

# ***Beware of Timber Theft and Fraud !***

**Do your research. Make sure your timber is ready for harvest and that it will be cut in a sustainable manner that protects the future of the forest. Know the value and volume of your timber before you sell it.**

***You wouldn't sell your car or home without knowing its value... your timber is no different! Talk with a DNR Forester or hire a Cooperating Forester to set up and administer the sale for you.***

**Take your time. Don't make snap decisions on the doorstep, selling to the first person offering you cash.**

**Get references from other landowners that have worked with the forester or logger you are thinking of dealing with. Visit previous logging jobs if possible.**

**Research logging companies or individual timber buyers by name at the Wisconsin Circuit Court's Internet access site: <http://wcca.wicourts.gov/index.xsl>**

**Check with Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). See if they have had any complaints against the individual or company. File a complaint if you are not satisfied with your logging job.**

**1 (800) 422-7128**

**<http://datcp.state.wi.us>**

**Don't rely on a logger-prepared contract. Get a contract that's designed to protect your interests! The [WWOA sample timber sale contract](#) is a good place to start. Review the contract BEFORE signing it.**

**During the harvest, stay out of harm's way but make yourself visible. Ask questions of the logger. *Who are the equipment operators and truckers? How many loads are hauled from your property and which mills are your logs being hauled to?* Be careful not to interfere with the logging operation, but your presence and interest (or oversight from a Cooperating Forester) can help assure the job is done right.**

**Work with loggers who are properly trained in logging safety and Wisconsin Best Management Practices. If available in your area, consider contracting with a Wisconsin Certified Master Logger or an SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiative) qualified logger.**