



## Services Offered by New Hampshire Licensed Foresters

### **Boundary Assistance (BA)**

Foresters are allowed to re-mark known boundary lines in order to carry out forest management and also to establish new interior boundaries of a forest property. Foresters can also research deeds and help determine if a survey is required. Only licensed land surveyors are allowed to establish boundaries common to another owner when the corners or lines aren't known (RSA 310-A: 74). Some foresters are also licensed land surveyors. More information is available from the NH Land Surveyors Board.

<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/ls.htm>

### **Certified Foresters (CF)**

The Society of American Foresters sponsors a voluntary certification program. The mission of the certified forester program is to serve as the competency and credentialing standard for foresters; recognize a forester's education, professional experience, and commitment to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge; promote continuing education in forestry and associated disciplines; and increase public awareness of the forestry professional. More information is available from the Society of American Foresters.

<http://www.safnet.org/certifiedforester/index.cfm>

All foresters who offer services for compensation to private landowners are required to be licensed by the State of New Hampshire.

### **Certified Soil Scientist (CSS)**

Foresters are educated in soils and consider their affect on woodlot access and tree growth in management plans and activities. There may be times when it is more appropriate to engage the service of a certified soil scientist.

A certified soil scientist is qualified to identify, classify, and prepare soil maps according to the standards of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, or those adopted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and who has been certified by the NH Natural Scientists Board <http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/ns.htm> per RSA 310-A: 84.

### **Christmas Trees (CT)**

Services provided may include: plantation design; planting; weed control; soil fertility; insect and disease identification and control; pruning; and harvesting and marketing.

### **Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB)**

The Wildlife Society sponsors a voluntary certification program to evaluate the education and professional experience of wildlife biologists. Wildlife biologists have developed from many disciplines. The requirements for certification are a means of demonstrating the special expertise required. Certification constitutes recognition by The Wildlife Society that, to its best knowledge, an applicant meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards. Certification does not constitute a guarantee that the applicant meets a certain standard of competence or possesses certain knowledge. Additional information about certified wildlife biologists is available from The Wildlife Society.

(<http://www.wildlife.org/certification/index.cfm>)

### **Certified Wetland Scientist (CWS)**

Foresters are educated in wetlands and consider them in management plans and activities. There may be times when it is more appropriate to engage the service of a certified wetland scientist.

A certified wetland scientist is qualified to delineate wetland boundaries and prepare wetland maps in accordance with standards for identification of wetlands adopted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and who has been certified by the NH Natural Scientists Board (<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/ns.htm>) per RSA 310: 84.

### **Estate Planning (ES)**

Includes the preparation of a plan for administration and disposition of one's property before or after death, including wills, trusts, gifts, powers of attorney, and other legal instruments. Estate plans can help insure that your wishes for your property are carried out. Foresters can help document the value of your forest land for estate planning purposes and can work as part of a team of advisors that may include a lawyer, accountant, or other financial advisor. Estate planning considerations can be included in your forest stewardship plans.

### **Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP)**

Forest Stewardship Plans: There are a number of kinds of plans depending on your level of interest and the use to which you will put the plan.

- **Current Use Plan:** Is written to satisfy the requirement of the current use tax assessment program. Current use plan requirements are summarized in Forest Stewardship and Current Use: A Primer. (<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Forestry/Docs/CUprimer.pdf>)
- **Forest Stewardship Plan:** Is a written document based on your goals and objectives about your forest. It includes maps and descriptions about many topics including: forest health (insect, disease, invasive species); soil; water; timber; aesthetics; riparian and wetlands; wildlife and fish habitat; forest protection (wildfire and catastrophic risk reduction and rehabilitation where appropriate); forest recreation; rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and exemplary natural communities; historic, cultural and archeological sites; estate planning and taxes. Ask your forester if there is financial assistance available to help pay for this kind of plan.
- **Tree Farm Management Plan:** Satisfies the requirements of the Tree Farm Program. This program recognizes good forestry on private lands and the inspections are provided to landowners free of

charge. However, plan preparation is not included in this free service. Here is the template for Tree Farm Plans. (<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Forestry/Docs/TFPlan.pdf>)

### **Provide Assistance in Legal Matters (LM)**

Foresters can assist when you have a timber trespass dispute, question whether or not you were paid for all the timber cut, have a boundary disagreement, or a contract disagreement. They can do field investigations such as conducting stump tallies, or appear in court as an expert witness in civil cases and testify on your behalf.

They are knowledgeable about federal and state laws related to timber cutting and other forest management activities and can help you comply with these laws.

