



UI Extension Forestry Information Series

Consulting Foresters Can Help With Your Forestland

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Many Idaho woodland owners want to manage their forestland more actively, but aren't sure where to start. University of Idaho Extension, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service offer assistance, but are usually limited to providing education and help with planning. If you are interested in on-the-ground services such as timber cruising or timber sale preparation, consider contacting a consulting forester. Consulting foresters:

- Are professional foresters.
- Are available to the general public for a fee.
- Perform all work in compliance with forest practice laws.
- Serve the sole interests of their clients.

Why Hire a Consultant? Consultants offer many services from timber inventory to recreation planning. Consultants are particularly helpful when harvesting timber. As your representative, the consultant's success depends on keeping you satisfied. Consultants try their best to get top prices for your logs and meet your land management goals.

Most consulting foresters are well trained and experienced. Ninety-five percent of Pacific Northwest consultants hold a Bachelors degree or higher. They average 23 years of forestry experience, including 10 years of consulting. Consulting foresters are usually members of professional associations including the Society of American Foresters, the Association of Consulting Foresters, and Landowner organizations such as the American Forestry Association, and the Idaho Forest Owners Association.

Locating and Choosing a Consultant. Nationwide consultant directories are published by the Society of American Foresters and the Association of Consulting

Foresters. Local directories are available from University Extension Offices, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the UI Extension Forestry Web site (www.its.uidaho.edu/extforest).

Typically, directories list consultants' name, address, phone number, educational background, professional associations, and specializations (ex. reforestation, timber cruising, appraisals, etc.). You should also check references.

Consulting fees vary with the service provided. A \$ charge/acre or % of the total sale (ex: timber sales) are the most common arrangements. Make sure you confirm the consultant fee before you agree to the work.

Consulting foresters can be a great aid in managing your forest property.

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