



# FIND YOUR PATH

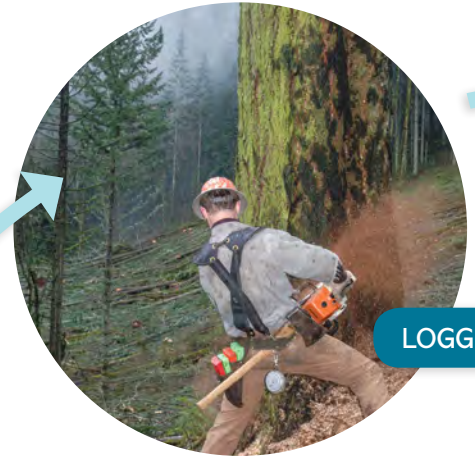
It just might lead to a  
rewarding forest career



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute



# OREGON'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE



LOGGING

If you look around right now, chances are you can see something made out of wood: a table, a bookcase, a desk. You may have books in your backpack made of paper and cardboard. Your home is probably made largely of wood.

Trees are the renewable resource that allow us to make these things, as well as many other products that our society uses every day: lumber, plywood, cardboard boxes, toilet paper, utility poles, kitchen cabinets, even the bark chips in the flower bed.

Oregon plays a huge role in the manufacture of these products. Did you know that Oregon produces more softwood lumber than any other state? And more plywood than any other state?



FOREST  
SUPPORT

FORESTRY,  
SCIENCES,  
ENGINEERING







TRUCKING & EQUIPMENT

That's because Oregon is a great place to grow trees.

From the forest springs a huge collection of industries that account for one out of 20 Oregon jobs – all kinds of jobs, from planting trees to harvesting them; from making lumber to building cabinets; from studying fish and wildlife to running a business. Besides that, our forests provide recreation, wildlife habitat and clean air and water.

Some say forestland is Oregon's greatest natural resource, but in our view, it's the people who work in the forest sector. They make sure our forests meet our needs now and in the future.



PLYWOOD & SAWMILLS



SECONDARY MANUFACTURING



ENERGY



GOVERNMENT

## If you like ...

**Being outdoors.** Many foresters and loggers say one of the things they enjoy most about their work is being in the forest day after day.

**Technology and engineering.** Cutting-edge technology is everywhere in the forest industries. Mills are full of high-tech automation. They need computer programmers and engineers as much as they need people to do physical labor.

**Science.** Forest products companies and government share a responsibility to safeguard the health of Oregon's forests. Both need scientists who study wildlife, ecosystems and water quality, and who can assess the impact any forest operation might have.

**Business.** Hundreds of forest products companies operate in Oregon. Like any other business, they need accountants, salespeople, managers and executives.

**Physical work.** Despite all the automation, the forest industries still need people who like to work with their hands, get dirty and don't mind feeling physically tired at the end of the day. Tree-planting, logging and firefighting, for instance, deliver a tough daily workout.

... a career in the forest sector might be for you.

## Advice:

"Ask people in careers you're curious about whether they like going to work. My guess is foresters will say they are excited about their job, and that they look forward to going to work."

## What he does:

Joe helps reforest timberlands after harvest. In winter, he works with tree planters to make sure seedlings are properly spaced and planted. In spring, he directs helicopter pilots in applying herbicide to keep down weeds and grass that can hinder the growth of young trees. In summer and fall, he checks on the health of plantations up to 5 years old and collects data so his company can predict how much timber the land will produce when the trees mature in about 40 years. He spends 80 percent to 90 percent of his time in the forest.

Joe checks recent growth at a tree plantation.

## Favorite part of job:

"I love watching plantations improve. I think that growing trees is a really cool thing – and we're getting better at growing trees."

Field forester, Lone Rock Timber

Played **professional football**, Seattle Seahawks

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

**Internship**, Thompson Timber, Corvallis; worked in the **log yard**, learned about log scaling

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

Worked on his **family's woodlands** as a child

## STARTED HERE

Father was a forester; grandfather was a forestry professor

# FIELD FORESTER

Most foresters make \$54,000 to \$71,000

"If you really like spending time outside – if you like being outside more than inside – that's your first heads-up – forestry might be for you."

JOE NEWTON  
Lone Rock Timber,  
Roseburg







### Favorite part of job:

"I love the variability of my job. It's something different every day. I also like being in a profession that deploys cutting-edge science and technology to meet society's demand for wood products."

### What he does:

The job title "forester" can include many specialties. It's like calling yourself a "doctor" when you might be a heart surgeon or a dermatologist. But, by working for a small company, Eric gets to work in many areas of forestry, from reforestation to harvesting. He helps determine how much timber can be harvested sustainably, and looks for opportunities to improve wildlife and fish habitats on the Giustina family's forestland. Like many timber companies, Giustina doesn't have its own loggers, truck drivers or tree planters. Eric hires professional contractors to do this work, and directs how the job should be done.