### **Land Protection (LP)**

Land can be permanently protected from development using a variety of techniques. Permanently protecting land can be a source of income and/ or provide tax relief. Foresters can help assess the value of your forest; assess the resources that may be in need of protection; act as a sounding board for your ideas; and put you in touch with conservation organizations or government agencies or programs involved in land protection. If you have purchased land with a permanent conservation easement, your forester can help you develop plans and activities that are in keeping with the terms of the easement and in keeping with your goals and objectives.

### **Licensed Pesticide Applicator (LPA)**

Pesticides have seen limited use in New Hampshire forests, but are sometimes used to remove hardwoods that are growing over softwoods; remove non-native invasives; or in Christmas trees to remove grassy and woody weeds. Pesticide applicators for hire must be licensed by the state through the NH Department of Agriculture. (<http://agriculture.nh.gov/>)

### **Licensed Land Surveyor (LS)**

Land surveyors must be licensed by the State of New Hampshire. They are specialists in the technique of measuring land, recognition of field evidence, and the relevant law for the surveying of real property. They draw maps, write property descriptions, and establish and mark boundaries of properties as they exist and also have the ability to subdivide properties according to the landowner's intent. More information is available from the NH Land Surveyors Board. (<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/ls.htm>)

### **Maple Syrup (MS)**

Maple syrup production is a specialty with services that could include: assessing sugar bush health; sugar bush management including thinning to maintain tree health and to increase sap production; tap line layout; and sugar house design.

### **Owner's Agent in Timber Sales (OAG)**

Selling timber is a complicated matter that involves knowing about markets, tree values, future tree potential, ground conditions, laws, and silviculture. It may be a "once in a lifetime" event with long term consequences for yourself and your land. You have many options in how to go about selling timber. One option is to hire a forester to act as your agent in a timber sale; another is to sell directly to a buyer. A forester who acts as your agent provides you with a work order or some other agreement specifying the type and cost of the services to be performed. Foresters may be paid by the hour, or as a percentage of the standing timber or log sale receipts. A separate timber sale contract is entered into between you and the buyer of the trees.

Anyone offering forestry services for compensation to private landowners in New Hampshire must be licensed by the state. More information is available from the NH Board of Foresters. (<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/fr.htm>)

### **Purchase Standing Timber (PS)**

Selling timber is a complicated matter that involves knowing about markets, tree values, future tree potential, ground conditions, laws and silviculture. It may be a "once in a lifetime" event with long term consequences for yourself and your land. You have many options in how to go about selling timber. One option is to hire a forester to act as your agent in a timber sale; another is to sell directly to a buyer. Foresters who purchase standing timber instead of acting as the landowners agent may be buying for a logger, sawmill, or for themselves for re-sale. Foresters who buy standing timber without acting as your agent work for and represent someone else. There isn't a work order specifying cost and types of service, though there should be a timber sale contract between you and whoever is purchasing the timber.

All foresters must be licensed in the State of New Hampshire to offer forestry services for compensation to private landowners, though there is no requirement that individuals buying standing timber be a licensed forester (non-foresters such as loggers and sawmill procurement staff buy standing timber). More information is available from the NH Board of Foresters. (<http://www.state.nh.us/jtboard/fr.htm>)

### **Recreational Planning and Development (RPD)**

Services provided may include: a general assessment of the property for recreation; trail layout, design and construction; pond location; and other practices. For example, pruning, which is the removal of dead and living branches from a living tree, improves the aesthetics of a forest. Locating openings in the forest for distance views is another example of a recreation practice.

Foresters can help you control unwanted vehicles; work with recreation clubs; help devise fees and monitor uses.

### **Special Services (please describe) (SS)**

Special services may include education, special interpretive walks, equipment, woodscaping, arboriculture, and computer mapping.

## Timber Appraisal (TA)

Done separately or incorporated into a forest stewardship plan, timber appraisals are estimates of the quality, volume, and value of wood products growing on a parcel of forest land. A timber appraisal can be part of a real estate appraisal. It is useful in determining real estate values, estimated timber sale revenues, estate plans and federal income taxes.

Timber appraisals can be done at different levels of accuracy which are reflected in the cost. These range from a very rough estimate based on a quick walk through, to a detailed inventory and analysis based on carefully measured plots distributed throughout the woodland.

