

THE ROLE OF SERVICE FORESTERS



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CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources

SOME HISTORY



**In the late 1800s and early 1900s Connecticut's forests
were in questionable shape!**



The Poor Condition Of Our Forests Helped Spur The Conservation Movement In Connecticut



AS A RESULT:

In 1875 the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was established

In 1895, The Connecticut Forestry Association (which in 1928 became CFPA) was established to:

- develop public appreciation of the value of forests,
- to establish State Forests,
- And to introduce forest management on these lands

In 1901 Walter Mulford was hired as the first Experiment Station Forester and later that year became the first State Forester (annual salary of \$1000). His first project was to begin the establishment of State Forests

In 1903 the first State Forest was established in Portland, CT (now called Meshomasic State Forest)

In 1904 Austin F. Hawes became the second State Forester as Walter Mulford left to “fit himself for the teaching of Forestry”

ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE LANDOWNERS STARTED SOON AFTER AUSTIN HAWES BECAME STATE FORESTER



In 1905 State and Station Forester Hawes began visiting land owners and providing them with forestry assistance.

Austin F. Hawes with American Chestnut tree
Photo taken 1905, Scotland, CT
103 years old, 83' tall, 27" DBH
662 board feet



**In the 1906 Annual Report of the State Forester,
Hawes wrote:**

“Most of Connecticut’s landowners were small farmers who preferred getting first-hand information by conversation with the forester to following a written working plan. Accordingly, the forester visits such tracts and advises the owner as to what land may be profitably planted and what woodlots should be thinned.”

This early practice set the pattern which has been used successfully in Connecticut for over a century, and is still in use today!



In 1926 Further assistance came with the establishment of the Extension Forester position located at the University of Connecticut in Storrs

In 1940 A Cooperative “**Farm Forestry Program**” was established by the State Forester, the Extension Forester, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the USFS, the Soil Conservation Service and a board of local Farmers to provide additional assistance to private landowners

In 1941 Four “**Farm Foresters**” were hired to administer the “Farm Forestry Program”. Funding was provided by the SCS and the State of Connecticut

In 1945 The USFS took over funding the program from the SCS

In 1950 The Cooperative Forest Management Act gave the USFS the authority to work with private landowners through State Forestry Agencies in an effort to promote **“Forest Stewardship and Sustainability”**



In 1951 The **“Farm Forestry Program”** was renamed the **“Service Forestry Program”** and **“Farm Foresters”** became **“Service Foresters”**



