
LANDOWNER
GUIDES
to a
**Successful
Timber Harvest**

Professionals *and your woods*

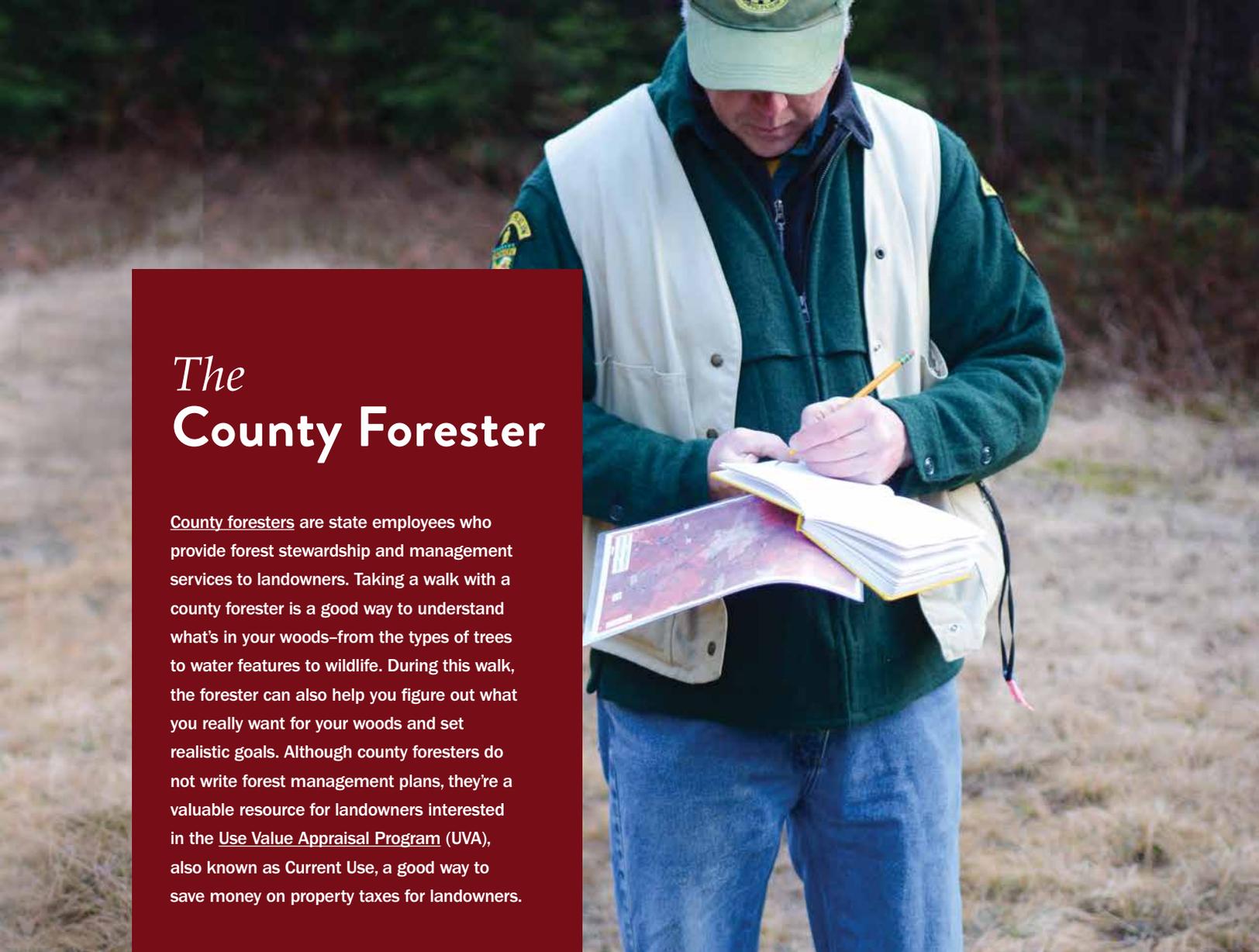
No matter how long you've been going out into the woods—no matter how long you've owned and walked your land—when it comes to harvesting timber and planning for a healthy future for your woods, nothing beats a strong relationship with professionals. **The three most important components of any successful harvest are you, your forester and your logging contractor.** With a solid working relationship among the three and strong communication along the way, everyone benefits from your harvest—and so will your woods.

