



FIND YOUR PATH



It just might lead to a rewarding forest career



Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Want to make a difference?

If you're looking for a job that creates positive change for people and the environment, a career in the forest sector might be for you. Individuals working in the forest sector make sure our forests thrive and that they meet society's needs — not just now, but into the future.

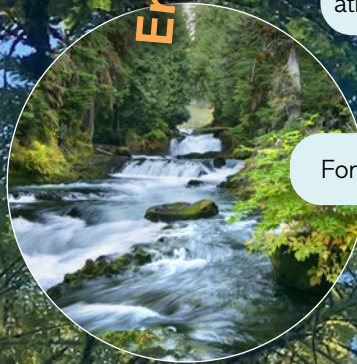
In this booklet, you'll meet a variety of Oregonians in the forest sector who are making a difference every day. You'll learn how they got started on their career paths and some of the steps they've taken along the way.

You'll also get ideas about how to start on your own career path. Who knows? Your path just might lead you to a rewarding forest career!

WHY FORESTS?

We depend on Oregon's forests for lots of different things. They not only supply lumber and other wood products, but they also provide our communities with numerous environmental, social and economic benefits.

Environmental benefits



Forests provide habitat for wildlife.

Forests give off oxygen, which we need to breathe.

Forests reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change.

Forests filter the water we drink.

Forests are a renewable resource.

Forests supply timber, which we use for lumber, paper and heat.

Forests provide other products, such as mushrooms, huckleberries and ferns.

How much does it pay?

One important consideration for any job seeker is how much the job pays. The State of Oregon Employment Department provides Oregon-specific information for different occupations.

Use this QR code to reach the site. By entering an occupation in the search bar, you'll get a report with the median wage, current job openings and projected employment for that occupation. Keep in mind that wages can vary greatly by experience, education level and employer.



Forest diversity

Oregon's forest sector includes a wide diversity of jobs, including the 18 profiled here. Whatever your particular interests, chances are you could use them to make a difference for forests.

See the icons below and in the profiles that follow to find examples of the things you like:



Science



Technology and engineering



Math



Writing



Business



Being creative



Working with people



Working independently



Being outdoors



Physical work

Social benefits

Forests provide outdoor recreation, such as hiking and fishing.

Forests provide places to play and to gather with friends and family.

Forests hold cultural and spiritual significance for many people.

Forests offer a quiet retreat for relaxing.

Forests inspire artists and photographers.

Forests provide more than 61,000 Oregon jobs.

Forests support people's livelihoods, especially in rural communities.

Economic benefits



Making a difference

"Trees play a critical role in community health and well-being, both for people and the environment! My job helps plant, maintain and advocate for even more trees in communities all across Oregon."

Favorite part

"I love being able to use many of the skills I learned in school in a real-world setting. It's rewarding to visit various parts of the state advocating for trees and making sure people everywhere have equitable access to safe green spaces."

Next steps

"I'm hoping to dedicate the next several years of my career to helping communities understand ecosystem service benefits and have access to tree canopy."

Community forester, Oregon Department of Forestry

Urban forester at City of Corvallis

Volunteer program coordinator at Friends of Trees

Master's degree in professional science, Oregon State University

Discovered **passion** for municipal and **community forestry**

On Wisconsin's emerald ash borer **survey and detection team**

First job out of college: Wisconsin **Department of Agriculture**

Bachelor's degree in natural sciences

Dad instilled the importance of **responsible land stewardship**

STARTED HERE

Grew up on peppermint farm in rural Wisconsin

COMMUNITY FORESTER

Advice

"Understand tree biology and physiology, because so much of what we do is in response to how a tree interacts with the environment."

As a community forester, Jennifer provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to community partners in urban and municipal forestry throughout the state. The most important part of her job is having a robust understanding of the complex relationships between people and trees, understanding current "best practices" in the industry, and making that information accessible to the community. She finds that it is also important to build trust and relationships with communities, and to be recognized as an industry and content expert.



JENNIFER KILLIAN

Oregon Department of Forestry,
Salem



Advice

"I would suggest job shadowing anyone and everyone you can. You might find a niche you enjoy that you didn't even know existed. Also, long days in poor weather can be hard, so knowing how to keep a positive attitude in adversity will help you succeed."



