

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Green Timber Consulting Foresters marks 15 years of helping private forest landowners through the Forest Stewardship Program**

For the past 25 years, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the [Forest Stewardship Program](#) – which helps private forest landowners connect with a professional forester to develop a voluntary Forest Stewardship Plan – have helped private landowners manage, protect and enjoy their forests. The program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

“Unlike many other states, Michigan uses private-sector land managers, not government foresters, to write plans for its 400,000 private forest owners,” said Mike Smalligan, DNR Forest Stewardship program coordinator. “More than 130 professional foresters and wildlife biologists are trained and certified by the DNR to develop simple yet comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners.

Green Timber Consulting Foresters, based in Pelkie, has been writing Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners in the western and central Upper Peninsula since 2001.

“In the last 15 years, we have helped 152 landowners develop their own unique Forest Stewardship Plan to help them manage over 53,000 acres of forest land,” said Justin Miller, President of Green Timber Consulting Foresters.

Michigan is home to more than 9 million acres of family forest land. Most of the properties in the program are between 40 and 80 acres in size, and all private forest land is eligible.

Michigan family forest owners often use their Forest Stewardship Plans to obtain financial assistance from the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), enroll in a property tax program, prepare for a timber sale, improve wildlife habitat, or join the [American Tree Farm System](#) to certify their sustainable forest management.

One example of these forest owners is the Dead River Campers Inc in Marquette County.

Dead River Campers Inc. (DRCI) was incorporated by 400 shareholders to purchase and protect 7,743 acres of forest and water in the Dead River Hoist Basin near Marquette. DRCI owns more than eight miles of frontage along the Dead River and they manage their forest land to provide wildlife habitat, forest products, clean water, and regulated water levels for the Upper Peninsula Power Company at the Hoist Dam.

Jim Grundstrom, the current president of the DRCI board, says “We are thrilled beyond our wildest dreams with the quality of our Forest Stewardship Plan. Green Timber did an excellent job mapping our large forest into smaller management units and giving us the knowledge and resources that we need to make better decisions.”

For more information about developing a Forest Stewardship Plan with Green Timber Consulting Foresters, call 906-353-8584 or visit [www.greentimberforestry.com](http://www.greentimberforestry.com).

**/Editors, please note:** An accompanying image is available below for download. A suggested caption follows.

The Forest Stewardship Program, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, has helped 5,400 landowners in Michigan develop plans to manage their forests for specific objectives. The Dead River Campers Inc in Marquette County is just one example of landowners who have taken advantage of the program./

