



Make a difference in the environment

Conserve forests and natural resources

Choose forestry

“I became a forester because of my passion for nature and social wellbeing. Forestry has allowed me to travel and learn about different natural resources issues and needs.”

Mila Alvarez, Forester, Madrid, Spain

Forestry merges the science of managing and the conservation of forest resources — clean water, forest products, recreation areas, urban parks, and greener communities. Be part of a profession that sustains these vital environmental goods and services.

Make a difference

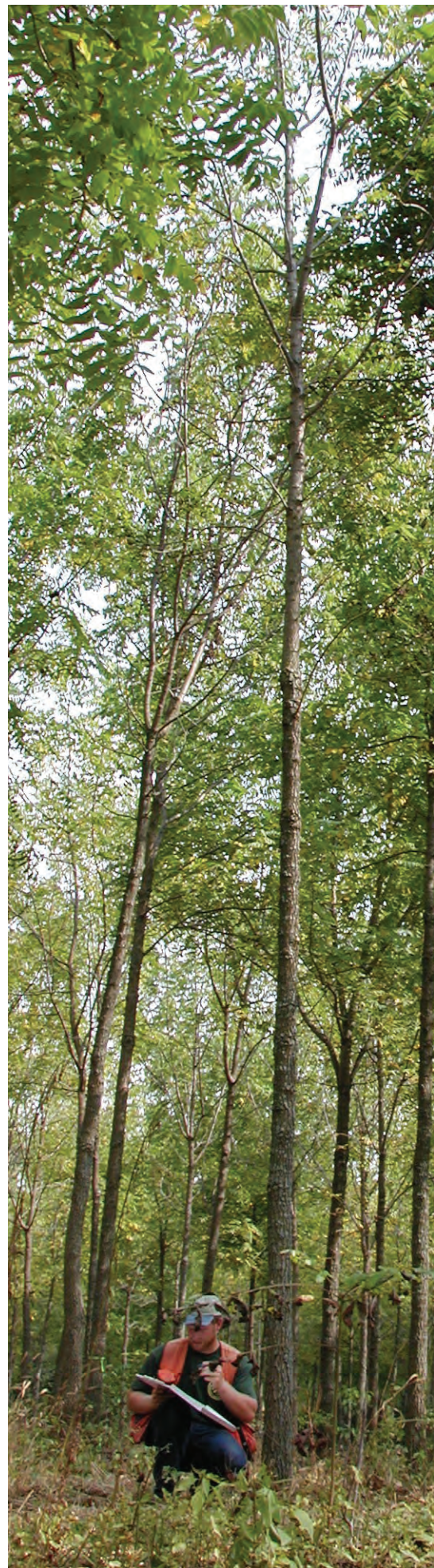
Imagine managing and conserving forests, being involved in environmental education, policy, research, business development, and computer technology. There are many ways a forester makes a difference and many of these professionals are not called “foresters.” They have titles like forest pathologist, soil scientist, forestry consultant, recreation coordinator, forest supervisor, wood chemist, wilderness and trails specialist, wildlife biologist and habitat specialist, education specialist, and timberland investor.

Foresters and natural resource professionals are everywhere -- enjoying the outdoors, working in a lab or classroom, using technology, talking with

local communities and landowners, and speaking in public. The exciting profession of forestry means you have many career paths in natural resources.

Become a forester

Whatever your title or specialty, to be a forester or natural resource professional, you need at least a four-year forestry degree. Also, many colleges and universities offer specific training in watershed management, urban forestry, forest engineering, wildfire and fuels management, forest products, recreation, and forest wildlife management. Most universities and colleges offering a baccalaureate degree in forestry have their program accredited by the Society of American Foresters.





“I grew up with my father working in the woods as a forester. What I saw was a very woods-oriented profession. It still is today, but the tools we use have changed significantly.”

Brianna Bouse, Forester, Weyerhaeuser Company



Maybe you only want a two-year technical degree. Forest technicians still have a valuable role in forest management. Technicians conduct tree inventories — gathering information on species and populations of trees, disease and insect damage, and tree seedling mortality. They also help with fire suppression and training, harvest operation monitoring, law enforcement, and reforestation.

Some states require foresters and sometimes forest technicians to meet licensing or registration criteria. In addition, foresters can be voluntarily certified nationally through SAF’s Certified Forester® program. Many technical colleges offering an associate’s degree in forestry have programs recognized by the Society of American Foresters.

Discover opportunities

After you complete your training, there are many opportunities for getting employment.

The owners of tree farms or woodlots frequently hire forestry consultants to manage their land. As a consultant, you may work for yourself or for a large firm, offering services ranging from estate planning, to writing management plans, to marketing timber.

You may also find a place within the largest employer of forestry professionals -- the federal government. The US Forest Service (in the Department of Agriculture), the Bureau of Land Management, the Park Service (Department of the Interior), and branches of the military employ hundreds of forestry professionals. You could also work for state agencies, usually in the department of natural resources, and at the community level, often as urban foresters.

“Forestry is the art and science of managing forests for multiple values and benefits.

Once you learn the science of forestry, you become open to understanding the art.”

Nancy Graybeal, Deputy Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service

“As an urban forester I can practice stewardship of the land, protect our natural resources, promote citizen awareness, create and manage forests, and help to foster a wise land use ethic.”

David Swenk, CF, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

There are opportunities with private industry including manufacturers of paper and wood products. Foresters working with these companies are often focused on growing trees faster and stronger and developing more environmentally friendly methods of harvesting trees and making forest products.

You could work for a college or university as a faculty member, researcher, or manager of school forests. Not-for-profit organizations ranging from national to local in scope also employ foresters, as do banks and law firms specializing in land investment or estate law.

Getting into the field

Forestry has been ranked as one of the best low-stress jobs and according to the US Department of Labor, conservation scientists and foresters held about 33,000 jobs in 2006. Employment growth is expected in consulting firms, urban forestry, fire prevention, and fuels management. Developing private lands and forests for recreational purposes will generate additional jobs for foresters. Additionally, climate change and alternative fuels present new opportunities and challenges.

The average annual earnings of foresters in 2006 were \$51,190. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$29,860 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$80,260. Of course, your earning potential increases as you gain experience and knowledge.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, graduates with a bachelor's degree in forestry and natural resources



received an average starting salary offer of \$34,678 in 2007.

In 2006 more than 26,000 people were employed as forest technicians. In 2007, the average hourly earnings of forest technicians were \$17.20 or \$35,770 annually.

Start today

Start your career with the strong foundation in an SAF accredited college or university. Then plug into one of dozens of student chapters where you can build life-long connections. Visit www.safnet.org today to learn more or visit www.forestrycareers.org.

“Foresters are concerned with water quality, aesthetic beauty, timber, and wildlife.

Satisfying all these different needs is difficult, interesting, and always challenging.”

Jeff Stringer, Hardwood Specialist and Professor, University of Kentucky



**Society of
American Foresters**

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