Pursuing his **Master of Business Administration** at the University of Oregon to enhance his analytical skills

**Forest manager,**  
Giustina Land & Timber Co.

**Forestry intern,** Weyerhaeuser: learned about forest inventory and silviculture—the care and cultivation of forest trees

**Lab technician,** OSU Forest Products Lab: research in wood preservation and treatment

**Forestry intern,** Oregon Department of Forestry: measuring trees and helping with harvest layout

**Bachelor's degree** in forest management at Oregon State University

In high school, worked on a salmon habitat research project on the Columbia River, earning a **President's Environmental Youth Award** in 1994 from Vice President Al Gore

Had an early interest in **science**

**STARTED HERE**  
Grew up in Wisconsin, hunting and fishing

### Advice:

"Contact a local company and introduce yourself. See if there's something you can do, perhaps a summer job. Start building a professional network. Go to a Society of American Foresters local chapter meeting."



Most foresters make \$54,000 to \$71,000

# FOREST MANAGER

"Forestry is a great profession if you're interested in being outdoors, but you have to remember it's not always 60 degrees and sunny outside."



**ERIC KRANZUSH**  
Giustina Land & Timber Co., Eugene



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

## Advice:

“Get practical experience, even if that means volunteering – at a zoo or a raptor rehabilitation center. It will help you stand out when it's time to begin your career.”



Installing bird boxes.

A biologist places a camera in a hollow snag to see what might be living inside.

## What he does:

Mike makes sure Weyerhaeuser's forestland provides vibrant wildlife habitat and complies with government rules and certification requirements. Earlier in his career, he spent more time in the woods, collecting data on animal behavior and habitat requirements. Today, he is more often in the office, using data his crews collect to help set Weyerhaeuser's wildlife policies.

**Western wildlife program manager,** Weyerhaeuser

**Wildlife biologist,** Weyerhaeuser

**Wildlife biologist,** Willamette Industries

**Regional wildlife biologist,** Washington Department of Natural Resources

**Forester,** Washington Department of Natural Resources

Seasonal work, **surveying** for marbled murrelets, Washington Department of Natural Resources

**Master's degree** in zoology with wildlife emphasis

Summer job helping with academic **lab research** on rattlesnakes

**Bachelor's degree** in zoology from Washington State University

**Summer job,** Whitman County parks

## STARTED HERE

Hunting and fishing with father and grandfather

# WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Most wildlife biologists make \$50,000 to \$76,000

“I believe in trees as a renewable resource – for making lumber and paper. We can do that and be environmentally responsible. We can take care of the trees and everything else that's out there.”

**MIKE ROCHELLE**

Western Timberlands Environmental Forestry Research, Weyerhaeuser, Lebanon







To help fish migrate, newer culverts are designed to include rocks and gravel that mimic a natural stream bottom.



Forest engineers supervise construction of roads and bridges.

### What she does:

Jennifer designs and supervises construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure necessary for logging on the private timberland owned by Starker Forests. Much of her work improves older roads and bridges, bringing them up to current environmental standards. Forest engineers might spend a third or half their time in the woods and the remainder in the office.

Forest engineer,  
Starker Forests Inc.

### Favorite part of job:

“Working in the forest, being able to bring my dog along, and encountering wildlife such as bears, mountain lions, beavers, spawning salmon and elk.”

### Advice:

“Have courage to challenge yourself academically. Even if you don’t end up with a career that uses physics or calculus, tackling those subjects builds confidence, and confidence helps you in all parts of life.”

Most forest engineers make \$64,000 to \$99,000

# FOREST ENGINEER

“Taking different summer jobs doesn’t always show you what you want to do, but sometimes it helps you learn what you don’t want to do. That’s valuable to know, too.”



JENNIFER BEATHE  
Starker Forests Inc.,  
Corvallis

### STARTED HERE

Interest in science and math in high school

Love of the outdoors

College summer job **marking trees** to be removed during thinning of a national forest near Lake Tahoe; **firefighting**

College summer job **surveying** and laying out logging roads

College summer job **timber-cruising** – measuring trees to determine the volume of wood on a plot of timberland

Oregon State University: **bachelor’s degree** in forest engineering

# RECREATION

## Advice:

"Try to find a niche or area of specialization. Find your strength and hone it, whether in writing, botanical skills or wildlife knowledge. It is important to have something that sets you apart from others. Have tenacity and persistence; reach out to those in your field of interest and take advantage of opportunities to learn and grow."

*Kendra works to make sure native plants, such as the trillium, can thrive.*

## What she does:

Kendra manages natural areas within Portland, including Marshall Park, River View Natural Area and Forest Park – the largest forested park within city limits in the United States. She develops plans for natural areas and works to keep invasive species in check. She helps replant native plants, build trails and replace culverts to improve streams. Kendra spends about half her time in the field and half in the office.

## Favorite part of job:

"No two days are the same. One day I might be out in the field setting up a site for a volunteer planting, and the next day I might be in the office coordinating a meeting of wildlife researchers."

