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7 Reasons Indiana's Woodland Owners Should Work with Consulting Foresters

THROUGHOUT INDIANA -- The Hoosier state's forests are a valuable natural resource, providing beauty, habitats that support humans and all other forms of life, as well as forest products that improve everyone's lives.

Many people don't realize that nearly 84 percent of Indiana's 4.9 million forest acres are privately owned, or that there's a group of independent professionals dedicated to helping those private woodland owners sustain and strengthen their trees and land. The Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters (IACF) is an organization of professional foresters who serve landowners by managing their forests and ethically marketing forest products on their behalf.

Why should Indiana woodland owners consider working with one of the state's consulting foresters? Here are seven smart reasons:

- 1. They work directly for you.** IACF members are not allowed to buy timber and are required to put woodland owners' interests first, so you can rely on them for unbiased advice and answers to your questions. They can enhance the value of your woodlands and increase the value of your timber, protecting your family's forest legacy.
- 2. They can improve your woodlands.** Consulting foresters are environmental experts who believe in sustaining and strengthening forests. A consulting forester can give you practical guidance on the healthiest ways to add to your forest, sustain your existing trees, and regenerate tree growth after harvests or storms. They can also make recommendations to improve the recreational value of your woodlands.
- 3. They're friendly to nature.** Consulting foresters understand the environment and what's needed for top-quality habitats. As they manage your land, they consider the effects on the animals who call it home, as well as on protecting adjacent waterways.
- 4. They know Indiana's timber industry.** Consulting foresters are familiar with Indiana's wood-using industries and the state's timber marketers. They can identify buyers who will use wood from your land and can represent you in the timber sales process to ensure your interests are protected. They'll ensure that your woodlands are harvested in a safe and sustainable manner.
- 5. They control invasive species.** Consulting foresters recognize non-native plants that compete with and damage native species. Selectively removing invasive plants improves the health of forests by restoring nature's balance.

6. They're highly qualified professionals. IACF membership is available only to professional foresters who specialize in forestry consulting, have at least a bachelor's degree in forestry, have practiced professionally for at least five years, actively pursue continuing education, and comply with our organization's professional and ethical standards.

7. They're close to home. There's an IACF member within 50 miles of every forest in Indiana, so you can rely on a professional forester who knows your area. You can find members on our website at www.indiana-acf.org.

The Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters is a state chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters, a national organization advancing the professionalism, ethics, and interests of professional foresters. IACF members work directly with woodland owners to plant, manage, and harvest trees in a manner that sustains and strengthens Indiana's beautiful forests. Learn more at www.indiana-acf.org.

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