Making a difference

"My job provides Oregonians with a long-term sustainable resource that has a multitude of benefits — from wood products to carbon sequestration and everything in between. It also helps provide and protect habitat for many of Oregon's wildlife species."

Favorite part

"The best part of my job is the mix, variety and seasonality of work projects."

Next steps:

"I hope to continue to expand my knowledge about sound land stewardship. Every year, new technologies and research give us better insight and better methods for managing natural resources. My hope is to keep up with them."

Silviculture is the art and science of tending forests to meet the diverse needs of landowners and society. As a silviculturist, Garrett does a mix of on-the-ground reforestation work, logistics management and planning. Winter is tree planting season, during which he acquires and stores seedlings, manages the transportation of seedlings and crews to planting sites, and oversees tree planters to ensure planting quality. Outside of planting season, he is often in the office planning planting, thinning and timber harvest operations.

SILVICULTURE FORESTER



GARRETT YARBROUGH
Giustina Land & Timber Co.,
Eugene

Silvicultural forester, Giustina

Summer **internship** with Giustina

Summer job: **firefighter**

Transferred to Oregon State University's **College of Forestry** for **bachelor's degree**

Started at **Lane Community College**

Graduated high school

STARTED HERE

Grew up with streams and forests in backyard

Making a difference

"We welcome visitors to the forest to learn about how we do business. Sharing our knowledge as forestry professionals with the public is rewarding. Visitors commonly tell us they had no idea how much work goes into forest management."

Next steps

"After 26 years of working in forestry, I can contribute to our profession by mentoring younger foresters and helping them make progress in their careers."

Favorite part

"I like being in the forest, especially with my dog, making observations and always learning new things. I even like noticing things that didn't work well with my projects, so I know how to make improvements next time."

Advice

"The field of forestry offers a wide range of career choices and employers throughout the U.S. Don't be afraid to try one and see where it takes you. Even if you don't like one job, there might be another one in forestry that proves to be your dream job."

Forest engineering specialist,
Starker Forests Inc.

Hired as **forester** at Starker Forests after graduation

Bachelor's degree in forest engineering from Oregon State University

College job for Starker Forests doing **road inventory and timber cruising**, measuring trees to determine the volume of wood in a plot of timberland

College summer job for large industrial forest landowner **surveying and laying out logging roads**

College summer job for U.S. Forest Service **firefighting and marking trees** to be removed for a thinning project

College job in **instrument room** at Oregon State University College of Forestry, learning about how all the forestry equipment worked and how to maintain it

Love of being **physically active outdoors**

STARTED HERE

Family members worked in ranching

FOREST ENGINEERING SPECIALIST

Jennifer manages and supervises forest engineering projects such as the construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure necessary for logging on timberland. Most foresters split their time working in the forest and the office. In the summer, Jennifer focuses on projects in the forest, meeting with the contractors that are doing road construction and making suggestions about the projects to improve efficiency. In the winter, Jennifer spends more time in the office working on project planning and processing forestry data collected in the field.



JENNIFER BEATHE
Starker Forests Inc.,
Corvallis



Favorite part

"The best part of my job is when I can help develop a creative solution to a challenge that meets everyone's needs."

Advice

"Take advantage of networking opportunities to meet as many people as you can. The forest sector can be a small world sometimes, and you never know when you'll meet the person who will call you five years from now and offer you a job."

Jennifer is a scientist who promotes the needs of forest-dwelling wildlife when planning forest management activities. As environmental services manager for Manulife Investment Management, she manages a team of wildlife biologists who ensure that the company's timberlands provide vibrant habitat for an array of forest-reliant creatures. This includes informing Manulife's forestry staff about how to protect biodiversity, threatened and endangered species, and wetlands, and helping them comply with wildlife-related laws and regulations.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



JENNIFFER BAKKE
Manulife Investment Management,
Corvallis

Making a difference

"My work helps to protect streams and wildlife habitat, which promotes conservation in both upland and riparian areas. Everything I do helps keep working forests as forests, which provides jobs to the local communities in which we operate."

Next steps:

"I really love my current role and would love to see it expand to other regions across the globe where we operate, such as South America."