**Natural resource ecologist,**  
Portland Parks & Recreation

**Water resources specialist,**  
Clean Water Services in  
Washington County

**Watershed technical specialist,**  
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation  
District, graduate studies

**Master's degree** in  
environmental management  
from Portland State University

Worked summer **research jobs,**  
from vegetation monitoring to stream  
assessments in state and national forests

**Bachelor's degree** in  
natural resources from OSU's  
College of Forestry

Joined **AmeriCorps,** a national  
service program, working on  
restoration projects

## STARTED HERE

Studied geology  
at Oregon State  
University

# NATURAL RESOURCE ECOLOGIST

Most  
conservation  
scientists make  
\$52,000 to  
\$81,000

"There is so much work to be done to improve our natural areas in this urban ecosystem. I feel lucky to be in such an engaging position doing work that I love and know is making significant change."

**KENDRA PETERSON-MORGAN**  
Portland Parks & Recreation







Members of Mt. Scott Motorcycle Club volunteer on an off-highway vehicle trail.



### Favorite part of job:

"Sometimes I can't believe I'm getting paid to ride off-road motorcycles and quads on the trail system! I also enjoy helping my team grow and develop in their jobs."

### What he does:

Clyde manages the recreation program for the 251,000-acre Tillamook District. He oversees a four-person staff responsible for taking care of trails and other recreation facilities, as well as protecting the forest. His job calls for a range of skills, including the ability to use computerized geographic information systems for mapping trails and other projects. Clyde began working in the district as an intern in 1994. He helped write the original recreation plan for the area, and today manages its implementation.

Recreation unit manager, Tillamook State Forest

District recreation planner, Tillamook State Forest

District recreation coordinator, Tillamook State Forest

Oregon Department of Forestry, intern

US Forest Service guard station in the Idaho wilderness

Bachelor's degree in recreation and resource management from Oregon State University

Worked for Portland Parks & Recreation

### STARTED HERE

Graduated a year early from high school

### Advice:

"Polish your writing skills. I have to write clearly and concisely every day. It's also important to really listen and empathize with the public. It is their land, and you work for them."



# RECREATION UNIT MANAGER

Most recreation managers make \$41,000 to \$77,000

"The reality of my work is that if everybody's happy, I'm not doing my job. Users vary from people driving off-highway vehicles to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders, as well as kayakers, hunters, campers and volunteers. It's impossible to please them all. It's my job to listen to their interests, but to also do what's best for our land."



**CLYDE ZELLER**  
Oregon Department of Forestry,  
Tillamook State Forest



**Advice:**

“Get out there. Take any opportunities you can to do a summer job in some aspect of forestry. Try different jobs to get a feel for what the range of work is like.”

**What she does:**

Because of the checkerboard of forestland ownership in western Oregon, logging trucks need to travel over both government and private roads. Eva researches the history of land and road ownership. Then she works with private timber companies to give them permission to travel on BLM roads and for the BLM to use private roads. She uses her science background to track how roads are holding up and uses maps and GPS to mark precise locations. She makes sure everyone is complying with the road agreements. Eva is also a trained firefighter.

*Eva coordinates land use between private timber companies and the BLM.*



**Favorite part of job:**

“I like the historical research, digging into the past to understand where we are today.”

# ROAD AND RIGHT-OF-WAY SPECIALIST

Most foresters make \$54,000 to \$71,000

“The neat thing about forestry is that there are so many niches. You can work in conservation, for private industry, in watershed associations. There are a lot of avenues.”



