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**Mike Smalligan Honored with Public Service Award for Excellence in Forestry by
the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.**

[Lynchburg, VA] — [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](https://www.acf-foresters.org/) (ACF) is proud to announce that Mike Smalligan, Forest Stewardship Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, has been named the 2025 recipient of the ACF Public Service Award for Excellence in Forestry. ACF is a national organization committed to serving independent consulting foresters who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. This new award recognizes public-sector professionals whose leadership and dedication have significantly benefited the forestry community and the consulting forestry profession.

“Mike’s support of ACF foresters and the broader forestry sector in Michigan is exemplary,” said ACF President Rick Barnes. “His collaborative spirit and commitment to sustainable forest management make him a true leader in public service.”

Smalligan has been a long-standing champion of ACF members in Michigan, providing access to federal grant funds for outreach and education, strengthening industry programs such as the Michigan Certified Logger Program, and helping build bridges across forestry organizations including ACF, the Society of American Foresters (SAF), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and others. His work through the Forest Stewardship Program has guided funding and support to local school districts, encouraging forest management plans and the engagement of ACF foresters.

He is also a respected mentor and advisor to many young foresters in Michigan. Hunter Fodor, ACF, who nominated Smalligan, credits him as a “crucial resource in my professional development and success” and notes his instrumental guidance in planning Michigan’s 2025 State Chapter Meeting.

“It’s truly an honor to receive this recognition from ACF,” said Smalligan. “I’ve always believed that public and private foresters working together lead to the best outcomes for our forests, our communities, and our profession.”

“Mike exemplifies what it means to be a partner in stewardship,” said Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director of ACF. “His collaborative mindset, practical support for ACF members, and belief in sustainable forestry make him exactly the kind of leader we’re proud to recognize with this new award.”

Smalligan was honored at the 2025 ACF National Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

ACF provides professional development, networking opportunities, exclusive communications, tools, and resources to consulting foresters. ACF members are the gold standard of forestry consultants because they meet rigorous educational, experience, and reference requirements as well as adhere to a Code of Ethics ensuring loyalty to landowners and their land. The Public Service Award for Excellence in Forestry is a new honor introduced by ACF to celebrate individuals in the public sector who demonstrate leadership, innovation, and a strong partnership with the consulting forestry profession.

For more information about ACF, visit www.acf-foresters.org.

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About the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF):

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the practice of professional consulting forestry and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and ethics among its members. ACF members can benefit forest landowners by enhancing property value, optimizing timber growth through sustainable harvests, maximizing the value of timber, enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and protecting family forest legacy. Visit www.acf-foresters.org to learn more.

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