Environmental services manager,
Manulife Investment Management

Received **Certified Wildlife Biologist**
certification from the Wildlife Society

Hired as **wildlife biologist** at
Forest Capital Partners

Brief stint in **fisheries** at Oregon
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summer job conducting **forest surveys** of
spotted owls and marbled murrelets

Bachelor's degree in wildlife
sciences, University of Washington

Volunteered at **wildlife hospital**
and rehabilitation center

By luck, **found wildlife science** on list
of degrees on college bulletin board

Wasn't sure what to study, but knew
wanted to work outdoors

STARTED HERE

Growing up,
camped and spent
time outdoors

Enrolled at **University of
Washington**



Making a difference

"I help landowners large and small meet their reforestation goals, which benefits both the environment and the economy."

Next steps

"I really enjoy working with the public to share why forestry is important to Oregonians and to generate interest in our industry. I hope to continue to share that passion."

Favorite part

"The best part of my job is the local connection. I get to meet foresters and landowners who have a direct impact on their local communities, and it's inspiring to work with so many passionate professionals."

Advice

"Don't limit yourself! There's far more to forestry careers than meets the eye. If you have a passion for the outdoors or natural resources, there's likely a forestry job that fits your background and career goals."



Seedling sales manager, Weyerhaeuser

Seed orchard manager, Weyerhaeuser, raising mature Douglas-fir trees to mass-produce seeds

Internship at Weyerhaeuser's Turner Nursery, helping with growing and production

Bachelor's degree in forest management, Oregon State University

Internship with Cascade Timber Consulting

During college, **interned** with Linn County

STARTED HERE

Grew up on a Christmas tree farm in New Jersey



NURSERY SALES

A seedling nursery raises young trees from seed that will be transported and transplanted out in the field. As the seedling sales manager at Weyerhaeuser's nursery in Turner, Anya oversees the sale of seedlings for reforestation in Oregon and for Christmas trees in the Pacific Northwest. The nursery must plan to grow its seedlings two to three years in advance, so the most challenging part of Anya's job is predicting what customers will need that far into the future. The goal is to keep the nurseries as full as possible and sell each and every seedling.



ANYA HALL
Weyerhaeuser,
Turner





Advice

"Pursue both a general and specific topic area, ecology and entomology for example, so that a broad range of career options are available, but you are also specialized. Communication is essential. Strengthen your grammar, writing, public speaking and expertise in multimedia outreach formats."

Christine is a scientist who specializes in insects. As a forest entomologist, she often focuses on insect species that weaken or kill trees by boring into their trunks or eating their leaves, which affects overall forest health. She provides guidance to forest landowners on how to prevent and mitigate pests that harm trees, as well as expertise on how to conserve and protect the beneficial insects that are part of a functioning forest ecosystem. Christine also monitors insect outbreaks and other forest health issues via aerial and ground surveys of forestland. A typical workday for her could be spent on a plane mapping forest damage; out in the field providing trainings or diagnosing forest health issues; or in the office giving remote presentations or working on reports and other technical assistance documents.

ENTOMOLOGIST



CHRISTINE BUHL
Oregon Department of Forestry,
Salem

Next steps:

"My background broadly covers different areas of entomology, and I see myself moving into other ecological settings. I will also continue my work in climate resiliency and ecological conservation."

Entomologist, Oregon Department of Forestry

Started focusing on **forestry-specific entomology**

Gained experience working in wetland, chaparral, agricultural prairie, high desert, tropical forest and urban ecosystems

Worked in a **variety of entomology- and ecology-related jobs** along the West Coast, in the states of Wisconsin, Texas and Hawaii, and in the country of Lebanon

Doctorate in entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Bachelor's degree in environmental science and entomology from Oregon State University

Explored a tray of insects in school that sparked an interest in entomology, the study of insects

STARTED HERE

Pursued an environmental science degree

Making a difference

"My job helps to thin forests so they can be healthy and productive, and so they can thrive."

Favorite part

"My favorite part of being a harvester operator is working independently out in the woods."

Next steps

"A person in my job could work to be a project manager or work on different machines."