Learn more about the [UVA program](#) or [find your county forester](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

All foresters are required to be licensed in Vermont to ensure minimum qualifications and adherence to standards for professional conduct.

To find a forester, visit VTCutWithConfidence.com



The County Forester

County foresters are state employees who provide forest stewardship and management services to landowners. Taking a walk with a county forester is a good way to understand what's in your woods—from the types of trees to water features to wildlife. During this walk, the forester can also help you figure out what you really want for your woods and set realistic goals. Although county foresters do not write forest management plans, they're a valuable resource for landowners interested in the [Use Value Appraisal Program \(UVA\)](#), also known as Current Use, a good way to save money on property taxes for landowners.

Consulting Foresters

Unless you're very knowledgeable about everything that goes into a timber harvest, consulting foresters are invaluable. If you're interested in the [UVA Program](#), they can prepare your [forest management plan](#) for state approval. In Vermont, consulting foresters are licensed, so you can trust they know what they're doing. In finding one, think of it as a long-term partnership for the good of your woods, so talk to neighbors or trusted sources who've completed harvests or groups such as the [Vermont Woodlands Association](#).

You can find a list of licensed consulting foresters [VTCutWithConfidence.com](#)

Logging Contractors

Working with a logging contractor may cause some anxiety—after all, they're cutting down trees in your woods. So finding the right one is important and gives you confidence. Talk to people—friends, neighbors, consulting foresters. Check the loggers' references. Be sure they're experienced in the type of harvest you're doing. Check that they're insured. You can also check with a professional organization like the [Logger Education to Advance Professionalism](#).

For more on working with foresters and loggers during a Timber Harvest, see the [Vermont Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines](#) (pp. 8 & 13).



Timber Harvest **Roles & Responsibilities**

*Who does
what?*

**THE MOST IMPORTANT
COMPONENT TO A SUCCESSFUL
TIMBER HARVEST IS
COMMUNICATION.**

Knowing who is responsible for what goes a long way to avoid confusion or surprises. Every harvest is unique, and some roles and responsibilities may shift during the planning stages. That's why it's good to talk it all out before the first cut. This list gives a good idea of who does what during a successful harvest.



*Components
for a successful
harvest*

You
+
Forester
+
Logging
contractor



Landowner

Hiring consulting forester

Optional, but if without a consulting forester, the consulting forester's responsibilities fall to the landowner.

Defining goals for harvest

For more on this, see the Landowner Guides to a Successful Timber Harvest—Overview.

Selecting a logging contractor and payment method

Defining post-harvest responsibilities

Know whether trails will be reseeded or used for recreational purposes and if there will be replanting, mulching, etc.

Contact neighbors with adjacent land

Monitoring cut with Forester

Check for compliance with the contract and your forest management plan and address questions and suggestions from the contractor.

Consulting Forester

Conducting forest inventory

Identifying tree species, forest needs, and water & wildlife requirements.

Preparing or amending Forest Management Plan

UVA plans must be approved by your county forester.

Appraising value of timber

Estimating the number and value of trees to be cut.

Marking property and harvest boundaries (with a land surveyor)

Selecting & marking trees to be cut

Based on landowner goals and forest capabilities.

Laying out and overseeing construction of roads, trails and landings

Following Acceptable Management Practices.

Developing a contract

Monitoring cut with landowner

Logging Contractor

Carrying insurance

For landowner liability, themselves and their workers.

Obtaining permits

For more on permits and legal requirements see the [Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines](#) (pp. 9-11).

Felling trees

Skidding or hauling cut trees to landing

Closing out the job

Applying [AMPs](#), smoothing ruts, seeding, mulching and removing temporary infrastructure as defined in contract.

Paying landowner

At contracted intervals and rates.





For more about working with foresters & loggers visit
[**VTCutWithConfidence.com**](http://VTCutWithConfidence.com)