**EVA BAILEY**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District, North Bend

**Road and right-of-way specialist, BLM**

**Forester, BLM; laid out timber sales**

**Silviculture forester, BLM; organized tree-planting and reforestation**

**Instructor, OSU Extension Service; educating small woodland owners**

**Forest science intern at South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Charleston**

**Forestry technician, W. M. Beaty & Associates; led a tree-marking crew**

**Forest engineering intern, Oregon Department of Forestry; shadowed road engineers, helped design culverts**

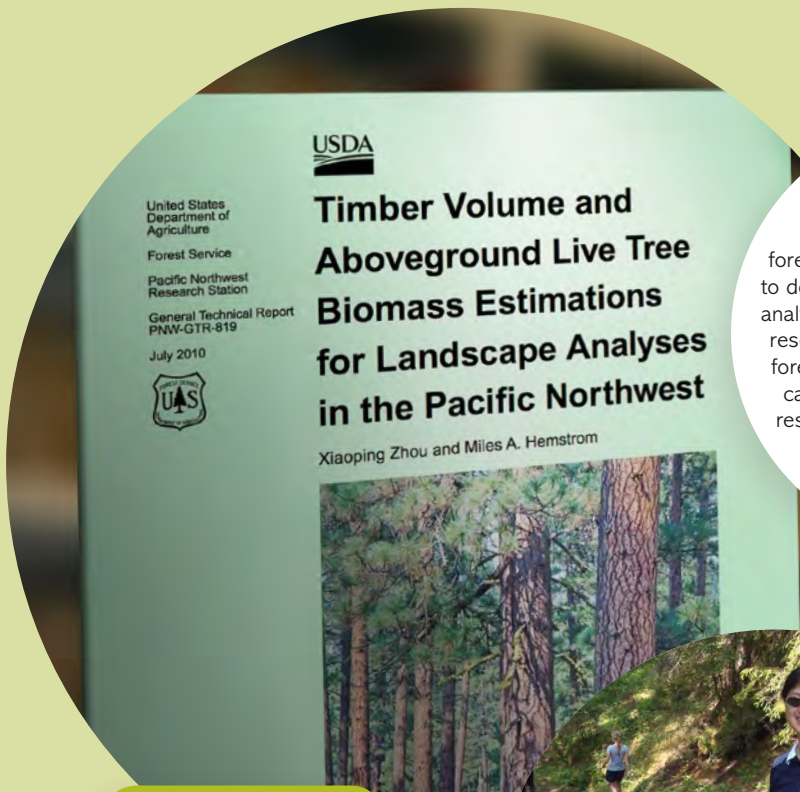
**Forestry technician, University of California, Berkeley Center for Forestry; helped with ongoing scientific research**

**Bachelor's degree in forestry, minor in environmental ethics, Humboldt State University**

High school advanced summer **biology class/backpacking trip** in the Sierra Nevadas

**STARTED HERE**  
Grew up near Yosemite National Park; wanted to be a park ranger





## What she does:

Xiaoping combines her interest in forests with her math and statistical skills to do economic and scientific research and analysis for the US Forest Service. She has researched carbon sequestration, or how forests and trees can be used to remove carbon from the atmosphere. She also researches and writes reports on trade, exports and employment in forest-products industries. Most of her work is done in the office.

**Favorite part of job:**  
 "I like the research, and seeing it applied. Unlike some economics, which is more theory, this is applied economics."

**Research economist,**  
 US Forest Service

**Forester,** US Forest Service,  
 estimating amounts of timber (large trees) and biomass (small trees) in selected areas

**Ph.D. in forest economics,**  
 Auburn University, Alabama

**Masters of business administration,**  
 Nanjing University, China

**Teacher and researcher,**  
 Nanjing Forestry University

**Undergraduate degree**  
 in mechanical engineering,  
 Nanjing Forestry University

**STARTED HERE**  
 Grew up in a forested part of China

## Advice:

"Stick with your dream. When I was growing up in China, I didn't have much hope. But I've found what I wanted."



Most economists make \$61,000 to \$93,000

# RESEARCH ECONOMIST

"I grew up playing in the trees. When I got older and discovered I liked research and intellectual work, it was natural to blend that with my love of the forest."



**XIAOPING ZHOU**  
 US Forest Service,  
 Portland



# LOGGING

## Advice:

"You have to have a good work ethic and be willing to endure some aches and pains. You have to love being outdoors. And you'll start at the bottom, not running equipment on Day One."

## What he does:

Kirk helps run his family's logging operation. He bids on jobs, keeps an eye on how projects are going and meets with landowners who are considering harvesting timber to explain how the process might go. His experience with various logging crew jobs and equipment gives him insight into how to keep his crews safe while doing the work that needs to be done to meet landowner expectations.

Vice president, Cross & Crown Inc.

Side rod; oversaw various logging jobs

Hook tender, the on-site boss of a logging job

Rigging slinger, crew boss in the brush; responsible for crew's safety

Returned to the family business, Cross & Crown Inc., after graduating

Worked on student logging crew, OSU

Bachelor's degree in speech communication; minor in forest management from Oregon State University

Started as a choker setter, attaching the cable that pulls logs out of the brush to a landing

## STARTED HERE

Father ran a logging business

## Favorite part of job:

"Now I have more freedom to do multiple things, keep a flexible schedule and get out of the office into the woods when I want. But there's more stress, too, being responsible for keeping 50 guys busy."

# LOGGING CREW

Most timber fallers make \$43,000 to \$56,000

"People either love logging or hate it. There's a lot of adrenaline that goes on out there. The physical demands can be brutal."

KIRK LUOTO  
Cross & Crown Inc.,  
Carlton





## Favorite part of job:

"I'm mostly on my own while running the harvester. I like working independently."



José also operated a forwarder at one time.

## What he does:

José runs a piece of heavy machinery called a harvester-processor. From his cab, using hand controllers, José 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, cuts the log into predetermined lengths and stacks them, while a computer in the cab keeps track of how much wood is harvested. José has also operated machines that move logs from where they are harvested to the road and those that load logs onto trucks.