Harvester operator,
Miller Timber Services

Operated a **forwarder**, which moves logs from where they are harvested to the road

Operated a **processor**, which removes branches from felled trees and cuts them into lengths

Became a **rigging slinger**, directing the safe movement and rigging of cables and machinery

Moved into **yarder logging**, using a system of cables to pull or fly logs from the stump to a collection point

Worked in **shovel logging**, which uses a log loader to swing logs to a forest road

Was hired on a **logging crew**

Worked **pruning trees** around power lines

Studied forestry in high school

STARTED HERE

Family members worked in logging



Advice

"My advice to anyone starting out in a forestry career is to work hard, be responsible and be on time."

HARVESTER OPERATOR

Treven drives and runs a high-tech forestry machine called a harvester, which cuts trees to be sent to mills and made into wood products. From the cab of the harvester, Treven maneuvers the machine's arm to grab a tree by its trunk and saw it off at the base. Under his control, the machine then removes the branches and cuts the log into lengths, while Treven takes care not to scar the remaining trees. He also maintains the equipment so it keeps running smoothly. Treven's job also requires an understanding of how to select trees for harvest.



TREVEN OAKES
Miller Timber Services,
Philomath



Favorite part

"The amazing views and fresh air."

Making a difference

"It's hard work and it's dangerous work, but there aren't many other careers that feel as rewarding as logging. Plus, working in the brush keeps you in great shape."

Next steps

"I'd like to be a hooktender (the worker who supervises the moving of logs from where they were felled to the landing)"



Advice

"You have to be fit, quick and constantly aware of your surroundings."

Choker setter and rigging slinger,
Schmitz Timber Management

Thomas is up before sunrise to get to the job site — usually a steep, brushy hill in the woods — by early morning. After the logging crew has felled the trees, he sets chokers or slings rigging for cable yarding. This is where logs are moved, using a cable system attached to a tower, to a landing near a road where they'll be loaded onto log trucks. Chokers are slings that wrap around felled trees and attach to cables. The cables suspend the logs over the ground and lift them up the hillside to the landing.

LOGGER



THOMAS SCHMITZ
Schmitz Timber Management,
Silverton

Started **setting chokers** after graduating from high school

Worked on uncle's **Christmas tree and berry farm** in high school

Went to work with his dad as a kid

Wanted to be a logger since he was little

Great grandfather, grandfather and father all worked in the woods

STARTED HERE

Born into logging family



Favorite part
"I'm never bored! There is always someone to call, something new to learn or a joke to crack with co-workers."

Advice
"Work on being good with numbers and people, and find a passion for what you do. If you don't believe in your product, neither will your customer. I sell wood products because I have a passion for sustainability and a strong desire to protect what's good."

Next steps

"I hope to keep growing and to be a voice for renewable resources, sustainable forestry and better building."



Making a difference
"My job makes a difference because selling a renewable natural resource, such as Douglas-fir plywood, pushes builders to choose a product that is more sustainable and leaves a smaller carbon footprint."

WOOD PRODUCT SALES

As a wood products salesperson, Andrea is the connector between customers and the manufacturer. She builds interpersonal relationships to sell wood veneer, plywood and MassPly panels, and ensures that customers get what they need. Her day is packed with phone calls and emails as she handles negotiations, quotes, orders and shipping. Because wood sales can be very fast-paced at times, she has to have clear ideas of where, when and how to sell products, and stay on top of an ever-changing market where prices can change quickly.



ANDREA TEREAULT
Freres Engineered Wood,
Lyons

Favorite part

"I find it motivating, exciting and fun to see the products we make from start to finish."



Advice

"Pick somewhere and just start – you never know where it will lead you. I've had the opportunity to experience a career path I never thought was possible."

Making a difference

"I help make many long-lasting products used to build everything from your house to the chair you sit on. Our products are made from a renewable, reusable resource."

Next steps

"A job like mine can lead to jobs in research and development. There is so much we can do with our products, and I can't wait to see what new products will be created in the future."



David works for Roseburg Forest Products, which manages forests and uses the timber to manufacture a wide range of wood products. He has worked on the manufacturing side of the company for 28 years. His current job is to ensure that the engineered wood products coming out of the mill meet the standards the company sets. That means doing quality checks at each step of the manufacturing process, from the raw material to the finished product. He uses math, computer skills, and lab tests to collect and analyze all the information he must process.