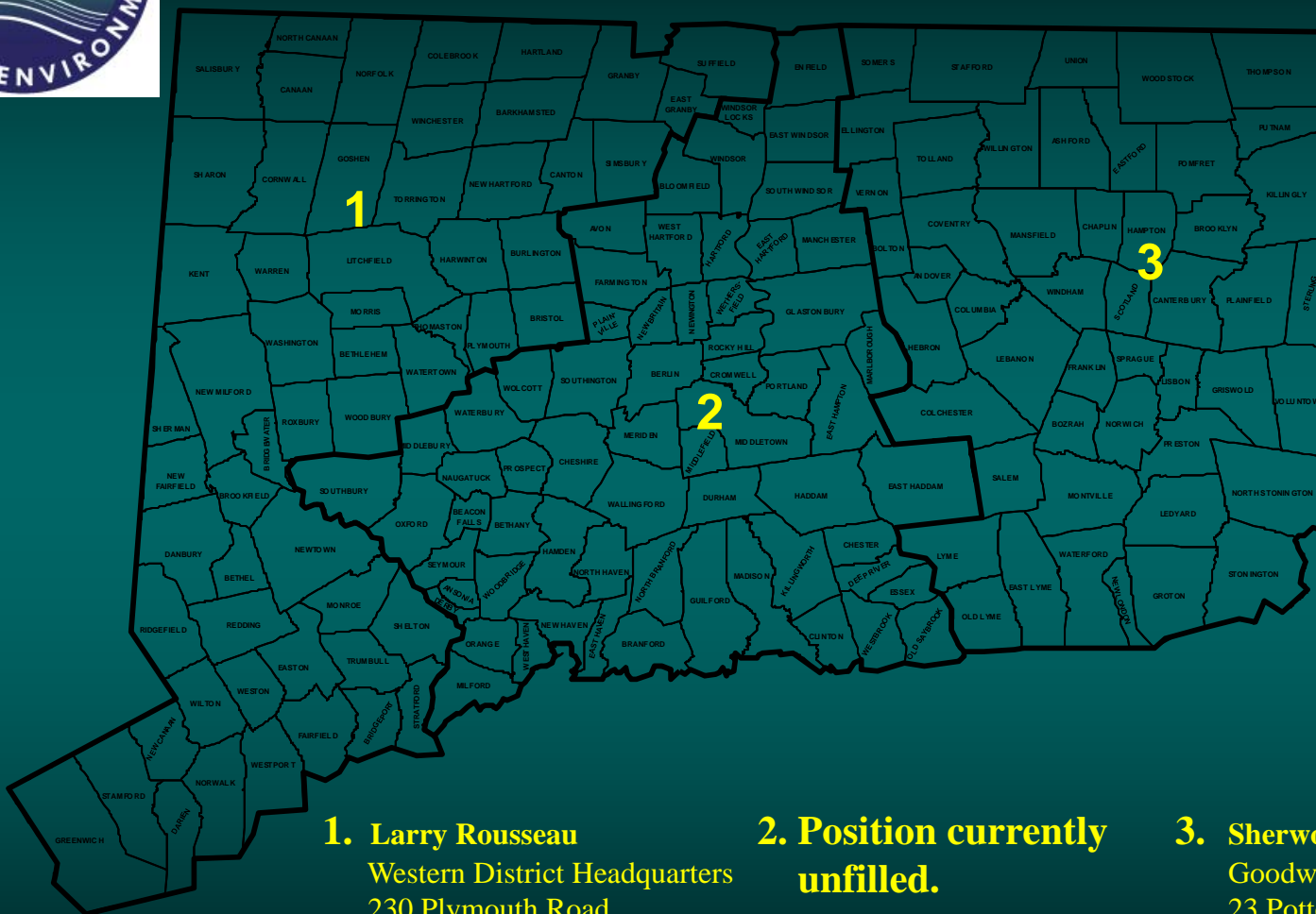
In the early 1970s
there was a state
Forester
administering the
Service Forestry
Program for each of
the eight Connecticut
Counties.

**Today there are two Service
Foresters that provide advice and
technical assistance to
Connecticut forest landowners. . .**



DIVISION of FORESTRY

Service Forestry Areas



1. Larry Rousseau
 Western District Headquarters
 230 Plymouth Road
 Harwinton, CT 06791
 Phone: 860-485-0226
 email:
lawrence.rousseau@ct.gov

**2. Position currently
 unfilled.**

3. Sherwood R. Raymond
 Goodwin State Forest
 23 Potter Road
 Hampton, CT 06247
 Phone: 860-455-0699
 email:
sherwood.raymond@ct.gov

THE ROLE OF SERVICE FORESTERS TODAY





In an effort to promote forest stewardship and sound multiple use management on privately and municipally owned Connecticut woodlands, Service Foresters offer one-on-one professional advise and technical assistance at no charge.



The depth and level of assistance that is provided depends on the expressed and implied needs of the landowner and may be related to the size of the woodland.



The advise and technical assistance that is offered may include but is not limited to:

- **Forest Stewardship Planning**
- **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement**
- **Forest Products Marketing**
- **Christmas Tree Management**
- **Invasive Species Management**
- **Forest Health, Insect and Disease Management**
- **Forest Recreation and Aesthetic Enhancement**
- **Forest Land Conservation and Protection Options**
- **Federal Incentive and Cost-Share Programs**
- **Public Act- 490 Forest Land Classification and Taxation**





In Addition Service Foresters:

- Help forest landowners formulate clear, practical and reachable goals and objectives for their resource**
- Provide stewardship options and management recommendations based on those goals**
- Provide action steps to reach the desired future conditions**

Service Foresters:



- **Make referrals to Private Consulting Foresters and other resource professionals when needed**
- **Provide guidance for decision making**
- **Promote State and Federal Stewardship Initiatives**

And...

Service Foresters will advise landowners of the Importance and Value of early successional habitat for New England Cottontail and the other species that are dependant on young forests



Questions?



A scenic photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, there are dense green bushes and trees. The middle ground shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, with a yellow underline.

Thank You