Other Sources of Help

There are other agencies and associations in the private forestry assistance network that can help. Here are a few that you might consider contacting:

University of Wisconsin Extension Agents—Each County has a UWEX office with helpful bulletins about forestry. Some may offer Master Woodland Stewards courses for forestry enthusiasts.

Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee
PO Box 285
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone: 715-252-2001
Email: wtfc@athenet.net

Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
PO Box 285, 2000 Maria Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0285
Phone: 715-346-4798
www.wisconsinwoodlands.org

For a Directory of Foresters

Contact your local DNR Service Center, UW-Extension office or:

WDNR - Division of Forestry
101 South Webster St., Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
(608) 267-7494

Check our website at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/index.htm

Private Forestry Assistance in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
PUB-FR-068-2008

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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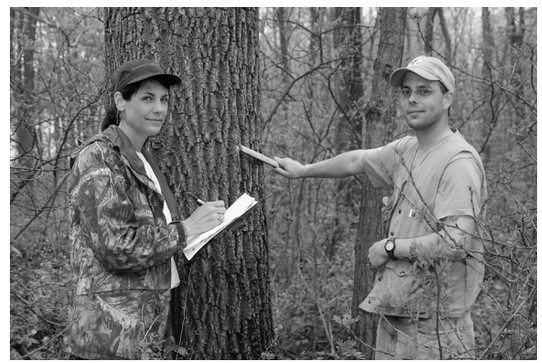
SERVICE TO PEOPLE AND THEIR RESOURCE
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
SINCE 1904

With 16 million acres of woodland, nearly half of the state of Wisconsin is forested. Individuals and families privately own the majority (57%) of the forestland.

These lands are important for the scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities they provide. They also work to stabilize our soil, purify our air, and filter our water. Along with these environmental and social benefits, privately owned forests also produce 64% of the raw materials used in Wisconsin's forest products industries, helping employ more than 300,000 people.



Benefits of Professional Forestry Assistance

Multiple economic, social and environmental benefits can be yours through thoughtful management of your forested acreage. Be an informed landowner by taking advantage of educational opportunities offered by DNR, University Extension, and private associations. Talk to your neighbors. Most importantly, use the advice of professional foresters.

With the help of a professional forester, your land will be managed under the principles of sustainable forestry to meet your objectives and assure productivity for future generations. Foresters can evaluate the condition and capability of your woodland, clarify your objectives, prescribe treatments, implement forestry practices and help assure that you receive fair value for products you might harvest.

The Private Forestry Assistance Network

Forest management information is available in Wisconsin through a network of public and private resource managers, industries, landowner organizations and educators. With about 350,000 private forestland owners in Wisconsin, cooperation among resource conservation partners is essential to reach as many landowners as possible.

Professional foresters are a critical part of the assistance network. DNR Service Foresters provide guidance to approximately 9,000 private forest owners a year. DNR has about 230 foresters who work with private landowners and who manage public land and provide fire protection. The state also offers a Cooperating Forester program under which landowners are referred to consulting and industrial foresters. Cooperating private foresters agree to follow DNR forestry standards and abide by a code of ethical conduct.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-7494 for more information.

DNR Service Foresters

DNR foresters are available in each county to provide forest management assistance to landowners. Within demand and workload constraints, DNR Service Foresters can:

- Provide basic information regarding your forest's condition and needs.
- Explain forest protection methods against insects, disease, and fire.
- Prepare forest management plans that address your objectives.
- Provide timber sale recommendations and advice.
- Administer forest tax law programs.
- Assist with cost-sharing programs for tree planting, woodland improvement, erosion control, wildlife habitat and other conservation projects.
- Provide a maximum of 24 hours (three working days) of service to a landowner each year.
- Refer you to a Cooperating Forester in your area for services they cannot provide.
- Establish timber sales when services from a Cooperating Forester in your area are not available.

Cooperating Foresters

Cooperating Foresters offer a wider range of services than DNR foresters are able to provide. Private consulting foresters in the program work as agents of the employing landowner. They represent the best interests of the owners for a fee. Industrial foresters also provide guidance as representatives of their employing forest products firms. In addition to many services provided by DNR, Cooperating Foresters can:

- Provide intermediate stand treatments, such as tree planting, pruning, thinning, prescribed burning, and pest control.
- Appraise the value of your land, timber, damage, or trespass.
- Provide expert testimony in trespass and damage claims.
- Provide road layout and design.
- Assist with the acquisition and sale of forest lands.
- Administer timber sales from start to finish.
- Survey your land and establish boundary lines.
- Inventory and map your forest land.
- Provide timber income tax guidance.

Referral System for Timber Sales

When a landowner is seeking assistance with a timber sale, the DNR forester will refer them to Cooperating Foresters in their area. If a Cooperating Forester is not available to assist the landowner, then after the referral time period has elapsed the DNR forester may help if their own workload permits. Regardless of the situation present for a landowner, DNR foresters are there to help and can provide the necessary information, guidance, and contacts to achieve the landowner's objectives.

Why Use a Cooperating Forester for Your Timber Sale?

When you harvest your timber, you want assurance that the operation will go smoothly. Working with a forester will help ensure:

- That the forestry practices used will enhance the future condition and value of your woodland.
- That your property objectives are achieved.
- That you receive the best cash return on your investment.
- That all the details of a timber sale have been considered. This includes determining the volume to be sold, writing specifications for bids, assessing the bids, handling the money, supervising the harvest, ensuring proper payment, assisting with tax considerations, and closing the sale.

Things to Consider When Selecting a Private Forester

To achieve your objectives, it is essential that you select the right forester. This is especially true when considering any kind of timber harvesting on your land. You need to review a potential forester's qualifications and talk to references they supply. Here are some things you might want to consider:

- Years and type of experience
- Educational background
- Affiliation with professional forestry organizations, such as the Association of Consulting Foresters or the Society of American Foresters
- Availability throughout your entire project
- Whether or not they carry appropriate insurance
- References from former clients
- Empathy towards your objectives
- Knowledge of sustainable forestry and willingness to follow its principles
- Their overall attitude towards you and consideration of your land

Consulting Forester Fees

Fees charged by consulting foresters in the Cooperating Forester program will vary depending on the type of service requested, size of area to be managed, time requirement, and travel distance. Based on these factors, a private forester may charge by the hour, day, acre, job, or as a percentage of timber sale revenue.