MILL QUALITY CONTROL



DAVID SMITHEY
Roseburg Forest Products,
Riddle

Quality control,
engineered products,
Roseburg Forest Products

Fill-in **supervisor,**
Roseburg Forest Products

Quality assurance technician, Roseburg Forest Products

Clean-up crew, keeping mill safe and operational, Roseburg Forest Products

Green chain puller, stacking boards from mill line, Roseburg Forest Products

Associate of arts degree, Umpqua Community College

STARTED HERE
Interest in diversity of wood products

Graduated **high school**

Making a difference

"As things move more and more toward technology, having a good understanding of electricity and how it works is important. Electricians help keep our mills running – and so much more."

Favorite part

"I really like that every day is different. It might be troubleshooting a blown fuse, building components in the shop or studying for a test. As an apprentice, my shift changes every six months, so I get to see different parts of the operation."

Next steps

"I want to pass my journeyman electrician exam on the first try, and to keep getting work experience and furthering my education. There are lots of interesting opportunities for electricians."

Advice

"Don't be scared to really try to get your foot in the door, and take every opportunity that presents itself. Once you're in a facility, you'll find there are many opportunities that might be a good fit."



Electrical apprentice, Hampton Lumber

Millwright apprentice, Hampton Lumber

Saw file trainee, Hampton Lumber

Block setter, Hampton Lumber

Moved to Tillamook, wife's hometown

Commercial and residential painter

Salesperson in a mall

STARTED HERE

Graduated from high school in Everett, Washington

ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE

As an electrical apprentice at Hampton, Carlos works with master electricians, or journeymen, to maintain and troubleshoot the mill facility's electrical components. His four-year apprenticeship combines on-the-job training and college classes to help him safely learn the trade. Because electricity is invisible, it's sometimes hard to tell what's going on when there's a problem. Carlos says it can be nerve-racking trying to get the mill running again as quickly as possible, while also following all the necessary safety steps and keeping a cool head.



CARLOS GIJON
Hampton Lumber,
Tillamook



Favorite part

"I love to be out in the woods. Every day, I see the cycle of growth and harvest – timber of all ages growing on land that was once logged. Young's Trucking is family-like, so the other drivers and I kid around and have a good time working together."

Making a difference

"Driving a logging truck is a profession that plays a crucial role in Oregon's forestry industry. Without truckers to transport logs from the forest to the mill, there'd be no lumber, plywood and other sustainable wood products."



Advice

"Get your hands dirty. Put effort and your mind to the job. I also suggest riding along with a truck driver to see what it's all about. Experience how log trucking is different from conventional highway driving. Get driving experience or start with a job on a logging crew to learn about logging."

Bill drives 18-wheel heavy trucks over paved highways and unpaved, narrow and steep forest roads, transporting logs from remote parts of the forest to lumber mills. On an average day, he drives 250 to 300 miles, carrying anywhere from three big logs to 100 small ones. Most of the logs are turned into boards that are shipped all over the country for building construction. He works independently, locating routes and safely loading and delivering logs.

LOG TRUCK DRIVER



BILL ELLIOT
Young's Trucking,
Coos Bay

Log truck driver, Young's Trucking

Long-haul highway truck driver

Acquired commercial driver's license

Worked a warehouse job, including loading, unloading and moving heavy trucks

Worked in a fish processing plant

STARTED HERE

Worked at a trucking shop in high school, washing and driving trucks

Making a difference

"Firefighters work to preserve forests and our great outdoors. We use technology to carry out prescribed burns, to control wildfires and to reduce forest fuels. We also help communities become fire safe, which is so critical in these current times."

Favorite part

"Every day is an adventure. If the bell rings, we'll be headed out for 14 days in rugged terrain, but get to experience the natural beauty of country unseen. I also enjoy meeting new people and being part of the family-like fire community."

Next steps

"I would like to continue learning about new technologies to enhance the work we do."

Drone program manager,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Base manager,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Assistant base manager,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Forestry crew supervisor,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Reforestation surveyor,
mapping and reporting,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Forestry crew member, logging
cleanup, stream
enhancement, planting,
Grayback Forestry Inc.

Tree planter, Grayback Forestry Inc.