**Harvester-processor operator**, Miller Timber

Operated a **log loader**, which lifts logs onto log trucks, Miller Timber

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

**Firefighting crew**, Miller Timber

**Forestry crew**; planted trees, burned slash, Miller Timber

Worked at a **plywood mill** in Philomath

Took **night classes** to learn English

Loaded trucks and tagged trees at a **Christmas tree farm**

Moved to the **United States** as a teenager

## STARTED HERE

Grew up in Mexico, trained horses with his father, farmed

**JOSÉ VIDRIO**  
Miller Timber Services,  
Philomath



José runs a harvester like this one.

# HARVESTER-PROCESSOR OPERATOR

Most logging equipment operators make \$36,000 to \$45,000

"Be responsible, be on time. I worked hard on other crews, and one day they asked if I wanted to learn to run the machines."



# TRUCKING & EQUIPMENT

## 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."

*A log truck might carry anywhere from three big logs to 100 small logs.*

## What he does:

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,**  
Young's Trucking

## Favorite part of job:

"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."

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

# LOG TRUCK DRIVER

Most truck drivers make \$33,000 to \$46,000

"You can be a log truck driver if your heart's in it – and if you like the country, dirt, rain and snow. I'm a country boy, so I wouldn't trade it for anything."

**BILL ELLIOT**  
Young's Trucking,  
Coos Bay







**Advice:**

“Be willing to go the extra mile and tackle any challenges to get the job done. When equipment is down, the customer is losing money – and that’s not good for anyone.”

*Fixing machinery in the field.*



**Favorite part of job:**  
 “Every day is different. And just like Oregon’s weather can bring a torrential downpour or brilliant sun, you learn to take the good with the bad. But in this job there’s always more good than bad, and there’s nothing better than working outside on a gorgeous, sunny day.”

**What he does:**

Dan repairs and maintains heavy forestry equipment and trucks, both in the shop and using a fully contained service truck. The service truck is stocked with tools, diagnostic instruments and parts, and he can drive it to remote parts of the forest to repair heavy equipment at the job site.

**Field technician,**  
Papé Machinery

Continuing education in  
**service technology**

**Shop mechanic,**  
Papé Caterpillar

Gold mine **equipment repairman** and welder

Two-year college **degree in diesel technology**

Love of the **outdoors** and hands-on work

**STARTED HERE**  
 Took sheet metal shop and drafting classes in high school

# FIELD TECHNICIAN/SERVICE MECHANIC

Most mobile heavy equipment mechanics make \$38,000 to \$56,000

“A positive attitude makes this work a lot easier. Customers look to your attitude for reassurance that the job is done right.”



**DAN ANTONOVICH**  
 Papé Machinery,  
 Eugene



# FOREST SUPPORT

## Advice:

"This job is physically and mentally demanding. Our company is looking for strong, character-driven individuals. When recruiting, I ask potential crew members to tell me about their character and about a positive character trait they possess, such as honesty, trustworthiness, endurance or enthusiasm. If you have traits like these, and you're physically and mentally fit, this job may be for you."

## What he does:

Sean manages five 20-person fire crews and 10 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 also manages five forestry crews of six to 20 people for projects such as replanting and cleanup after logging. He also oversees management of commercial thinning and stewardship logging operations in southwest Oregon.

**Base manager,**  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

**Assistant base manager,**  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

**Superintendent of crews,**  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

**Forestry crew supervisor,**  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

**Reforestation surveyor,** mapping and reporting,  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

**Tree planter,**  
Grayback Forestry Inc.

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

**Firefighter,** Oregon Department of Forestry

## STARTED HERE

High school sports

## Favorite part of job:

"Firefighting is based on the weather, so every day is different. I enjoy meeting new people and being part of the family-like fire community. I also like the travel and seeing the beauty of nature. I've been in every Western state and many others."

Most firefighters make \$45,000 to \$67,000

# WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER - BASE MANAGER

"Every day is an adventure. If there aren't fires or natural disasters, we're training, planning and recruiting. If the bell rings, you're headed out for 14 days in rugged terrain, but you get to see the beauty of country unseen."

SEAN HENDRIX  
Grayback Forestry Inc.,  
Merlin







Seedlings, aerial view of nursery

**Favorite part of job:**  
 "It's always nice to see trees from the nurseries growing in the woods about a year after they're planted."

**What he does:**

Michael oversees two nursery locations that grow a combined 15 million trees per year for reforestation after logging, fires or natural disasters in the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires that landowners replant any areas that are logged or disturbed, so there is a continual need for seedlings, especially Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western redcedar and other native species. Seedlings are generally 1 to 2 years old when they leave the nurseries to be replanted in a forest.

**Manager**, IFA Aurora and Canby Forest Nurseries

**Assistant manager**, IFA Canby Forest Nursery

**Production supervisor**, Weyerhaeuser's Aurora Forest Nursery

**Master's degree** in forest science at Oregon State University

**Research greenhouse manager** at Oregon State University

**Research assistant** at Nursery Technology Cooperative: studied care of forest seedlings

**Nursery management intern** for Weyerhaeuser

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

After high school, worked summers as a **wildland firefighter**

**STARTED HERE**  
 Enjoyed growing things and being in the woods

**Advice:**  
 "Find something you like to do. It will make going to work a lot easier."



About 15 million seedlings are grown per year at the nurseries Michael oversees.

