FORESTRY CAREERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Where does the Forestry Commission employ personnel?
The Forestry Commission employs personnel in every county of the state. Counties are organized under Unit Foresters, who report to Regional Foresters. The Commission also operates five state forests and a nursery. The State Forester’s office and headquarters for program planning, administration, information technology and education are centrally located in Columbia.

Employee Benefits
As a South Carolina state agency, the Forestry Commission offers a full range of fringe benefits, including paid annual and sick leave; health, dental, and life insurance plans; and an excellent retirement system.

Affirmative Action
The South Carolina Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunity to all present and prospective employees regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or political affiliation. This policy applies to all personnel actions, including but not limited to recruiting, hiring, classification/compensation, benefits, transfers, terminations, and educational, social or recreational programs of the agency.

Where can you search for Forestry Commission jobs?
South Carolina Forestry Commission job openings will be posted online at www.jobs.sc.gov.

Contact Us:
South Carolina Forestry Commission
5500 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
Phone: (803) 896-8800
Fax: (803) 798-0097
Email: scfc@scfc.gov

WHERE EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY
Forester
This is a position with the greatest career latitude and opportunity for advancement to a supervisory or executive planning position. Newly hired foresters will either be assigned to a unit where their primary responsibility will be working with private forest landowners, or they will be assigned to a state forest, or into the Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program. Foresters make woodland examinations and write plans tailored to a landowner’s management objectives. They may mark timber, conduct prescribed burning, supervise harvesting and planting operations, and work with wildlife, soil conservation and other natural resource agencies. They will be involved in forest fire prevention and suppression and may supervise fire fighting personnel. They may also work in special programs such as urban forestry, insect and disease management, marketing, conservation education and environmental affairs.

**Job qualifications:** Bachelor’s degree in forestry from a college or university accredited by the Society of American Foresters. Must become a Registered Forester.

**Types of foresters**

**Project Forester**
- Private landowner forest management assistance

**Stewardship Forester**
- Private landowner multiple use management planning and assistance

**BMP Forester**
- Water and environmental quality inspections relating to forest management

**FIA Forester**
- State wide forest resource inventory

**Urban Forester**
- Community forest management and planning

**Protection Forester**
- Insect and disease monitoring, diagnosis, management
- Wildfire control and planning

Forestry Technician I
A Forestry Technician I’s primary duty is the suppression of wildfires. Because wildfire doesn’t necessarily keep a 9-5 schedule, neither can a Forestry Technician. Current communications equipment allows some flexibility, but a technician must be available to be quickly dispatched to the location of a fire whether it be day or night, weekday or weekend. Forestry Commission technicians will often be the first to arrive at the scene of a wildfire. Using mechanized equipment and/or hand tools, their job is to contain the fire. Although most day-to-day fire fighting will be in surrounding counties, they could be dispatched to any location in South Carolina or to other states. Forestry Technician Is also perform routine equipment maintenance and assist with construction projects and fire prevention programs. Career advancement is possible through a Forestry Technician Career Ladder.

**Job qualifications:** High school graduation and one (1) year of work experience, preferably in equipment operation. Preferred qualifications: 2-year degree in forestry, natural resources, or other related field. You must also pass a physical fitness test.

Forestry Technician II
Forest Technician IIs have an associate’s degree in forestry or equivalent experience. Most will work at one of the Commission’s state forests where they will do everything from tree planting and wildlife management to prescribed burning and heavy equipment operation.

Forestry Technician III/Supervisor
A Forestry Technician/Supervisor manages fire suppression activities. Forestry Technician Is are under the direct supervision of a Forestry Technician/Supervisor. Forestry Technician/Supervisors are also responsible for forest fire law enforcement and fire prevention activities. They receive advanced training in law enforcement and forest fire fighting. A Forestry Technician/Supervisor is assigned a heavy pickup truck with a water pump and frequently directs fire fighting operations at the scene. They may assist foresters with timber marking, planting, harvest site inspection and forest landowner services.

**Job qualifications:** High school graduation and two (2) years’ experience related to forest fire control or an equivalent combination of experience.