Firefighter,
Oregon Department
of Forestry

**STARTED
HERE**
High school
sports



BASE MANAGER /PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGER

Sean manages five 20-person fire crews and 14 fire engines for wildland firefighting all over the United States. He's responsible for his crews' safety and for recruiting and training new firefighters. He uses unmanned aircraft system (UAS) drones to do thermal imaging of fires and as a tool to ignite prescribed burns. When not working on fires, he also manages forestry crews for projects such as replanting and cleanup after logging, commercial thinning, and stewardship logging operations in southwest Oregon.

Advice

"This job is not for the faint of heart! Think about what positive character traits you possess, such as endurance, enthusiasm, honesty or trustworthiness. If you have traits like these — and are physically and mentally fit — this may be a job for you."



SEAN HENDRIX
Grayback Forestry Inc.,
Merlin

Favorite part

"I love science, and I love learning about the ecology of our landscapes. My favorite part is using science knowledge to inform resource managers so they can be successful in their jobs."

Advice

"Be brave! There were scary times in my career when I had to take big jumps, but it was always worth it. Following my passion has allowed me to live and work in very different places and to experience amazing wildlife and natural environments."

Making a difference

"I like to think I have helped improve how Oregon landscapes are managed for multiple uses. Through science and working with skilled forest managers, we can ensure that our forested landscapes will continue to meet Oregon's needs long into the future."

Next steps:

"I would like to pivot to science writing for the public. We live in an ecologically fascinating place, and I'd like to help tell its stories."



Science liaison/ecologist,
U.S. Forest Service

District wildlife biologist,
U.S. Forest Service

Assistant forest wildlife
biologist, U.S. Forest Service

Master's degree in wildlife science, Oregon State University

Volunteer, Oregon
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Conducted radio-telemetry **research project**, Oregon Coast Range

Seasonal wildlife technician, Oregon
spotted owl survey and habitat mapping

Volunteer wilderness ranger, Alaska
(Ratio of bears to humans: 100 to 1)

Junior high **science teacher**, Anaheim

Bachelor's degree in
zoology, Cal Poly Pomona

As a science liaison, Cheryl works to link the research community and natural resource managers. If a manager has a question, Cheryl puts them in touch with scientists working on that issue. If a scientist wants to design a research project, she can connect them with managers to help frame the study in a way that improves the applicability of the findings. She also plans science seminars and field trips, and writes about research results that help address challenges in forest management.

SCIENCE LIAISON/ ECOLOGIST



CHERYL FRIESEN
U.S. Forest Service,
McKenzie Bridge

STARTED HERE
Grew up on a lake in Minnesota, fishing and catching frogs

Making a difference

"The parks we manage are for all Oregonians. We must balance the role of providing access to public lands with being able to protect them and promote a healthy ecosystem. It's not always easy, but it is incredibly rewarding!"

Favorite part

"Training staff and helping them achieve their career goals."

Next steps

"I want to continue making a positive impact in Oregonians' lives with regards to parks and natural resources."



South Central District Manager, Oregon State Parks

Various other positions at Oregon State Parks

Park ranger, Oregon State Parks, Newport

Bachelor's degree in science, Portland State University

Student and seasonal worker, Oregon State Parks

Returned to college as chemistry major

Worked at Disneyland

Left college and worked in customer service

Went to college but couldn't decide on major

STARTED HERE

Enjoyed being outside as a kid

Advice

"Try a seasonal position to see if you like the work. I started as a seasonal and had no idea how much fun this job was or where it would take me!"



PARK RANGER

Dani makes sure Oregon State Parks staff and visitors are safe, supported and having a great time. She ensures that park lands are healthy, sustainable and there for future generations to enjoy. This includes managing large projects, budgets and contracts, and helping park managers and staff plan park improvements. She also helps respond to emergencies and events that can cause park closure, such as wildfires. A typical day involves checking in with park managers, visiting one of the 40-plus parks in her district, or attending community or stakeholder meetings.



DANI PADILLA
Oregon State Parks,
Bend



Favorite part

"The best part of my job is working with diverse groups of people and connecting folks with similar ideas to achieve big dreams and goals centered around urban trees."