Most nursery managers make \$45,000 to \$69,000

# NURSERY MANAGER

"Between both locations, we grow about 15 million trees a year. No, I haven't named them all yet."



**MICHAEL TAYLOR**  
 IFA Nurseries,  
 Aurora and Canby



# PLYWOOD & SAWMILLS

## Advice:

"It's important to get a high school diploma and earn good grades. Roseburg Forest Products is more selective now than it used to be. To be hired, you need at least a GED. The engineered-wood products industry is now more automated, so it's not as physically demanding as it used to be. A basic knowledge of computer programs is helpful. Take a factory tour to learn more."



Products from the finger-joint department are sold for use in building construction.

## What she does:

Kristy works at one of the largest and most high-tech engineered-wood products facilities in North America. She monitors the process of finger-jointing, in which defects are removed from 2x4 and 2x6 lumber and the ends are finger-jointed back together to create longer boards. The final products are sold to building supply companies and contractors as I-joists, which are used to support roofing or floors. Kristy works with four others on her crew, rotating stations during each shift.

**Finger-joint department,** Roseburg Forest Products

**Line operator,** laminated-veneer, including feeder station, lay-up station and glue tender, Roseburg Forest Products

Started in **plywood plant,** replacing knotholes with wood plugs



I-joist

## Favorite part of job:

"I love my job, but I really enjoy the people I work with. We are like a big family and a great team. Everyone watches your back and is willing to help out."

# MILL OPERATION

Drawn to **forest products** position for good wages and physical work

Most mill machinery operators make \$27,000 to \$39,000

"On a normal day, we rotate from one job station to another. We have to hustle and work hard. It's not like you just come in and do one basic job all day long. You have to be able to multi-task."

## STARTED HERE

Enjoyed outdoor activities and worked in various jobs while in high school

**KRISTY WINTERS**  
Roseburg Forest Products,  
Roseburg







**Advice:**  
 "If you're interested in working at a mill, you should still go to college. There's so much technology to learn. If you have the knowledge and education, you will have more options to move up."



**Favorite part of job:**  
 "I enjoy the daily interactions with people – customers, truck drivers and train operators – and making sure every order gets where it needs to go on time. It's rewarding to move as much lumber as we do."

**What he does:**  
 Al is in charge of every shipment of lumber that leaves the mill. He works with customers and brokers, as well as truckers and railroad operators to make sure deliveries arrive on time. He spends part of his day in the office, checking inventory, getting orders ready, calling customers and shipping managers, and doing paperwork. He spends other parts of his day in the mill yard, overseeing loading of trucks and trains.

**Shipping and sales coordinator,**  
 The Collins Companies

**Finish-end grader,**  
 determining the grade to be stamped on lumber based on its quality, The Collins Companies

Certified by the Western Wood Products Association as **lumber grader**

**Green-end grader**  
 inspecting rough lumber before it was dried, The Collins Companies

**Forklift operator,**  
 The Collins Companies

**Spanish interpreter,**  
 Hart Mountain Millwork

**Forklift driver and shipping loader**  
 at Hart Mountain Millwork in Lakeview

Worked for his uncle as a **timber faller** in Mexico

**STARTED HERE**  
 Worked on family farm in Mexico

# SHIPPING AND SALES COORDINATOR

Most shipping supervisors make \$42,000 to \$67,000

"There is so much technology in mills – everything is automated."



**AL CAMPUZANO**  
 The Collins Companies,  
 Lakeview



## Advice:

“Get an internship or summer job in the kind of work you think you’re interested in. That really helped me. You can make sure it’s desirable work, and it gives you a leg up later when you are ready to step into a career.”

## What he does:

Contact Industries makes high-tech products in which thin layers of wood are glued over metal or plastic, a process called veneering. The end product looks like wood but may be stronger, more fire-resistant or more affordable than solid wood. Casey oversees the entire manufacturing process, from equipment maintenance to product pricing. He applies his knowledge of physical and chemical properties of wood to help design these innovative wood-based products. Almost all the company’s products are custom-made for builders and architects.

**Vice president of manufacturing,** Contact Industries

**New products manager,** Contact Industries

**Floor supervisor/manager,** Contact Industries

**Production manager,** Jeld-Wen Windows and Doors (first management job after college)

**Bachelor’s degree** in forest products management, Oregon State University

Worked at Willamette Industries **particle-board mill** while in college

**Laborer** at Bohemia planing mill

High school job working at a **tree farm** and nursery

## STARTED HERE

Father worked in wood products industry; liked being around mills



Contact Industries made these oval window blinds for a college in England. They are aluminum covered with a thin layer of oak.



Rolls of wood veneer.

## Favorite part of job:

“It’s rewarding to create new products, quality products that people want to buy – which then creates a lot of jobs in this small community.”

