

# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOREST SERVICE

Operation Order 2012-308

Annapolis, Maryland

TO: All personnel

Effective Date: July 11, 2012

## CONSULTANT / INDUSTRIAL FORESTER REFERRAL

### General

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service, hereafter referred to as the “Service”, recognizes the value of and contributions made by consulting and/or industrial foresters, hereafter referred to as “private foresters”, in the practice of forest management and stewardship in Maryland. The Service will abide by the following guidance when interacting with private non-industrial forest landowners and private foresters:

### Objective

The purpose of this Operation Order is to establish guidelines for providing technical assistance to private non-industrial forest landowners in Maryland. They are as follows:

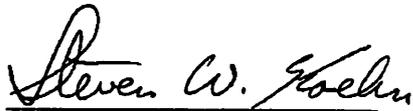
- Service personnel will not include volume or value estimates for sawtimber or pulpwood sales that may be recommended in Forest Stewardship Plans prepared by Service personnel; the exception being public agency cooperators and non-profit organizations.
- If a sawtimber or pulpwood sale is recommended in a Forest Stewardship Plan, Service personnel shall provide the landowner with a copy of the latest “Consulting and Industrial Forester” list as updated periodically and explain to the landowner that Service personnel are not permitted to handle the sale of forest products unless certain conditions exist that are described below. Service personnel are permitted to mark non-commercial timber stand improvement (TSI) including firewood for personal use by the landowner.
  - Service personnel may handle the sale of forest products if a landowner receives two (2) written refusals from private foresters who normally work in the area where the sale is located as their workload permits and their supervisor approves.
- Requests from private landowners for preparing Forest Stewardship Plans on tracts not located within a Priority Stewardship Area or are less than 10 acres shall be referred to the

current list of licensed consulting or industrial professional foresters. All requests to the Service for preparing Forest Stewardship Plans associated with renewal of a Forest Conservation & Management Agreement (FCMA) shall be granted by the Service, regardless of size or location. Refer to Operations Order 2012-306 for details about eligibility requirements.

- If the backlog of requests for Forest Stewardship Plans in a county exceeds six (6) months, Service personnel shall inform landowners of the option of being referred to a private forester to prepare their Forest Stewardship Plan. The Service forester shall provide a current list of Consulting and Industrial Foresters if the landowner elects to use a private forester.
- If a landowner seeking cost share assistance has a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared by a private forester, Service personnel will review the plan for Stewardship guideline compliance within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the plan.

Private consultant and/or industrial foresters are encouraged to work closely with Service personnel when working with clients on tracts enrolled in the Forest Conservation Management Agreement Program (FCMA) to ensure plan recommendations are adhered to.

This operation order shall remain in effect until revisions or modifications are necessary.



Steven W. Koehn  
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Director / State Forester