Advice

"You will likely have to put some physically demanding work in at the beginning of your career, but don't let it discourage you. Build your 'soft skills' the best you can — become a strong communicator and lean into your network. We are here to help!"

An arborist is a professional who takes care of trees to make sure they are healthy and safe. Alison is a board-certified master arborist whose current job is to help build equitable and resilient urban forests with community partners. She provides technical support, such as looking at specific tree issues or helping devise plans for invasive species. She educates people on forest health topics and on how to become a Tree City USA, a recognition program for thriving urban forests. She also helps find funding sources for different tree projects.

ARBORIST



ALISON HERRELL
Oregon Department of Forestry,
Salem

Making a difference

"By helping people plant and care for trees, my work helps to provide a ton of tree benefits, including storm water management, carbon sequestration, animal habitat, ecosystem health, and general health and happiness to humans."

Next steps:

"I would love to expand any work I can do to help diversify our industry, and would like my career to continue having a strong education and outreach component."

Urban and Community Forest Program arborist, Oregon Department of Forestry

Taught pest management and identification, Portland Community College

Became ISA board-certified **master arborist**

Worked as a **technical trainer**, Rainbow Ecoscience

Became a certified **arborist** and qualified **tree risk assessor** through International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

Worked way up from **groundsperson** and **tree climber** to **arborist representative**, Davey Tree

Master's degree in environmental science, Indiana University

Restoration and conservation work for The Nature Conservancy, AmeriCorps

Helped conduct **forestry tree inventory**, Purdue University

Bachelor's degree in biology, Valparaiso University

STARTED HERE

In college, loved outside field classes

Making a difference

"I view my job as a steward of our timberlands, ensuring that our kids and grandkids will enjoy the same benefits we do, including a great company to work for, building materials for houses, clean water, wildlife habitat and recreation."



Favorite part

"The best part of my job is the people!"



Advice

"Work hard, have a little patience, and learn the business and the parts of it that need to be improved. Also, learn to communicate well."

Next steps:

"I want to see our company continue to grow and thrive for the benefit of all."

President, Lone Rock Timber

Focused on **silviculture**, but also got experience in other types of forestry work

Field forester, Lone Rock Timber

Played **professional football**, Seattle Seahawks

Internship, private landowner; worked to improve **tree plantations**

Internship, Thompson Timber

Oregon State University: **bachelor's degree in forest management** and played football

STARTED HERE

Grew up working for parents on their tree farms

PRESIDENT, TIMBER COMPANY

As president of Lone Rock Timber, Joe is responsible for overseeing the company's employees and operations. Lone Rock manages 152,000 acres of timberland spread across six counties in southwestern Oregon. It also has a fully integrated logging company with road construction, timber felling, logging, trucking and a shop. The most important part of Joe's job is identifying a clear mission for the company that is shared by employees, and ensuring that mission is met.



JOE NEWTON
Lone Rock Timber,
Roseburg



Favorite part

"The best part of my job is being able to work outdoors with students. I love watching them discover and notice new things and overcome their fears. It really brings me joy!"



Making a difference

"By helping students see all that Oregon's forests do for us environmentally, economically and socially, they begin to appreciate the importance of forest sustainability – and will be better equipped to understand issues affecting forests as adults."

Advice

"Remember that you don't have to have all the answers. Be curious and vulnerable – you can always learn from nature. And if you like kids, find ways to teach them about something you're passionate about."

Next steps:

"I want to keep growing our education program around Oregon's forests so we can reach students across the state. Everyone should have a chance to learn about Oregon's forests."

Environmental educator,
Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Master's degree in curriculum and instruction,
Concordia University

Taught **elementary school PE,** Bend

In summers, lead **Youth Conservation Corps** crews

Taught **elementary school PE,** Klamath Falls

Received **Oregon teaching certificate**

In college, worked summers on **botany and firefighting crews,** U.S. Forest Service

Bachelor's degree in kinesiology and education, Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho

As an environmental educator, Rikki leads classes on field trips in the Rediscovery Forest at The Oregon Garden. She teaches students about forests, helping them understand why forests are so important. For a lesson on food webs, for example, she might invite them to dig in the dirt to collect data on decomposers, consumers and producers in the forest, and see how everything is connected through energy. An important part of Rikki's job is giving students the experience of learning outdoors and helping them feel comfortable enough to learn from nature.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR



RIKKI HEATH
Oregon Forest Resources Institute,
Silverton

STARTED HERE

High school environmental expedition program

MAPPING YOUR CAREER PATH

Few people know when they're teens exactly where they want to head on their career path. Most of us have to figure it out as we go. Our career paths may wind around or even take a few steps backward. And that's okay!