# VICE PRESIDENT OF MANUFACTURING

Most senior managers make \$59,000 to \$119,000

“Because each job is unique, we get just one shot to price it correctly. It can be extremely challenging.”

**CASEY JACKSON**  
Contact Industries,  
Prineville







Mills rely on machinery. Millwrights keep everything running smoothly.

### Advice:

"Have the attitude that some things just have to get fixed or finished before you go home for the day. I learned that working on a farm while in high school. This job is like that, too."



### Favorite part of job:

"I like building things and then seeing that other people appreciate what I've done."

### What he does:

Johnny helps keep the sawmill running smoothly. He fixes problems and performs regularly scheduled maintenance. He also builds and installs new equipment and makes improvements in the mill, such as building a new catwalk. He does welding and carpentry, reads blueprints, and uses applied sciences to repair and maintain machinery that is powered by liquids (hydraulics) and gases (pneumatics). The mill also employs electricians, who have similar responsibilities but focus on electrical systems.

After four years as an apprentice, became a **journeyman millwright** at Stimson

**Associate's degree** in industrial maintenance technologies, Tillamook Bay Community College

Apprenticeship required 8,000 hours (about four years) of on-the-job training as well as schoolwork at Tillamook Bay Community College. Stimson **paid his college fees**

After high school, hired on as an **apprentice millwright** at Stimson

Learned about a Stimson Lumber apprenticeship at a **high school presentation**

During high school, worked on a friend's **farm**

### STARTED HERE

Enjoyed working on cars

Most millwrights make \$46,000 to \$69,000

# MILLWRIGHT

"You pretty much save the day every day. Somebody is having a problem, and you come and fix it."



JOHNNY SCHNEIDECKER  
Stimson Lumber,  
Tillamook



**Advice:**

"Sawmills today require less physical labor than 10 or 20 years ago. New technology requires that we employ more programmers and technicians. Take tours of sawmills; arrange to ride along with a forester and ask questions."

**What he does:**

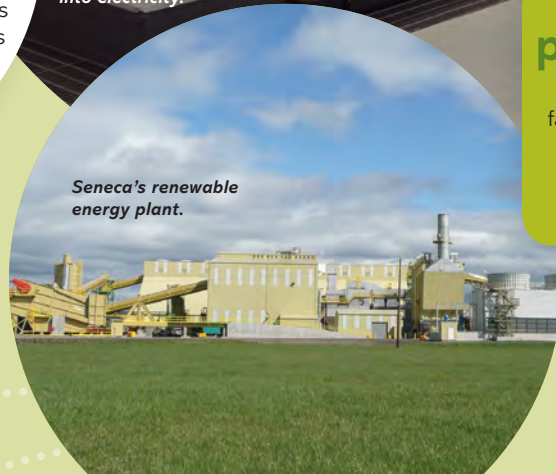
Todd manages Seneca's 165,000 acres of timberland, determining how much wood will be harvested so that the operation is both profitable and sustainable. He makes sure the land is properly reforested, and he oversees the sawmill's renewable energy plant. The plant burns bark, sawdust and wood shavings from the mill as well as slash from logging jobs. The heat produces steam, which is used to dry lumber and generate electricity that is sold onto the public power grid.



The turbine converts steam into electricity.

**Favorite part of job:**

"Working for a local, family-owned company and building strong relationships with his colleagues and co-workers."



Seneca's renewable energy plant.

Most senior managers make \$59,000 to \$119,000

# VICE PRESIDENT OF TIMBERLANDS

"It's a new age. Sawmills aren't noisy, dirty places. They're high-tech, automated. We are always pushing the edge of efficiency and technology. A good example is the renewable energy facility, which operates with just two people."

**STARTED HERE**

Grandfather was part-owner of a mill; father was a forest engineer

TODD PAYNE

Seneca Sawmill/  
Seneca Jones Timber/  
Seneca Sustainable Energy,  
Eugene



Added to his duties oversight of Seneca **computer systems**

Oversaw construction of Seneca's **renewable energy** facility

**Vice president** of timberlands, Seneca

**Business analyst**, worked on mill efficiency, buying timberland, Seneca

**Forester**, mostly in the field, Seneca

**Internship**, Bohemia Lumber: forestry, manufacturing, business

Oregon State University: **Bachelor's degree** in business, minored in forest products

As a teen, worked summers in the sawmill as a **laborer**.



# BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

## Education

### OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORESTRY (Corvallis)

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 & 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 & 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.

