
GREEN CERTIFICATION OF STATE FOREST LANDS

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters congratulates the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, upon the certification of its management practices on the 2.1 million acres of State Forest Land. The Pennsylvania State Forest system is the largest forest in the world to receive "green certification" and comprises a large fraction of all forest land so certified. This monumental achievement marks the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry's forest management as a standard for sustainable forestry.

This achievement was made possible by the professionalism of foresters in the Department of Forestry, the Department of Forests and Waters, the Department of Environmental Resources, and today the Department of Conservation and Natural resources. Particularly instrumental to this professionalism was Maurice K. Goddard, who insisted that those in charge of the State Forests have a professional degree in forestry. Since Goddard's appointment as Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters in 1956, foresters in what is now the Bureau of Forestry have been expected to be professional in all endeavors. Bureau Foresters are encouraged to participate in professional societies and organizations and to pursue periodic training to remain current with the science of forestry. This emphasis on professionalism within the Bureau of Forestry continues today. Pennsylvania State Forests received "green certification" because the Bureau of Forestry employs professional foresters who apply the art and science of forestry under the inviolate principal that silviculture will not be compromised under any circumstance.

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters recognizes that the U. S. Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest, manages its half million acre forest under similar standards of professionalism. We further recognize the accomplishment of Kane Hardwoods, and its professional forestry staff, in attaining "green certification" status (also from Scientific Certification Systems) for its privately owned forest lands..

The delivery of commodity and non-commodity forest values to society from Pennsylvania's forests is the result of professional foresters and other resource managers empowered under enlightened management to serve the best interests of the resource and its owners. These interests are often not served by unqualified and sometimes unethical persons who provide "forestry services", solely in the interest of harvesting timber, to unsuspecting landowners who do not understand the difference between forestry and logging. Licensing Pennsylvania Foresters will protect landowners and provide the opportunity for sustainable management of the 75 percent of Pennsylvania's forest land that is in individual, private ownership.