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Agency of Natural Resources

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A message to Vermont foresters and landowners:

As people and organizations across the state adapt to COVID-19, the lives of landowners and work of public and private foresters are no exception. Below we have provided some guidance and outlined some changes to help you and your landowner through submission of plan updates during this time.

April 1 Use Value Appraisal Forest Management Plan Deadline Extensions

Use Value Appraisal forest management plan updates due this year that can't be submitted by the April 1st deadline because of circumstances related to the COVID-19, can receive an extension. Consistent with statute, demonstration of such circumstances to a county forester by a landowner will allow FPR to receive the plan at a later date. In addition, because circumstances related to COVID-19 are known and widespread, consulting foresters may request an extension on behalf of a landowner without a power of attorney for COVID-19 related delays.

To request an extension, please send a request and supporting information in writing to the county forester. Please include all elements identified in the [extension standards](#).

Please note that the extension standards have been revised to include the following language: *Under specific circumstances, such as when a landowner is physically or mentally unable to request an extension or when shared circumstances preventing timely submission of plans are widespread, FPR may allow licensed foresters or other agents to request extensions on behalf of landowners.*

Modifications to Signature Requirements

To accommodate ease of plan submission and consistent program administration, both original and electronic signatures will satisfy the requirement that forest management plans be signed by the landowner. This means that signatures on plans can now be original, electronic, facsimile, or photocopied. The policy is posted on the UVA website. This change will take effect immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Submitting Plans

Please refrain from submitting plans in person as some offices may be closed and we need to limit traffic in our office environments. We ask that plans either be mailed or emailed. Before submitting a

plan via email, please confirm the preferred process directly with the receiving county forester. In all cases, hard copy maps will need to be submitted to the county forester.

We ask that only one plan be submitted per email. In the subject line of the email please include: Plan Update: (last name) (town)

e.g. *Subject Line:* Plan Update: Smith, Underhill

Working Together

We expect that despite the circumstances, timely review of plans is of value. This will mean that county foresters may reach out seeking clarifications or edits to plans or maps. During a global pandemic, it may seem odd to receive a question for clarification on stand history, silvicultural prescription, or other specific UVA Program standards, however please know that such requests are made in the interest of maintaining service and UVA program integrity, and hope they are received as such.

Many state employees are beginning to work from home to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in office environments. Our county foresters are prepared to work remotely and are able to access databases, email, and some landowner files. However, access to some landowner files may be limited and if they are needed, may need to be retrieved from offices, potentially resulting in delays. Additionally, like everybody else, some staff will need to attend to other demands, e.g., childcare or elderly care. While we will continue to assist private landowners, towns, and administer UVA and NRCS programs, there may be interruptions. Please be patient as we navigate how to best maintain our level of service. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Keith Thompson
Private lands Program Manager

County Forester Contact Information**Addison County Forester****Chris Olson**

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chris.olson@vermont.gov

Bennington County Forester**Cory Creagan**

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Caledonia/Essex County Forester**Matthew Langlais**

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Franklin/Grand Isle County Forester**Nancy Patch**

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Lamoille County Forester**Vacant**

If there are urgent needs, please email:

rick.dyer@vermont.gov
Cc: keith.thompson@vermont.gov

Orleans County Forester**Jared Nunery**

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Orange County Forester**Dave Paganelli**

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Orange/Windsor County Forester**A.J. Follensbee**

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Rutland County Forester/**Kyle Mason**

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Southern Windsor County Forester**Hannah Dallas**

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Washington County Forester**Vacant**

**If there are urgent needs, please email
or call Dan Singleton:**

Work Phone: 802-476-0172 (call will be forwarded to
Cell Phone)

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Windham County Forester**Sam Schneski**

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