working in forests today

Forester

Forester — a scientist who balances the management of water catchments, cultural heritage, wildlife, bushfires, recreation and timber production in forests to meet the needs of the community.

Sandra Madeley

Bachelor of Forest Science

Combining modern technology with old-fashioned bushwalking is an everyday part of the job for foresters.

'As a planning forester, I spend time walking and driving through forests assessing trees, roads, landscape features and topography. But in the office I use the latest in computer technology.

'The production of timber only occurs in limited sections of State forest. I prepare a plan outlining measures to maintain water quality, protect key native animal habitat and specify where trees are to be cut down.

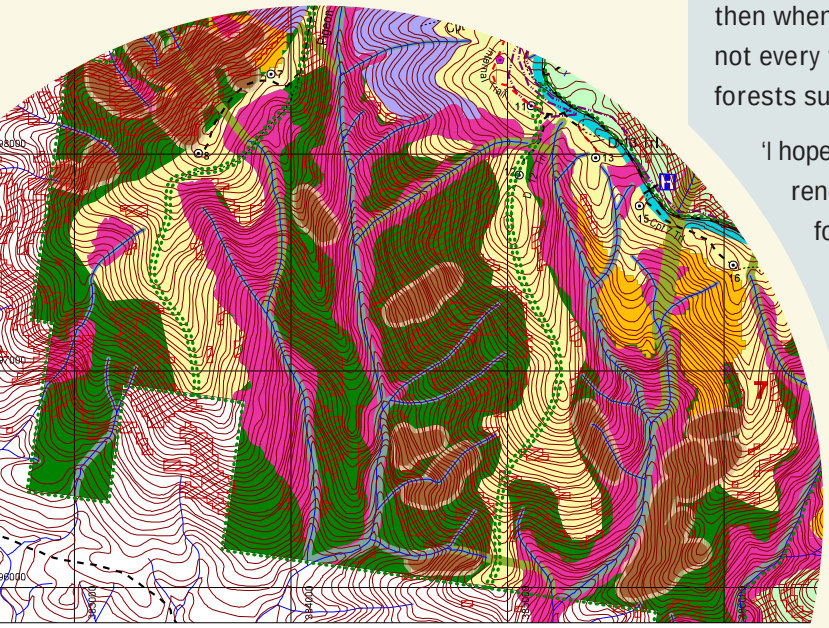
'While logging can be confronting, native forests naturally regenerate and will supply timber again in ten to 40 years.

'Before any trees are cut down, a harvesting plan map is prepared to highlight key features like creeks, roads and protected areas and give instructions on what trees are to be cut down and retained.

'Did you know that individual trees are assessed before they are harvested? This ensures that the best logs are taken now, while trees remain to grow into logs for our children, and others to provide seed and habitat for animals.

'Sometimes when I tell people what I do they are a bit surprised. But then when I explain the complexities of our management and that not every tree is cut down, they realise that we can manage our forests sustainably.

'I hope people think about what they use when they build or renovate their homes. The blackbutt floorboards from the forests around Wauchope are exceptional and our forest management is far more sustainable and accountable than in many other parts of the world.'



Left: An integral part of a timber harvesting plan is a customised map capturing information about an area of forest to be harvested, including creeks, roads, key animal recordings and areas where harvesting is to be excluded.

Forests NSW is a public trading enterprise within NSW Department of Primary Industries

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