



Do you have a lot of trees on your land?
Do you need help taking care of those trees?
Would you like to make money from your trees?
If so, a forester can help.

GETTING HELP FROM A CONSULTING FORESTER



Prepared by Kelly Mance, Erin Sills,
Sarah Warren, and Rick Hamilton.
Selected Illustrations contributed by Liessa Bowen.

5000 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$703.95, or \$.14 per copy.

A consulting forester:

- Helps you manage your land and trees
- Is listed with the state as a registered forester
- Has forestry skills and experience
- Knows about forestry regulations
- Looks out for what is good for you and your forest



How do you choose a consulting forester?

All registered consulting foresters have basic forestry skills. Some foresters have specialties like managing for wildlife or pine straw. Before you hire a forester, you should:

- Talk to a few foresters, and ask them about their specialties.
- Ask what they will do and how much it will cost for their help.
- Check if they are registered with the state by asking the Division of Forest Resources.
- Ask about their experience and check with a few references.

You can find phone numbers for the local offices of these agencies by looking in the North Carolina state government pages in your local phone book. (Or look on the internet at http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/tending/tending_consulting.htm)



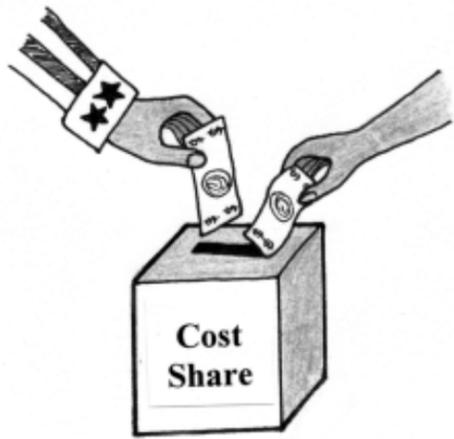
How do you find a consulting forester?

Get a list of consulting foresters from:

- North Carolina Division of Forest Resources
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

What can a consulting forester do?

- Help you write a plan based on what you want to do with your woods. The plan will tell you when you need to take each step.
- Help you improve your woodland so you can make money in the future if you decide to sell the trees.
- Help you find people to buy your trees and get the best price for them.
- Help you plant new trees so that you can make more money later.
- Give you advice about how to attract more deer, quail, or turkeys to your woodland.
- Help you find people who will pay a fee for hunting in your woods.



A forester will tell you about government cost share programs.



Before you sell your timber, a forester should mark trees to protect streams.

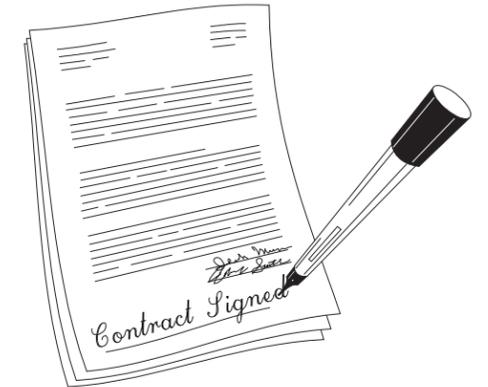
How much does a consulting forester cost?

Consulting foresters charge for the help that they give you. If you are selling timber, they often charge a share of the profit from that sale. If you are planning how to manage your land, they might charge a flat fee. But foresters can help you make a profit even though it costs for their help. The advice they give you will be worth the price.

Do I need a written agreement?

Make sure you have a written agreement with your consulting forester. The written agreement should say:

- What jobs will be done.
- Who will do the jobs.
- How much the forester will be paid.
- Who will pay the forester.



Are there other types of foresters who don't charge for their help?

Yes! Your County Forest Ranger at the Division of Forest Resources offers free advice and helps write management plans. You can find your county forester listed in the phone book in the North Carolina State government section.

Be careful! Many other people buy timber, but they are usually working for a company not for you. They are not registered consulting foresters. You will always get the best advice from a registered consulting forester, because he or she is looking out for what is right for you and your woods.