

## CSP Consulting Forester Directory

### *What is a Professional Consulting Forester?*

Independent professional consulting foresters, or consultants, are self-employed, college trained natural resource professionals with advanced preparation in forest science and management. Forestry consultants provide fee-based, on-site technical forestry services to forest landowners.



There are no legal definitions or official boards governing the licensing of professional foresters in the state of Illinois. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of landowners and homeowners to request the credentials and references of an individual claiming to be an independent professional consulting forester. Be wary of “timber brokers” who pretend to offer professional forestry or timber management services!

Individuals listed in within this professional consulting forestry directory possess, at minimum, either a four-year college degree in forestry; a four-year degree in an allied natural resources discipline with adequate competency in forest management deemed acceptable to author forest management plans as verified by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; a graduate degree in forestry or natural resources; or a two-year associates degree in forest technology.

### **How Can an Independent Professional Consulting Forester be of Assistance to You?**

*Timber Sale Administration & Marketing:* Consultants adept in the valuation and marketing of standing timber and adept in the administration of timber sales, bids, and contracts; arguably the most critical aspect of forest management a landowner will ever undertake.

*Appraisals:* Consultants are often hired by landowners, farm managers, banks, government, land trusts, accountants, and attorneys to conduct legal appraisals for standing timber, storm-damaged timber, real estate/land acquisitions, timber trespass disputes, timber theft, and other forester-related litigation.

*Contractual Timber Work:* Consultants who provide quality mapmaking services utilizing the latest GPS and GIS technology.

*Contractual Tree Planting:* Consultants with the expertise and equipment to complete small-or large-scale tree planting projects, including field windbreaks; fulfill tree planting practices enrolled through your local USDA Farm Service Agency office or local IDNR district forester office.

*Expert Testimony:* Consultants adept in provide expert testimony and research with regard to forestry related litigation.

*Forest Management Plans & Forest Inventory:* Consultants are frequently hired to perform on-site woodland reconnaissance, evaluations, and reports; conduct detailed forest inventories (a.k.a., timber cruising); and write forest management plans for landowners as required by voluntary forestry programs with specific program requirements and standards.

*Forest Valuation & Financial Analysis:* Consultants adept in advanced forest valuation and financial analysis with regard to forest land and timber investments.

*Prescribed Fire & Controlled Burn Plans:* Consultants with experience and state/federal certifications in both prescribed fire use and in preparation of controlled burn plans as required by IDNR and IL-EPA.

*Timber Cost – Basis and Taxation:* Consultants adept in calculating timber cost-basis for accounting and IRS tax reporting purposes related to the sale of timber or timber casualty loss; knowing your timber cost-basis is a fundamental, yet

critical accounting and IRS cost-savings measure for anyone selling timber; please refer to the National Timber Tax website.

*Herbicide Application & Recommendations:* Consultants who are licensed pesticide applicators with advanced pesticide (herbicide) knowledge and expertise; contact individual consultants to determine whether or not they also provide custom herbicide application services related to tree plantings, invasive species, ecological restoration, Christmas trees, or ornamental tree pests/pathogens.

*Invasive Species Control & Removal:* Consultants experienced in the identification and effective treatment and removal of exotic and invasive herbaceous/woody plants.

*Biomass Marketing:* consultants adept in marketing and capitalizing in emerging woody biomass markets, including USDA's Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

*Business Planning:* Consultants with advanced knowledge and expertise in business and estate planning.

*Carbon Sequestration & Carbon Credits:* Consultants adept in inventory and assessment of current and future carbon credit markets.

*Christmas Tree Management:* Consultants experienced in the cultivation, management, and care of Christmas trees.

*Ecological Restoration:* Consultants adept in ecological restoration techniques such as savanna or wetland restoration; contact consultant for more information regarding this particular service.

*Environmental Planning & Assessments:* Consultants adept in preparing environmental analyses, documents, and reports for the purpose of general planning, research, or local government action.

*Habitat Establishment:* Consultants with the expertise and equipment to establish perennial habitat, such as warm season prairie grasses, and wildlife food plots.

*Insect & Disease Evaluations:* Consultants who perform insect and disease evaluations for landowners, homeowners, land trust and government agencies.

*Recreation Planning & Development:* Consultants with expertise in the advanced planning and development of forest recreation opportunities for forest landowners, hunt clubs, wooded subdivisions, and local government.

*Surveying & Boundary Establishment:* Consultants adept in general boundary establishment; however legal surveys must be conducted by an Illinois professional land surveyor.

*Urban and Community Forestry (Arboriculture):* Consultants adept or certified in the care and maintenance of urban and community trees and forests; general woody ornamental questions, tree selections, maintenance, watering, fertilization, pruning, hazard tree assessments, etc.

*Wildlife Management:* Consultants who specialize in providing specific solutions to wildlife habitat objectives, issues and concerns; most professional foresters are avid outdoorsmen and are thus equally proficient in providing wildlife management expertise to forest landowners.

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