

Position Opening: Forester

Open until filled - rolling review of applications



**NORTHWEST NATURAL
RESOURCE GROUP**
LEADERS IN ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY

Background:

Based in Seattle, Northwest Natural Resource Group's mission is to *strengthen the ecological and economic vitality of Northwest forests and communities by connecting people with the knowledge, skills, and markets they need to steward their land.* We focus on forests owned and managed by private landowners, smaller forest product companies, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes.

NNRG advances the state of knowledge about ecological forestry, spreads the word about its benefits and feasibility, and helps landowners put it into practice on their own forests. We provide access to Forest Stewardship Council® certification, forest management assistance, landowner incentives, marketing, and educational workshops. Our FSC® certificate includes more than 80 certified forests across 195,000 acres in Washington and Oregon, making it the largest certificate in the Pacific Northwest.

Summary of Position:

The Forester is an integral part of the team at NNRG that helps individual landowners learn how to manage their forestland, and delivers forest management services. Funded in part by a grant from the USDA's Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities, the forester learns from landowners about their objectives, assesses the state of their forest, and connects them with forest planning, restoration, and harvest management services as well as government-funded cost-share opportunities. The Forester may be a forest owner's first point of contact with NNRG, and thus must serve as an ambassador for the organization as well as ecological forestry.

In addition, the Forester takes part in NNRG's timber harvest program, including inventory, marking, layout, preparing Forest Practices Applications (FPAs), and logging compliance monitoring. They may lead a crew of 1 to 2 forest technicians in the field for data collection and tree marking. The Forester will develop and write forest management plans for NNRG's clients. Through the planning process, the Forester develops recommendations and timelines for commercial timber harvesting, as well as stewardship activities such as seedling release, invasive species control, wildlife habitat enhancement, road maintenance, cultivation and harvesting of non-timber forest products, and forest restoration activities.

The position includes both field and office work. Field work includes site visits with or without accompanying landowners; rapid assessment of stand conditions; timber cruising; timber marking for harvest; monitoring forest conditions; and logging compliance monitoring. Field work will at times require the Forester to traverse steep and brushy terrain. Office work includes communicating with landowners over phone and email; writing management plans; preparing FPAs; and creating GIS maps for plans, permits, and site visits. Clear, trustworthy communication and client relations are central to the position.

If you are passionate about the role that forest management can play in restoring forest ecosystems and rural economies in the Pacific Northwest, this is a unique opportunity to contribute to thoughtful forest stewardship in the region.

The minimum qualifications for this job include:

- At least two years of field experience in forestry.

To perform this job well, you are also:

- A talented communicator, able to listen carefully and respectfully to a wide variety of landowner goals and values and to translate those goals into innovative forest management opportunities;
- Skilled at cultivating client relationships, along the entire path from initial contact through contract, implementation, and client satisfaction;
- A clear and fluid writer;
- Familiar with the full range of forest stewardship activities that can restore forest structure and diversity, while also generating income;
- Familiar with the application of the Washington Forest Practices Act to forest management decisions, planning, and permitting;
- Competent with Microsoft Office suite and comparable Google Workspace applications;
- Experienced at creating maps using ESRI (ArcGIS) software; and
- Experienced at forest mensuration and inventory techniques.

In addition, the ideal candidate will:

- Have experience writing ecologically-based forest management plans;
- Be sufficiently familiar with regional log markets and logging practices to discern the feasibility of timber harvest operations on a given forest stand;
- Have a bachelor's degree in forestry or a related field plus four years' experience; a master's degree in forestry or a related field plus two years' experience; or an equivalent combination of experience and formal education.

Hours, Pay, and Location

This is an hourly full-time position (40 hours/week), paying between \$31 and \$37 per hour (\$64,500 to \$77,000 annually) depending on experience and skills. Compensation also includes competitive retirement and health-insurance benefits, and 4 weeks of paid time off annually (combination of vacation and sick leave). Some work may occur in the evenings or on weekends, and may require occasional overnight stays to minimize travel time.

You will be expected to provide your own vehicle. NNRG reimburses for mileage and travel time from your home (if located within the Seattle/Tacoma/Olympia region) to job sites, which are primarily located within a 90-minute driving radius of Tacoma or Olympia, or within a 2-hour drive of Seattle. Most work can be performed in the field or from home, though NNRG's Seattle office is available for the forester's use as well. This position reports to Director of Forestry Kirk Hanson, who is based in Olympia.

To Apply

Please email a cover letter and resume as a single pdf document to jobs@nnrg.org. Include your last name at the beginning of the file name of the pdf. For questions about the job, please contact Seth Zuckerman, Executive Director, seth@nnrg.org. The position is open until filled.