the Navigation Bar. Planning doesn't constrain the rest of LSJ operations but can be used to guide your actions. The planning portion of the program is optional and can be hidden based on your Options setting. See the help file for a discussion of Status

- **Actions:** LSJ actions are Activities and Events (click Actions in the Navigation Bar). You can distinguish between these however you like, but one way is to assign planned work as activities and unplanned happenings as events. So a day of brush clearing might be an activity while storm damage would be an event.

- **Monitoring:** Monitoring and assessment are your measurements of change. The upper half of the monitoring screen provides general data input for the monitoring session. Each monitoring session can have multiple species. You add species using the Patches section of the monitoring screen. Patch data is more oriented towards plants than animals, but adding other assessment protocol screens is a design priority and you should see improvements in new versions of the software before long. Clicking on "Add..." in the Patches section will display a popup menu of ways to add data including using the Lookup database described below.

- **Map:** Currently LSJ can only display a map as a jpg or other image format. The Nav bar Map shows the property map image you have designated in the "Map" input of the Property screen.

- **Lookup:** LSJ includes a lookup database of over 4000 Wisconsin plants and vertebrate animals. You can search the database under "Tools" in the main menu, however it can also be used to add species data directly to Patches, either directly or through the Common Species list you can set up. These options are accessed via the "Add.." button on the Monitoring Patches screen.

- **Reports:** are without doubt the most important part of the program. Unfortunately reports are not yet available but are another high priority item for near term design and development.