

Forests and rangelands supply wood products, livestock forage, minerals, and water; serve as sites for recreational activities; and provide habitats for wildlife. **Conservation Scientists** and **Foresters** manage, develop, use, and help protect these and other natural resources. Foresters manage forested lands for a variety of purposes. **Forestry Consultants** often act as agents for the forest owner, performing these duties and negotiating timber sales with industrial procurement foresters. Throughout the process, foresters consider the economics of the purchase as well as the environmental impact on natural resources. To do this, they determine how best to conserve wildlife habitats, creek beds, water quality, and soil stability and how best to comply with environmental regulations. Foresters must balance the desire to conserve forested ecosystems for future generations with the need to use forest resources for recreational or economic purposes.

**Range Managers**, also called **Range Conservationists**, manage, improve, and protect rangelands to maximize their use without damaging the environment. Rangelands cover about 1 billion acres of the United States, mostly in the western States and Alaska. **Soil Conservationists** provide technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, State and local governments, and others concerned with the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Generally working under the direction of a professional forester, **Forestry Technicians** compile data on the size, content, and condition of forestland tracts. These workers travel through sections of forest to gather basic information, such as species and population of trees, disease and insect damage, tree seedling mortality, and conditions that may cause fire danger. **Forest Workers** are less skilled workers who perform a variety of tasks to reforest and conserve timberlands and maintain forest facilities (roads/campsites).

### Salary Information:

- Conservation Scientist  
\$60,170 Median Salary Range (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)  
Foresters:  
\$53,800 Median Salary Range (Career One Stop, 2008)

[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

### Transfer Information:

- A Bachelor's degree in Forestry is the minimum educational requirement for professional careers in forestry. Prospective foresters should have a strong grasp of policy issues and of increasingly numerous and complex environmental regulations, which affect many forestry-related activities. Many colleges require students to complete a field session either in a camp operated by the college or in a cooperative work-study program with a Federal or State agency or private industry.

### Additional Information:

- USDA Forest Service: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

