

Careers in Forests NSW

Forests NSW Community Programs

Who are Forests NSW?

Forests NSW is a public trading enterprise within the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Our role is to sustainably manage more than two million hectares of native and planted forests for a wide range of economic, environmental and social values to internationally recognised standards.

Our management objectives are to:

- sustain financial performance
- deliver ecologically sustainable management of forest resources
- provide accountability to the community, and
- support our people.

These objectives encompass ensuring the sustainable supply of timber to processing industries, protecting and enhancing environmental values and providing recreational opportunities.

Forests NSW is also engaged in developing other business services relating to our primary role as forest manager, such as plantation establishment and management services, carbon sinks and carbon trading, land repair and mine site rehabilitation.

As the largest forest manager in NSW, we are a major force in the State's timber industry which contributes nearly \$1 billion annually to the NSW economy. Forest management together with timber harvesting, haulage and processing provides the economic mainstay for a number of regional communities and generates direct income for more than 7000 people. Forests NSW directly employs over 1000 permanent staff as well as many hundreds of seasonal staff and contractors.

The corporate office is based in West Pennant Hills (Sydney) while the majority of staff are located in regional centres across NSW.

There is more to forestry than trees

As well as Forestry, specialist career opportunities with us include the fields of Ecology, Geographic Information Systems, Fire, Information Technology, Human Resources, Accountancy, Marketing, Engineering, Media as well as general administration.

Field Staff

If you are interested in working outdoors in forests, then there are a wide range of opportunities. Our fieldworkers, forest assistants and field supervisors undertake and supervise practical forestry work including:

- planting, fertilising, pruning and thinning trees
- firefighting and fire tower operation
- road construction, maintenance and drainage works
- measurement and modelling and data collection
- regeneration and noxious weed control
- recreation management, and
- supervision of harvesting.

Other employment opportunities exist in forest nurseries, such as sales assistants and horticulturalists and in our regional workshops as mechanics and trade assistants. These positions require a good level of physical fitness, practical abilities, willingness to work outdoors in a wide range of climatic conditions, being a team player and possessing a current driver's licence.

At the entry level most of these positions do not require pre-requisite forestry industry experience, though practical skills and operational licences gained from other industries may assist in selection.

For more information on courses contact registered training providers or TAFE (www.tafensw.edu.au). Once employed with Forests NSW there are career development opportunities to progress in the organisation.

Seasonal fieldworker positions are often available in Forests NSW regional centres and nurseries and provide an ideal entry point to our organisation.

Contact your nearest Forests NSW Human Resources Consultant in Albury on (02) 6043 1007, in Coffs Harbour on (02) 6656 8800 or in West Pennant Hills on (02) 9872 0111.

Foresters

Foresters study the following at university as part of a Forest Science degree (usually four years).

- *Forest botany and ecology* – the identification of forest plants and animal species and the classification of forest communities. This includes the study of how plant and animal distribution is related to factors such as climate, soils and terrain.
- *Silviculture* – the science of growing a forest (planting, tending and caring for a forest) and managing the forest to meet clear objectives.
- *Forest protection* – the safeguarding of a forest from fire, the attack of insects, fungi and feral animals and from damage caused by climatic events such as wind, rain, snow and drought.
- *Forest survey, assessment and measurement* – the survey of forest areas and forest attributes. This involves taking measurements to determine the population and distribution of forest species, tree growth rates, timber volumes and the most suitable location of forest boundaries and roads.
- *Forest management* – the preparation and implementation of forest management plans that identify forest values and how these values can be maximised. Forest values include the biodiversity of plants and animals, soil and water quality, timber harvesting production, recreation facilities, regional employment, Aboriginal sites and storage of carbon.
- *Planting new forests* – planting and managing new forests to provide environmental services such as storing carbon, controlling salinity and enhancing biodiversity, as well as timber. This is a growing area with approximately 100,000 ha of new plantation established each year in Australia.
- *Harvesting and marketing* – knowledge of the marketing conditions of timber and other forest products. This involves analysis of the costs and returns for different forestry operations, including timber harvesting, road construction and fire control, the determination of prices for forest products and the supervision of harvesting operations in forests.
- *Forest engineering* – the construction of roads, buildings, water supplies and other structures and their maintenance. This includes an appreciation of the equipment used to carry out these works and the servicing required for such equipment.
- *Forest accountancy* – manage the collection of revenue from the sale of forest products and the control of expenditure associated with all forestry operations. This also includes measuring and

accounting for the carbon stored in new forests planted to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

- *People management* – the management, training and safety of employees and contractors working in the forests.
- *Law* – a knowledge of the legislation which regulates and controls land management and protects the environment

Degrees in Forest Science are offered at the following Universities in Australia:

- Australian National University, Canberra (www.anu.edu.au)
- The University of Melbourne (www.unimelb.edu.au)
- Southern Cross University, Lismore and Mount Gambier (www.scu.edu.au)
- The University of Tasmania (www.utas.edu.au)

Further information on forester qualifications can be found on the Institute of Foresters website www.forestry.org.au.

Research Scientists study a wide range of sciences for which courses are available at all major universities.

Interested in more information?

Positions are usually advertised in the local press, and on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au or contact your nearest Forests NSW Human Resources Consultant in Albury on (02) 6043 1007, in Coffs Harbour on (02) 6656 8800 or West Pennant Hills on (02) 9872 0111. Related websites include: www.forestworks.com.au and www.australianforests.org.au

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www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2008). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.