



# ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTERS OF AMERICA, INC.

## CODE OF ETHICS

These canons formulate the guiding principles of professional conduct for ACF Consulting Foresters in their relations with each other, their employers, the public and with other foresters. Observance of these canons secures decent and honorable professional and human relationships, establishes enduring mutual confidence and respect, and enables the profession to give its maximum service.

These canons have been adopted by the membership of the Association and can only be amended by the membership. These canons apply to all membership categories. Procedures for processing charges of violation of these canons are available from the ACF National Office. All members upon joining the Association agree to abide by this code as a condition of membership.

### Professional Life

1. ACF Consulting Foresters will utilize their knowledge and skill for the benefit of society.
2. An ACF Consulting Forester will cooperate in extending the effectiveness of the forestry profession by interchanging information and experience with other foresters and by contributing to the work of forestry societies, associations, schools, and publications.
3. An ACF Consulting Forester will advertise only in a dignified manner, setting forth in truthful and factual statements services offered prospective clients and the public.
4. Professional work should come to ACF Consulting Foresters on the basis of their experience, competency, and reputation. Solicitation by criticism of competitors, self laudation, or lobbying is degrading to the profession and is unethical.

### Dealing With The Public

5. An ACF Consulting Forester will strive for correct and increasing knowledge of forestry and the dissemination of this knowledge and will discourage and condemn the spreading of untrue, unfair, and exaggerated statements concerning forestry.
6. ACF Consulting Foresters will not issue statements, criticism, or arguments on matters connected with public forestry policies, without indicating, at the same time, on whose behalf they are acting.
7. When serving as an expert witness on forestry matters in a public or private fact finding proceeding, an ACF Consulting Forester will base testimony on adequate knowledge of subject matter and render opinions based on honest convictions.
8. ACF Consulting Foresters will refrain from publicly expressing opinions on a technical subject unless informed of the facts relating thereto, and will not distort or withhold data for the purpose of substantiating a point of view.
9. Forestry plans and reports should be definite and specific and should have no double meaning.

## Dealing With Clients, Principals And Employers

10. ACF Consulting Foresters will be loyal to their clients and to the organization in which they are employed and will faithfully perform their work and assignments.
11. ACF Consulting Foresters will clearly present the consequences expected if their professional forestry judgment is overruled by non-technical authority when they are responsible for the technical adequacy of forestry or related work.
12. ACF Consulting Foresters will not voluntarily disclose information, received in confidence, concerning business affairs or their employers, principals, or clients, unless express permission is first obtained.
13. An ACF Consulting Forester must avoid conflicts of interest or even an appearance of such conflicts.
14. ACF Consulting Foresters will not, for the same service, accept compensation of any kind other than from their clients, principals, or employers, without full disclosure, knowledge, and consent of all parties concerned.
15. ACF Consulting Foresters will engage, or advise their clients or employers to engage, other experts and specialists in forestry and related fields whenever the clients' or employers' interests would be best served by such actions, and will cooperate freely with them in their work.
16. An ACF Consulting Forester should not undertake work at a fee that will not permit a satisfactory professional performance.
17. ACF Consulting Foresters will not use association with a non-forester, a corporation, or partnership as a cloak for unethical acts, but must accept responsibility for their acts.
18. Under no circumstances should ACF Consulting Foresters undertake to make an appraisal when their employment or fee is contingent upon the amount of their estimate of value.
19. It is unethical for an ACF Consulting Forester to pay or claim a fee or commission for the purpose of obtaining or referring employment.

## Dealing With Professional Foresters

20. An ACF Consulting Forester will at all times strive to protect the forestry profession collectively and individually from misrepresentation and misunderstanding.
21. An ACF Consulting Forester will aid in safeguarding the profession against the admission to its ranks of persons lacking good moral character or adequate training.
22. In writing, or in speech, ACF Consulting Foresters will be scrupulous in giving full credit to others, insofar as their knowledge goes, for procedures and methods devised or discovered, ideas advanced, or aid given.
23. An ACF Consulting Forester will not intentionally and without just cause, directly or indirectly injure the reputation or business of another forester.
24. If ACF Consulting Foresters have substantial and convincing evidence of unprofessional conduct of another forester, they will present the information to the proper authority for action.
25. An ACF Consulting Forester will not attempt to supplant another forester in a particular employment, after becoming aware that the latter has been definitely engaged.
26. An ACF Consulting Forester will base all letters of reference, or oral recommendation, on a fair and unbiased evaluation of the party concerned.
27. An ACF Consulting Forester will not solicit or collect financial contributions from subordinates or employees for political purposes.
28. An ACF Consulting Forester will uphold the principle of appropriate and adequate compensation for those engaged in forestry work, including those in subordinate positions, as being in the public interest and maintaining the standards of the profession.