

WHY USE A FORESTER?

Working with a professional forester can increase the benefits you receive from your forest. Professional foresters are an important step in deliberate forest management.

Your forest should be here long after you're gone, and you likely know that the way your forest is managed will be evident for many years or decades. Even so, over 80% of people who own forest land do not take advantage of professionals who can help them. These professionals are foresters, people trained as foresters at universities to help you reach your ownership objectives. However, selecting a professional forester requires some forethought and a little information.



ARE ALL FORESTERS THE SAME?

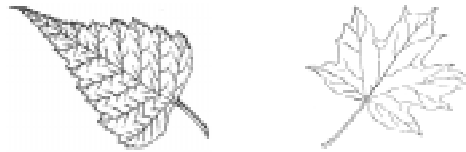
There are several types of foresters. Only you can select a forester that meets your needs. You should look for a forester that understands your objectives, interests, and limitations, as well as someone you can trust and feel comfortable with. This will enable you to enjoy a long-term relationship that ensures the sustainability of your forest.

TYPES OF FORESTERS

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) foresters are responsible for several federal and New York State forest programs. They can evaluate your resource and offer suggestions on how to proceed.



Private consultant foresters can offer in-depth services, though they usually charge a fee. Forest owners using private consultants receive more net money and have more trees remaining in better condition in their woodlots following a harvest than forest owners who try to conduct a harvest without a forester.



Industrial foresters may offer their services for free, for a commitment of the timber, or perhaps right of first refusal. As with all foresters, make sure you ask plenty of questions before agreeing to a contract.

Any of these types of foresters deserve consideration. However, you should generally avoid any individual who calls himself or herself a forester but can produce no credentials demonstrating they have professional training as a forester. These individuals may not have the background necessary to protect your long-term goals and forest values.

Make sure you talk to several potential foresters, ask for a resume, credentials from a professional society, and references.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

A good, and inexpensive, first step is to contact a DEC forester or a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers. MFOs are forest owners like you who have been trained by to help you get started with forest management. MFO volunteers can help prepare you to optimally utilize your time with a professional forester.



Remember... your woodlot is a valuable investment that can grow in value while you enjoy it today. Care for it well and it will care for you!

Prepared by Jessica Tabolt and Peter Smallidge through the Cornell University Extension Forestry Program. Ithaca, NY. (2/00)

NEW YORK FOREST FACTS

- New York State is 62% forested, an increase of 23% since 1953.
- Private landowners control 85% of NY's 15.4 million acres of commercial forest land, forest industry controls 8%, and public lands account for 7%.
- The average private forest landowner parcel size is 30 acres.
- Most people own forest land for a variety of reasons, and most forest owners would benefit by having a management plan developed by a professional forester.
- Only a small percentage of landowners have a management plan prepared by a professional forester.
- The most common tree species are sugar maple, red maple, hemlock, white pine, and white ash.
- The forest industry employs over 60,000 people and contributes \$4 billion to the gross state product.



RESOURCE DIRECTORY



New York State
Department of
Environmental
Conservation
Central Office:
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 457-7370

Cornell Cooperative Extension,
Department of Natural Resources
Master Forest Owners/COVERTS
Volunteer Program:

Cornell University
108 Fernow Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607) 255-2814

- ü Check your phone book for local DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension office phone numbers.

Woodland Owner Associations:

New York Forest Owners Association:
(800) 836-3566

Catskill Forest Association:
(914) 586-3054

Tug Hill Resources Investment
for Tomorrow:
(315) 376-5595

Thank you
for your
forest
stewardship!



got trees? Selecting a Forester

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO HELP
FOREST LANDOWNERS MAKE INFORMED
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.

