

# FORESTER

## GREEN JOB FACT SHEET



Every day, foresters across the United States lace up their boots, put on their high-visibility vests, and head out to the woods. They gather information about forest health so they can predict and identify problems. They also create detailed plans to harvest and regenerate forests. They are responsible for protecting important wildlife habitats, cultural areas, and other historical assets within forests.

### THE BIG PICTURE

Foresters manage our forests so that the communities and wildlife that depend on them can thrive. As problem solvers, they balance the ecological, social, and economic value of forests by:

- Creating plans that tackle challenges and achieve long-term forest management goals.
- Using scientific information and research to help make decisions that ensure the long-term health of a forest.
- Monitoring the impacts of their decisions, in order to make better choices in the future.

### IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

Since foresters work in the field, in the office, or in the lab, they have diverse skills: writing, data analysis, and plant and animal identification. Foresters must organize and moderate meetings and talk about their plans to many different people, including Indigenous communities and government representatives. To succeed in this job, you should be a good communicator.

### MOVING FORWARD



Here's a path of study that could lead to a career as a forester. You'll likely need a four-year college degree.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and pre-calculus classes.

**COLLEGE:** Earn a bachelor's degree in forestry. Visit the [ForestryUSA website](https://www.forestryusa.org) for a list of U.S. colleges and universities that offer forestry degrees.

For more about green jobs, visit [www.plt.org/workingforforests](https://www.plt.org/workingforforests)

Do you care about wildlife, the **ENVIRONMENT**, and forests? Do you feel most comfortable in the **OUTDOORS**, getting your hands dirty? If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

### SALARY

U.S. salaries range from about \$47,000 to \$97,000 per year and average about \$70,000.

### WHERE CAN YOU GROW?

Careers in forestry include forestry technician, extension agent, land conservation specialist, and arborist. Some possible employers and tasks:

- Forestry companies (creating timber management plans)
- Government agencies (developing policy)
- Private landowners (developing property management plans)
- Schools or universities (inspiring the next generation of leaders)
- Nonprofit organizations (contributing to education, conservation, and research)

