



Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) Professional Forester Requirements (for management plan writing)

Per OAC 1501:3-10-01:

(CC) "Professional consulting forester" means a person attaining the credential of certified forester as conferred by the society of American foresters or a person who is a member of the association of consulting foresters, or a person with a bachelor's degree in forestry who has been certified by the chief for the purposes of rules 1501:3-10-01 to 1501:3-10-07 of the Administrative Code. The chief may periodically prepare a list of persons meeting this definition.

Foresters meet this requirement by:

- 1) Providing the division with documentation of status as a Certified Forester (Society of American Foresters)
- 2) Provide the division with documentation of status as Full Member or Affiliate Member in the Association of Consulting Foresters
- 3) For other foresters, the Chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry evaluates educational requirements using criteria established for Society of American Foresters (SAF) certified forester program (https://eforester.org/Main/Certification_Education/Certified_Forester/Main/Certification/Certification_Home.aspx). A transcript may be required. Those educational requirements are:

Option #1

An earned degree at the baccalaureate or master's level from a SAF-accredited degree program. Or

Option #2

An earned degree at the baccalaureate, masters or doctorate level in forestry or related natural resources. Examples of "related natural resources" include, but are not limited to, environmental studies, wildlife management, range management, or ecology. The earned degree(s) must have a total of 56 semester credit hours with 51 semester credits as specified in the forestry-related coursework areas a-d (listed below) and an additional 5 credit hours in any of the forestry-related coursework areas.

Forestry-related coursework (minimum hours by area in parentheses):

- a. Ecology and Forest Biology (15 semester credit hours)
 - E.g., Dendrology, plant taxonomy, Soils, Forest Ecology, Wildlife Biology, Conservation Biology, Wetland Ecology, Forest Pathology, Fire Ecology or Wildfire Management
- b. Measurement of Forest Resources (12 semester credit hours)
 - E.g., Forest Mensuration, GIS, Remote Sensing, Land Surveying, Statistics, Forest Inventory or Sampling
- c. Management of Forest Resources (15 semester credit hours)
 - E.g., Silviculture, Advanced Forest Ecology, Forest Resource Management/Planning, Forest Engineering, Forest Operations
- d. Forest Resource Policy, Economics and Administration (9 credit hours)
 - E.g., Forest Resource Policy, Forest/Environmental Law, Forest/ Natural Resource Economics, Ethics/Professional Integrity & Standards