Think about where you are on your own career path. Answer the questions below to begin filling in the stepping stones. What next steps might you take? (See the back cover for ideas.)

What's your next step?
(Even a tiny step is good.)

Where could you learn more?

What experience, education or training would you need for that career?

Which forest career in this booklet — or another career — interests you?

What jobs or volunteering have you done?

What hobbies or other interests do you have?

What's your favorite subject in school?

**START
HERE**

What grade have you completed?

BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

The following programs can help move you toward a forest career.

Education

Four-year university:

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY**
(Corvallis),
forestry.oregonstate.edu

OSU's College of Forestry offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in three departments. And within minutes of campus, OSU has 14,000 acres of forests that serve as living laboratories for hands-on learning.

Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management

Learn science and engineering skills to manage forest resources, from restoration and replanting to sustainable harvesting.

Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society

Combine studies in biology and social science to understand how society and nature interact. You'll learn about ecology, education and recreation.

Department of Wood Science and Engineering

Help create a greener future by exploring science, technology and business courses that prepare you for work designing and manufacturing innovative, sustainable wood products.

Community colleges:

Many Oregon community colleges offer associate degrees that are transferable to OSU's College of Forestry, or technical degrees for jobs such as wildland firefighting and heavy equipment operating. Some also partner with manufacturing companies for apprenticeship programs that lead to full-time positions.

CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Bend), cocc.edu

Forestry
Forest Resources Technology
Natural Resources
Outdoor Leadership

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Oregon City), clackamas.edu

Wildland Fire Management

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Gresham), mhcc.edu

Natural Resources Technology: Forest Resources
Natural Resources Technology: Wildlife Resources

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Coos Bay), socc.edu

Ecological Engineering
Forest Engineering
Forest Management
Natural Resources
Wood Innovation for Sustainability

TILLAMOOK BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Tillamook), tillamookbaycc.edu

Forestry
Natural Resources

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Ontario), treasurevalleycc.edu

Environmental Science
Natural Resources
Wildland Fire Management
Wildlife Science

UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Roseburg), umpqua.edu

Forestry
Natural Resources

Technical training:

BAKER TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, bakerti.org

Heavy Equipment Operation
Trucking and Logistics

Work Experience

NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS, nwyouthcorps.org

Northwest Youth Corps provides students with opportunities to gain a better understanding of modern resource management and related careers.

OREGON CONSERVATION CORPS, oregonconservationcorps.org/the-youth-corps/

Oregon Conservation Corps builds strong connections among positive experiences, work skills, personal responsibility, commitment to education and future employment for Oregon's youth.





GETTING STARTED

on a forest path

If you think a forest career might be right for you, here are some steps you can take while still in high school:

- **Join a leadership club.** Future Natural Resource Leaders is a student leadership organization that teaches forestry and natural resources topics to high school students. See oregonfnrl.org for more information.
- **Get work experience.** Volunteer or do an internship to get hands-on work experience. Check out Northwest Youth Corps and Oregon Conservation Corps, listed on page 23, for places to start.
- **Talk to people in the forestry field.** Ask family members and friends if they know someone who might be willing to talk to you about their forest job. Find out what their typical day is like and what challenges they face.
- **Read about forests.** Learn about threats and issues facing Oregon's forests by looking through the publication library at OregonForests.org, searching local news feeds for stories about forests, or checking out books from your local library.
- **Begin a list of references.** Whatever the next step on your career path — school or work — you'll need to provide references. Consider teachers, youth group leaders, bosses and other adults who might vouch for your character, your motivation or how hard you work.
- **Look into forestry education programs.** Check out the forestry education programs listed on page 23. Find out what classes, degrees or certificates they offer and what you need to apply.

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ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) supports the forest sector and the stewardship of natural resources by advancing Oregonians' understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of our forests.



LearnForests.org