For more information about forest-sector careers and education programs, visit [oregonforests.org/content/careers](http://oregonforests.org/content/careers)

## 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)

Forestry  
Forest Resources Technology  
Natural Resources  
Outdoor Leadership  
Wildland Fire/Fuels Management

### MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Gresham)

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

### SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Coos Bay)

Forestry  
Natural Resources

### TILLAMOOK BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Tillamook)

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Forestry  
Apprenticeships

### TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Ontario)

Natural Resources  
Wildland Fire Management  
Wildlife Science

### UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Roseburg)

Forest Management  
Forest Engineering  
Forest Operations  
Forest Restoration & Fire  
Natural Resources  
Apprenticeships



## Work Experience

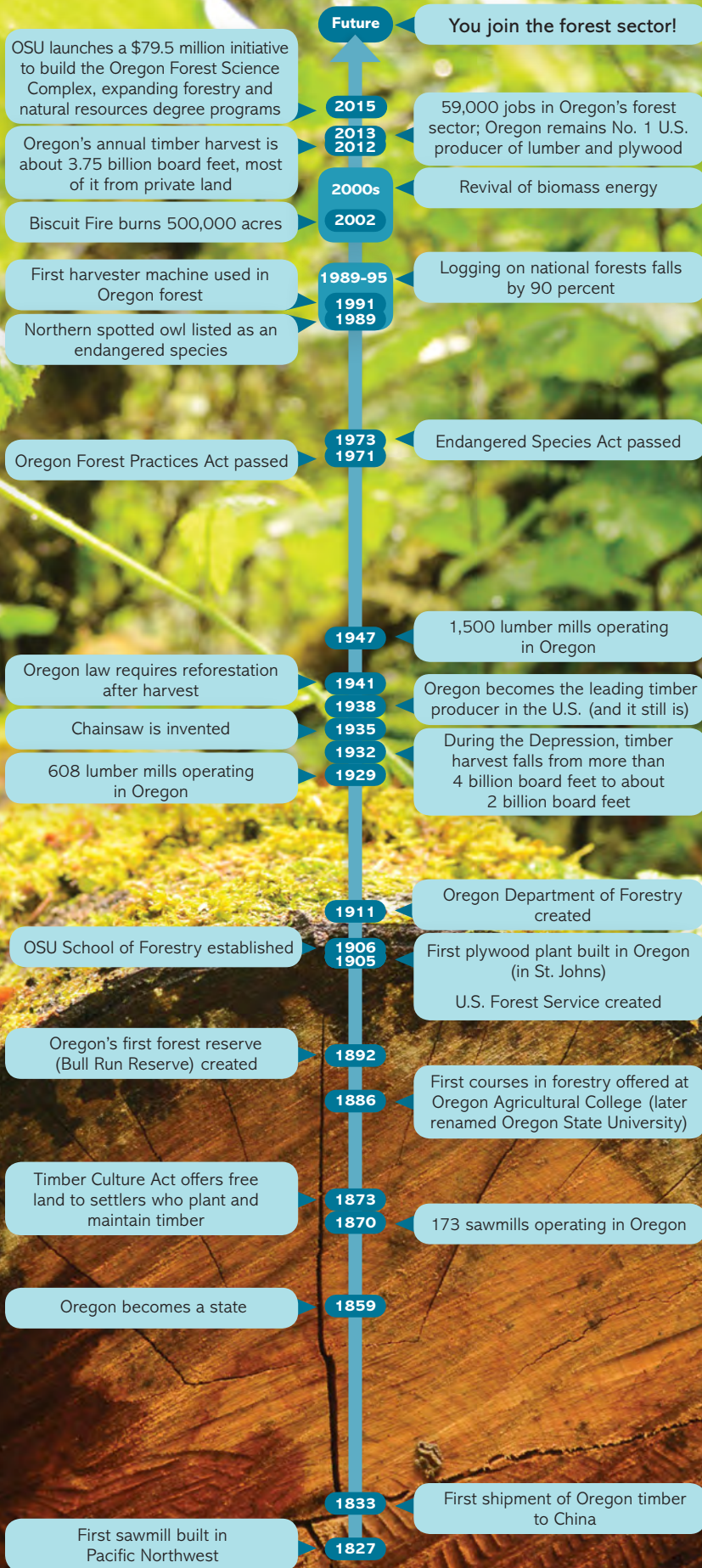
### NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) provides students an opportunity to gain a better understanding of modern resource management and related careers. [nyyouthcorps.org](http://nyyouthcorps.org)

### OREGON YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) builds strong connections between positive experiences, work skills, personal responsibility, commitment to education and future employment for Oregon's youth. [oyccweb.com](http://oyccweb.com)





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute extends its sincere appreciation to the forest-sector employees who agreed to be profiled in this booklet – and to their supervisors and employers. All were generous with their time and helpful in providing information and photographs. Also, thanks to Rex Storm for his photos, which appear on pages 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

## ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute in 1991 to advance public understanding of how forest stewardship meets the social, environmental and economic needs of both present and future generations. OFRI works closely with the scientific, academic and educational communities at Oregon State University, the Oregon Department of Forestry and other agencies to ensure its K-12 resources are accurate and objective.

To learn more about careers in the forest sector, including video profiles, go to [OregonForestCareers.org](http://OregonForestCareers.org).



**Oregon Forest Resources Institute**

**LearnForests.org**

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