



Step-by-Step Guide to Certifying your Forest

1. Contact VFF for a site visit. VFF's forester will walk your land with you and assess the steps you need to take in the forest to prepare for certification. (Some landowners need to do little—others need to upgrade access roads to comply with Vermont Acceptable Management Practices standards or paint boundaries.) We will also review your management plan (if one exists) and assess what additional information is needed to meet FSC and VFF requirements. We charge \$50/hour for this consultation, plus one-way drive time.
2. Assemble necessary components for certification. You'll need a management plan and map that meet FSC/VFF requirements, marked property boundaries, and access roads that meet Vermont Acceptable Management Practices standards. (You'll find a full description of certification requirements on the sheet, *What VFF Forest Certification Requires*.) You can either oversee this process yourself or can hire VFF to oversee the process. VFF will sub-contract the work to appropriate natural resource managers, for a fee of 15% of any contracted work.

Should you opt to oversee the process yourself, VFF will provide a list of natural resource managers who have expressed interest in developing VFF management plans and natural communities maps. You may wish to work with a forester not on the list, or assemble your own management plan and map, in which case we will provide you with the necessary templates and information to guide the process.

3. Sign VFF's *Memorandum of Agreement for Certified Forests* and pay a \$150 initial enrollment fee. As part of this enrollment fee, you will receive VFF's metal "Forest Steward" sign for your property.