

# JOBS IN IDAHO'S FOREST SECTOR

There are many career opportunities in today's progressive forestry workforce.

*Click on highlighted jobs to see profiles of people working in this career in Idaho*

## Logging Crew

Loggers cut and process trees into logs in the forest. Entry-level positions receive training on the job, and more experienced positions take on greater responsibilities.

- Timber faller
- Timber buckler
- Choker setter
- Chaser
- Coiler
- Hooker
- Rigging slinger
- Tree climber

## Forestry Crew

These jobs involve manual labor working outdoors in forested terrain—often on a crew comprised of several workers, or helping other operators do their work. As entry-level positions, most training occurs on the job.

- Tree planter
- Pre-commercial thinner
- Reforestation-slash worker
- Tree care worker
- Log yard worker
- Firefighter
- Prescribed burner
- Fire pumper
- Sawyer
- Swamper
- Flagger
- Contract inspector
- Forestry laborer

## Heavy Equipment Operation

Skilled machinery operators run large function-built equipment. Operators may run different machines during the year. Requires specialized training and extensive experience.

- Skidder operator
- Logging dozer operator
- Shovel logger operator
- Log loader operator
- Yarder operator
- Feller-buncher operator
- Delimber operator
- Processor operator
- Forwarder operator
- Front-end loader operator
- Chipper operator
- Fire engine operator
- Grader operator
- Road dozer operator
- Excavator/track-hoe operator
- Backhoe operator
- Compactor operator
- Scraper operator
- Rock drill/compressor operator
- Rock crusher operator
- Helicopter pilot

## Trucking

Drivers transport machinery, logs, chips and finished lumber. Requires specialized training, a commercial driver's license and ample experience.

- Log truck driver
- Self-loader truck driver
- Chip van driver
- Lowboy (heavy haul) driver
- Dump truck and trailer driver
- Off-highway end dump driver
- Auxiliary truck driver  
(water/spool/fuel/etc.)
- Pilot car driver

## Equipment Mechanical Services

Mechanics diagnose, service and repair heavy equipment and trucks either in the shop or at remote field locations. Requires specialized training, often including education certificates, and ample experience.

- Heavy equipment/truck mechanic
- Diesel mechanic
- Hydraulic mechanic
- Electronic mechanic
- Helicopter mechanic
- Saw shop/motor mechanic
- Service mechanic
- Mechanic's assistant

## Forestry Technicians

Specialized forestry positions that perform technically demanding work outdoors in the forest. Requires specialized training, often including some college education or certificates, as well as ample experience.

- Timber cruiser
- Timber marker
- Log scaler
- Land surveyor
- Forestry technician
- Fire technician
- Engineering technician
- Road management technician
- Biology/hydrology technician
- Drilling explosives specialist
- Fire watch
- Security watch

## Forest Management

Public Sector: These jobs implement management plans that balance economic, recreational and conservation goals. Objectives include conserving wildlife habitats and maintaining water quality as well as managing campgrounds, trails, timber inventory and sales, forest health and risk of fire and disease. Depending on level of experience, duties can range from clearing trails to supervising major policy development. At the federal level, the focus is on overall land management. At the state level, the primary objective includes timber production, wildfire management and compliance with the Forest Practices Act. At local levels, key activities relate to recreation and education.

Private Sector: Utilizes science to manage the planting and growing of new trees to maximize reforestation and harvest objectives. Employs both technical and business skills to inventory standing timber, appraise its worth and negotiate its purchase. Works to conserve wildlife and fish habitat and other natural resources on timberlands and determines how to best comply with environmental regulations.

- Agroforester
- Consulting Forester
- Communications Specialist
- [Environmental Educator](#)
- [Extension Forester](#)
- Forest Ecologist
- Fire Management Officer
- Forest Economist
- Forest Land Appraiser
- Forest Manager
- Forest Policy Analyst
- Naturalist
- Nursery Manager
- Public Affairs Officer
- Planner
- Reforestation Forester
- Remote Sensing/GIS Specialist
- Research Scientist
- Silviculturist
- Timber Sale Planner
- [Urban Naturalist or Forester](#)
- Wildlife Habitat Specialist

JOBS &  
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### Wood Science & Technology

Uses scientific knowledge of physical, chemical and mechanical properties of wood to design wood-based products. Uses sophisticated technology to develop manufacturing processes. Business and financial duties focus on supply chain, marketing and quality control aspects of manufacturing.

