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PLT is an initiative of SFI

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET FORESTER

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.

Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$42,500 to \$93,060 per year and average about \$63,980.

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)

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 [Forestry USA website](#) for a list of U.S. colleges and universities that offer forestry degrees.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests



IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

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!

Since foresters work in the field, in the office, or in the lab, they have diverse skills: writing, data analysis, speaking, monitoring, reading comprehension, judgment and decision making, critical thinking, 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.

