Use a Written Contract
Handshake agreements may be okay at an auction or around the supper table, but not for selling timber. Protect your liability and your financial security by using a written timber sale contract agreement.

Grow the Next Generation Forest
Before the ink is dry on the timber sale contract, and before a single tree is cut, make sure that you have a plan to regenerate and renew your woodland for growing the next generation of forest.

The southern U.S. has become a leading “timber basket” supplying global markets. We are all relying upon individual family forests like yours to produce renewable paper and wood products. After the harvest, make an investment in your future forest to provide the legacy of stewardship for the next generation of owners.

The NCFS sells native forest tree seedlings. Ask your county forest ranger for information.

The NCFS has Rangers and Foresters to serve each county in North Carolina.

Service Fees May Apply

The North Carolina Forest Service is an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. Its programs, activities and employment practices are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap or political affiliation.

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Accept the Challenge
60% of North Carolina’s 18 million acres of forestland are owned by individuals and families. We’re depending on you to sustain our future forests!

Know Your Property Lines
You should only cut trees that you own! Hire a Registered Land Surveyor to establish and mark your property boundary lines. Afterwards, highlight the property line with paint and/or brightly colored flagging tape, so the timber buyer and logger can easily find the line.

Hire a Registered Forester
Some people work on their own cars, and some people paint their own homes, but very few forest owners sell their own timber. Hire a Registered Forester who can appraise your timber’s value, help you understand the markets for your timber, and sell the timber for you. You should hire a professional who is working with your best interests in mind.

Understand Tax Implications
Income you receive from a timber sale is taxable. However, there may be offsets or deductions available. Work with an accountant or tax professional who is knowledgeable about income from farm or timber products, and real estate sales.

Protect Water Quality
There are state rules called the Forest Practices Guidelines - FPGs - that require keeping sediment, debris and pollution out of streams, and other bodies of water.

A protective streamside management zone (SMZ) or other similar type of stream buffer is required in North Carolina along certain streams. Do not cross streams with vehicles or logging equipment unless absolutely necessary!

Understand, implement, and maintain Best Management Practices - BMPs - when managing your forest.