



If timber or other forest products are to be sold, the contract should describe what is to be sold, when and how it will be harvested. It should set specifications for logging road construction; maintenance; final condition on work completion; provisions for compliance with state, county and local laws and regulations; and penalties for damage to site or residual trees.

Certified Foresters®

The Certified Forester® program is a national certification program that assists landowners in identifying a qualified forester. The Certified Forester program ensures that foresters:

- Meet the profession's educational requirements
- Have at least five years of professional forestry experience
- Adhere to standards of professional practice
- Pass a rigorous competency exam that measures knowledge and skills
- Participate in continuing education

For more information on this program, visit www.certifiedforester.org or call (866) 897-8720.

Society of American Foresters

Founded in 1900, this national organization represents all segments of the forestry profession. Its objects including advancing the science, technology, education, and practice of forestry and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

All members subscribe to a code of ethics concerning their relations with the public, the land, their employers, including clients, and each other. Compliance with the code ensures they will perform only those services for which he or she is qualified; that all services will be provided with the highest standards of quality, and with loyalty to the employer; that information concerning the affairs of the employer will be held in confidence; that conflicts of interest will be avoided; and that he or she will recommend the use of other experts and specialists when it is in the best interest of the employer.

The Society is committed to foresters who can help you increase the satisfaction you get from your land. Regardless of your objectives, the forester you select will be committed to the ultimate land ethic: the obligation of an owner to manage the forest in such a way that it can be passed to the next generation with its values undiminished and preferably enhanced. Visit www.eforester.org to learn more.



Society of
American Foresters

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You Need a Forester



Society of
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People own and buy woodland—or land that could be forested—for many reasons from esthetic to economic. Whatever your reasons, if you own, plan to purchase or want to sell property you need a forester to help you with your ownership objectives.

What is a Forester?

A forester has earned a bachelor's degree or higher in an accredited forestry curriculum at a college or university. The Society of American Foresters, a national professional organization is an accrediting body for forestry. The Society requires that the curriculum be well rounded to provide the breadth of knowledge needed.

Many foresters also have advanced education in wildlife and fisheries biology, soil science, and hydrology.

Forest technicians can help on-the-ground activities involved in land management. Technicians usually have at least an associate (two-year) degree.

Sources of Forestry Services

Advice from a forester can come from a variety of sources.

Consulting foresters provide general or specialized forestry advice and services for a fee or under contract. They often serve as long-term advisers and representatives for their clients.

The US Forest Service offers landowner assistance programs such as the Forest Legacy Program, Forest Stewardship Program and The Forestland Enhancement Program.

State forestry agencies provide advice and technical assistance such as preparation of reforestation plans and management, taxation advice, and information on cost-sharing programs. Most state service foresters will provide advice on timber marketing but will not participate in actual sales.



A forester can help you:

- Improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities
- Protect soils and water quality
- Improve protection from wild fire
- Inventory your forest to learn its quality and value
- Identify opportunities, problems, and needs
- Reestablish trees on bare land
- Improve forest stands or desired tree species
- Enhance ecological diversity
- Prevent or control harmful insects and diseases
- Administer a timber harvest
- Administer harvest activities
- Identify financial incentives programs and other help
- Obtain inventories and values for estate settlement
- Buy or sell a forest property

Local and regional offices of the Cooperative Extension System provide useful, practical, and research-based information to agricultural producers, small business owners, youth, consumers, and others in rural areas and communities of all sizes.

Making a Choice

Before using ANY forester you should check credentials including education, experience and references. If your state has a licensing or registration requirement for foresters, is the individual in compliance? Many states do not require foresters to be licensed or registered, so you may have no legal assurance of a forester's qualifications.

After preliminary discussions, you may wish to talk with landowners or look at property with which the forester has worked. If tasks like planting, thinning, or harvesting are needed, you should ask whether the forester will oversee them. Although a forester does not always supervise such work as planting or harvesting, he or she should arrange for both supervision and quality control.

The landowner should be alert to possible conflicts of interest and if the person offering the service has other responsibilities that might cause biased recommendations.

Contracts are Important

A landowner should have a contract to avoid possible misunderstandings and make clear what is expected by both parties. Some things you should consider in your contract:

- Location and description of the property
- Responsibility for determining and marking boundaries
- Description of services to be performed will be provided
- Ownership of data such as timber inventory, maps, computations, and analyses
- Assurances that legal requirements including Workmen's Compensation, liability protection, and other labor and safety laws are met for persons working on your property
- Contract performance and quality standards, including penalties for failure to meet contract specifications
- Amount to be paid and the schedule for payment