## Tax Assistance (TAX)

Tax Assistance: Foresters can assist with a number of different taxes:

- **Current use tax assessment** is a favorable tax category for forest and agricultural land. Foresters can assist with filing the forms, creating maps, and writing forest stewardship plans.
- **Income** from the sale of forest products is taxable. The National Timber Tax Website (<http://www.timbertax.org/>) provides clear information. Foresters are trained in the scientific method of establishing tree volume, value, and growth and can conduct inventories to help establish the cost basis for timber and develop a depletion allowance for it. They track volumes and values cut during sales, and can assist you or your accountant with filing necessary forms.
- Careful planning may negate **estate taxes** at the time of death, easing the burden on your family and insuring that your land is disposed of in the way you wish. Foresters can help document the value of your forest land for estate planning purposes and can work as part of a team of advisors that may include a lawyer, accountant, or other financial advisor. Estate planning considerations can be included in your forest stewardship plans.
- Timber is taxable as real property at the time it is cut (with some exemptions). Foresters routinely file necessary permits (intent to cut, supplemental intent to cut, and report of cut), track volumes and do other needed paperwork to satisfy the requirements of the **timber tax**. For more information about the timber tax. ([http://www.state.nh.us/revenue/property\\_tax/timber/](http://www.state.nh.us/revenue/property_tax/timber/))

## Tree Farm Inspector (TFI)

The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide program that encourages private forest owners to actively manage their forests in a sustainable manner for multiple values. To qualify, a landowner must:

- Dedicate at least 10 acres to growing and harvesting forest products;
- Have a written plan for the future management of their forest;
- Follow management recommendations prescribed by a licensed forester;
- Demonstrate a commitment to stewardship of their forest for multiple values.

Free of charge, foresters inspect properties initially and then approximately every five years, to see if they meet the criteria. However, management activities to meet and maintain the Tree Farm criteria are not provided free of charge by the forester or the program. Over 1,600 New Hampshire Tree Farmers manage more than 800,000 acres. These landowners proudly display the familiar green and white sign. Visit the NH Tree Farm <http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Forestry/TreeFarm.htm>) program to learn more

## **Timber Marking (TM)**

Marking the trees to cut (sometimes the trees to leave are marked instead) is one way foresters let the logger know what is expected. It is also a chance for the forester to measure and count each tree, estimating its volume and value. In this way you have a good approximation of what you are selling, what to expect for income, and also what your forest should look like at the end of the logging job. When marking timber, foresters use their knowledge and skills combining silviculture (the art and science of establishing and tending trees and forests) with your goals and objectives to help create the forest you want.

As part of a timber sale, foresters usually also sell the timber by acting as your agent or buying directly from you (see "owners agent in timber sales" and "purchase of standing timber").

## **Tree Planting (TP)**

We don't do much tree planting in New Hampshire, instead relying on using the regenerative abilities of our forest trees combined with judicious application of silviculture (such as timing of harvest with seed years, adequate seed trees left, appropriate light and shade cast by remaining trees). As our forests age, we may see additional need to supplement natural regeneration with "enrichment planting". Your forester can assess whether or not tree planting is advisable. The NH State Forest Nursery <http://nh.gov/dred/nhnursery/> is a good source of tree seedlings.

## **Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)**

Timber stand improvement, also called TSI, is shorthand for a number of activities where you remove or deaden undesirable trees that are competing with those trees deemed desirable. The trees are generally too small to be sold commercially, so they are left in the woods or you can use them for your own firewood. TSI includes the following silvicultural practices: release, weeding, thinning, cleaning, liberation, crop tree release. Some foresters include commercial thinning (when trees are sold) in this list of practices. Pruning, which is the removal of dead and living branches from the crop trees to improve the future value of the crop tree, can also be considered a TSI activity. There may be financial assistance available for non-commercial TSI. Ask your forester about this.

## **Technical Service Provider (TSP)**

TSP's have been certified by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical assistance to landowners. Technical assistance includes conservation planning and design, layout, installation, and checkout of approved conservation practices.

## **Urban Forestry Consulting (UFC)**

Taking care of trees in the community setting includes such practices as insect and disease identification and control; street tree inventory; or woodscaping which is a combination of landscaping and traditional forestry activities and a willingness to work on small properties with specialty needs. Forest landowners and communities may need these types of services.

## **Woodland Exam (WE)**

Most activities begin with a walk through the property to do a preliminary examination and to discuss your hopes and intentions for your land. Foresters can tailor their practices to meet your interests. Understanding your goals and objectives will help your forester meet them.

## **Wildlife Habitat Management (WH)**

Foresters are trained and experienced in manipulating forests to achieve different sizes and types of trees. Because 84% of New Hampshire is forested, you can create and change wildlife habitat favoring one or more species with forest management. Foresters can tailor their practices to meet your interests. Understanding your goals and objectives will help your forester meet them. Ask your forester if there is financial assistance to help pay for wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Some foresters may have additional training and credentials as Certified Wildlife Biologists.  
(<http://www.wildlife.org/certification/index.cfm>)

## **Construction or Layout and Supervision of Woods Roads Construction (WRC)**

Foresters provide services relating to woodland access. They plan and lay out trails and woods roads and design water control features that minimize the time that water travels on the road or trail by using water bars, ditches, crowning, culverts, and bridges. They may give recommendations for seeding, mulching, fertilizing and liming to stabilize exposed soils. They may draw sketch maps for you to follow or oversee the installation of the road including best management practices.

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