Design Engineer  
Editor, Trade Journal  
Environmental Health & Safety Mgr.  
Human Resources manager  
International Marketing Manager  
Management Trainee  
Mill Manager  
Plant Engineer  
Product Development Specialist  
Production Foreman  
Project Engineer  
Quality Control Technician  
Sales/Marketing Manager  
Technical Director  
Technical Services Manager  
Total Quality Manager  
Vice President, Research & Development  
Wood Technologist  
Wood Chemist

### Forest Engineering

Plans, designs and oversees construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, channels, dams, pipelines, water systems and other structures associated with the interface between people and the forest environment.

Consulting Engineer  
Forest Engineer  
[Forest Hydrologist](#)  
Forest Operations manager  
Forest Transportation Planner  
Harvesting Specialist  
Land Use Manager  
Structural Design Engineer  
Surveyor  
Timber Harvest Contractor  
Timber Supply Manager  
Timber Sale Planner

### Management/Supervision

Supervisors oversee the safe and productive function of other employees working outdoors in forest terrain. Supervisors commonly advance into management responsibilities after demonstrating sufficient experience and performance in other forestry positions. Requires ample previous experience, often including specialized training or education certificates.

Crew boss  
Engine boss  
Supervisor  
Construction manager  
Road manager  
Reload/log yard manager  
Project manager  
Division manager

### Natural Resources

Applies a variety of professional skills to accomplish specific objectives within a field. May involve or require training in research, instruction, management, supervision, finance or communication.

Budget Analyst  
Communications Specialist  
Environmental Consultant  
[Environmental Educator](#)  
Environmental Lobbyist or Lawyer  
Extension Agent  
Forest/Rangeland/Fire Ecologist  
Forest Research Scientist  
Land Use Planning/GIS  
Public Affairs (Information) Officer  
Urban/Wildland Forester or Naturalist  
Fire Ecologist  
Forest Ecologist  
Forest Economist  
Forest Nursery Specialist  
Forest Pathologist  
Forest Pest Management Specialist  
Forest Regeneration Specialist  
Forest Scientist  
Forest Statistician  
Forest Tree Physiologist  
[Forest Hydrologist](#)  
Landscape Ecologist  
Photogrammetrist  
Remote Sensing/GIS Specialist  
Research Engineer  
Silviculturist  
Surveyor  
[Teacher](#)  
Technical Director  
Tree Geneticist  
University Professor  
Vegetation Management Specialist  
Wood Chemist  
Wood Engineering Designer  
Wood Product Development Specialist  
Wood Products Pathologist

### Forest Recreation Resources

Plans and manages recreational opportunities on public or private lands. Balances natural resource management with recreational interests and environmental sustainability.

Backcountry Guide  
Cultural Resource Manager  
Ecotourism Specialist  
[Environmental Educator](#)  
Environmental Interpreter  
Naturalist  
Park Manager  
Public Affairs Officer  
Recreation Manager  
Remote Sensing/GIS Specialist  
Ski Area Manager  
Tourism Development Specialist  
Wilderness Manager  
Wildland Law Enforcement Officer

### Business Ownership

There are hundreds of forestry companies working in Idaho forests. Owners typically have their roots in previous forestry work, advancing up the ranks to self-ownership. There are many types of forestry companies, employing from one to over a hundred workers, in the following categories:

Timber cutting  
Logging  
Log/chip trucking  
Chipping  
Helicopter operations  
Forest roading (construction/maintenance/improvement)  
Forestry services (reforestation/thinning/tree care/slashing/erosion control)  
Forest protection (firefighting/burning/fire prevention/tree protection)  
Heavy haul  
Mechanic service  
Equipment/truck dealer  
Logger's supply/saw shop  
Forestry professional services  
[Family Forest Ownership](#) "Tree Farmers"

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