

# “Open Space” Break-out session – Professional Forester License Reciprocity

(Si Balch and Carol Redelsheimer – group leaders)

**1. Issue:** A number of professionals have a number of licenses Forester, herbicide, scaling, pesticide, licenses and those licenses are not portable between the States. States create licenses to protect the public, (hair dresser, electrician, plumber...) so that the public is protected from unskilled people who claim to be knowledgeable in the trade.

**2. Discussion:** How many states in New England have forester licensing? Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut.

Some things do not change between the states, (Basal Area, DBH etc) State laws and regional silviculture varies between the states.

What are the barriers to a New England wide reciprocity for foresters?

- Different State laws/regulations, stream side cutting laws etc.
- Provincialism (Territoriality)
- Licensing regulations/requirements are different between the States, (Maine is the hardest test someone took, CT is a 50 question multiple choice not easy but vastly different than ME).
- Education requirements (CT no experience/education requirements)
- CEU's are not uniform between the States, if licensing is not reciprocal, at least the CEU's should be assigned the same and use the same form in the States.
- Could there be an “outside” source for credentialing and then have State exams specific for state laws?

## Means to an End

- Focus the effort on New England States for a start
- National Exam, how would the CF process help
- Can NESAF lead a effort to bring focus & resolution to the issue
- SAF to promote CF to State licensing boards
- Repeal all the licensing laws & allow the profession to promote itself

## 3. Conclusion:

- Present the idea to each New England chapter/divisions and have a poll, if it is an issue for them.
- Do the SAF chapters/divisions want their leadership to pursue portability of forester licenses between the New England States?