

Tom Hittle was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. After graduating from Roncalli High School, Tom attended the University of Wisconsin Madison and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Science in 1983. Tom worked as an intern with the Department of Natural Resources in Trempealeau County and also worked for the US Forest Service on the Flathead National Forest in Montana before joining Steigerwaldt Land Services in 1985. Prior to retiring in the fall of 2023, Tom held several positions at Steigerwaldt including, Senior Vice President - Land and Resource Management, Senior Vice President - Project Coordination and Client Services, Forestry and GIS Operations Director, and Appraisal Department Director. In these roles Tom was responsible for management of over 350,000 acres of client-owned timberland and gained a wide range of expertise in forest management and timberland real estate from years of hands-on consulting and forest management efforts on small and large private forestlands, and for county, state, federal, tribal, utility, investment, and conservancy clients. Tom's experience included due diligence for timberland acquisitions, resource analysis and forest management planning, systems development and implementation, and management scenario modeling on a variety of consulting projects. He appeared as an expert witness, testifying on timber volumes, values, and forest management practices in Michigan and Wisconsin, and worked on numerous other litigation projects settled prior to court. Tom was appointed in 2013 by Governor Walker to serve on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry; and in 2019 he was appointed as the Chair of the Council by Governor Evers. He served as State Chair for the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters (SAF) (2014 – 2015) and served as the State Chair for the Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters (2017 – 2018). Tom was elected as a SAF Fellow in 2019 and was the 2018 WI SAF John Macon Award recipient.