

## Where Can You Get Assistance?

Free, objective information and advice is available from the following sources to help you avoid pitfalls resulting from short-sighted forestry practices.

- **MFO Volunteers:** Private forest owners trained through Cornell Cooperative Extension. They provide **non-technical** assistance to help you think through your management objectives. They also can point you in the right direction for other helpful sources of information.



- **NYS DEC Professional Foresters:** Trained professionals that can provide you with **free technical expertise** and guidance on forest management. They can provide a directory of cooperating professional foresters and cooperating timber harvesters in your region.

Additional information is available from landowner groups that promote sustainable practices, such as the **Catskill Forest Association (CFA)** and the **New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA)**.

## RESOURCE DIRECTORY



**New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation  
Central Office:**  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-9425

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources Master Forest Owners/COVERTS Volunteer Program:**

Cornell University  
108 Fernow Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
(607) 255-2824

- ✓ Check your phone book for local DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension office phone numbers.

### **Woodland Owner Associations:**

New York Forest Owners Association:  
(800) 836-3566  
Catskill Forest Association:  
(845) 586-3054

*Thank you  
for your  
forest stewardship!*



# GOT TREES?

## *“Just Say No” to High-Grading*

### **AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR WOODLOT OWNERS**

Free assistance is available to help forest landowners make informed management decisions.

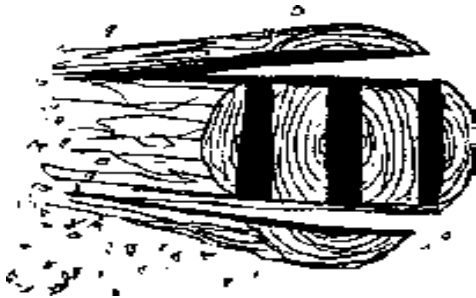


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Due to favorable timber prices and maturing forests, harvest activity in New York State has increased. Some forestry practices, such as high-grading, can limit long-term options of forest owners, and should be avoided.

### What Is High-Grading?

**High-grading** is harvesting the best trees of highest value from a woodlot, leaving the low-value, often diseased and malformed trees behind. Few people admit they high-grade, rather they use terms like **diameter-limit cutting** and **selective cutting**. Regardless of the label, removing only the best trees degrades the forest.



### Why do People High-Grade?

Forest owners that high-grade usually give little or no thought to the effect this will have on the quality and value of their forestland. They are interested in the immediate profit that can be made by selling large quantities of high-value timber. They are often misinformed, or have short-term goals that are inconsistent with sustained production.

### Why Should You Avoid High-Grading?

Trees best suited to a particular site grow faster, bigger, and taller. These are the winning trees that you want to produce seed for the next forest. Taking only the winning trees leaves the losers for future forest growth and seed production. These losing trees also grow slower and lengthen the time until the next harvest. This will **reduce forest quality and value**.

### How to Avoid High-Grading:

Carefully select professional foresters and trained loggers. Ask for references. Consider potential conflicts of interest. Does the forester participate in continuing education programs? Has the logger completed the “Trained Logger Certification” program? Visit forests where they have worked in the past. Remember - the forester or logger that offers the best price may not provide the best land treatment.

In addition, have a **written management plan** that clearly states your objectives. Look for **creative solutions** to remove low-value trees along with some of the higher value trees, and **seek assistance** to develop long-term objectives as part of your management plan.



### A Desirable Method: A Sustainable Silvicultural System

A professional forester selects trees for harvest. The specific trees marked for harvest depend on numerous factors. These factors include landowner objectives, prior management, tree species, the number of trees in the woodlot, and tree health. Professional foresters are trained to integrate these factors into a sustainable silvicultural system.



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