

Professional Foresters and Timber Sales

It is in a landowners best interest to use a professional forester when choosing to start a timber sale.

Professional foresters can offer sound and sustainable management options for landowners harvesting timber from their property.

There are, however, a few “must-haves” when using a professional forester to conduct a timber sale:

1. **A professional contract** - You should have a contract with your forester stating what services they will provide, fees they will charge, and definitely how often they will visit the active timber sale
2. **A timber sale contract** – A timber sale agreement should be drawn up by your forester and cover all aspects of the timber removal and other sale-related issues
3. **An Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Plan** - This plan should be prepared by your forester and covers potential impacts of logging to streams and waterways

To obtain a list of professional foresters for your area:

Contact your local DCNR Service Forester for a list of professional foresters for your county.

This list will provide contact information, services offered, and earned/attained certifications.

Contact information for the DCNR Service Forester in your area can be found at:

[http://
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/
forestry/yourwoods/
serviceforesters/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/yourwoods/serviceforesters/index.htm)



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How to Choose a Quality Professional Forester



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Why Hire a Forester?



Choosing a professional forester is an important step in the process of forest management. A forester can help you address the decisions and challenges you may face in sustaining multiple benefits and resources from your forest.

Carefully choose a forester

A professional forester offers a range of services that can be used for the life of your ownership to help you meet your goals and protect your interests.

Some of the services commonly offered by foresters are: long and short-term forest management planning, timber sale administration, tax and estate planning, resource valuation, wildlife habitat management and project implementation.

Whatever the service you need, it is important to hire a forester who you can trust to meet your goals. Legally, there are no minimum requirements for an individual to call themselves a forester in Pennsylvania, so this makes it all the more important for you to do research before you make a hiring decision.

What to Look for in a Forester?

1. **Education**—A forester should have a minimum two-year degree (four-year preferred) in forestry and be able to provide documentation upon request.
2. **Work Experience**—A forester should have documented work experience in the types of services you need in the management of your forest. Foresters should always balance resource concerns with your goals and interests.
3. **Availability, Services and Fees**—Does the forester offer the services you are looking for and discuss his/her availability to do the work and the timeframe to complete it? What fees are associated with that service?
4. **Who Will Be Working On the Property**—Will the forestry consultant, contractors, technicians, interns or others be working on your property?



Doing a little research before hiring a Forester will ensure you have the right fit

5. **Local References**—A forester should be able to provide at least three references for forest landowners they have recently done business with. Contact these references to determine the forester's:
 - Reliability
 - Responsiveness/Follow-up
 - Communication skills
 - Quality of work
 - Professionalism
6. **Professional Certifications**—Does the forester have membership in the Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of American Foresters Certified Forester Program or Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters? These organizations promote high standards of professionalism for members along with a code of ethics.



A professional forester is key in starting any sustainable timber sale