Sustainable forestry is vital to Oregonians way of life and rural economy.
Loggers are the forestry profession’s connection to the forest, the on-the-ground specialists who plant, grow and harvest the sustainable forests that make Oregonians proud.

Today’s forest contractor is a logging professional, who manages forestry operations through innovation, technology, utilization, and Oregon’s high environmental standards. Loggers do more than cut and deliver timber to mills; they also establish the young trees, build forest roads, enhance natural resources, and protect the environment.

When a forest landowner thinks about harvesting a portion of their forest, contracting with a logging professional and/or a forestry consultant is the first step to accomplish the owner’s management objectives.

There’s a bright future for men and women seeking rewarding careers in the outdoors to manage forests and make the renewable forest products we use every day. Oregon’s forest sector is a world leader in managing abundant forests!
The renewable forest products grown and harvested by Oregon professional loggers are produced under some of the world’s most comprehensive environmental standards. Protecting fish, wildlife, soil, air, and water quality isn’t just a nice thing to do. It’s a matter of staying in business for loggers, forest landowners and timber mills in Oregon today. Environmental assurances come from Oregon’s strong forest regulations, forest certification, and a robust industry culture for renewable forests and world-class manufacturing. Oregon professional loggers assure a healthy environment and a sustainable supply of future forests.

Forest ‘certification’ is a promise to consumers that forest products come from “green certified” forests. Many Oregon sawmills, panel plants, and paper mills sell their products as “certified” – a guarantee that the wood was grown and harvested in a sustainable way that protects the forest environment. Certification programs rely, in part, on strong performance by logging professionals. America’s largest forest certification system, 2010 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), defines principles of sustainable forestry:

- Assure sustainable forestry
- Provide forest regeneration, productivity and health
- Protect water resources
- Protect biological diversity
- Manage aesthetics and recreation
- Protect special sites
- Use responsible fiber sourcing
- Avoid controversial fiber, if outside N. America
- Comply with legal requirements
- Support forestry research
- Improve sustainable forestry with training and education
- Involve public in sustainable forestry
- Broader transparency of forest certification
- Promote continual improvement

Oregon’s forest law – the nation’s first in 1971 – is an international model for environmental protection. More than 50 State of Oregon foresters oversee logging contractor compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Rules (FPA) on non-federal forests. Not only does Oregon’s FPA forest law ensure resources are protected during logging operations, the FPA ensures continuous tree growing, harvesting, and planting – keeping our forests and industry sustainable.

The FPA sets standards for any commercial activity involving the establishment, management, roading or harvesting of trees on Oregon forestlands. Furthermore, there are additional forest regulations governing other specific aspects of forestry. Combined with the FPA, additional forest regulations help protect the many forest values important to Oregonians, including:

- Successful reforestation after harvest
- Responsible timber harvest practices
- Environmentally-engineered roads
- Diverse fish and wildlife habitat
- Protect wetlands, riparian areas and special sites
- Manage soil erosion, water and air quality
- Prevention of unwanted fires
- Control forest pests and invasives
- Provide for scenic corridors and aesthetics
- Worker safety and labor regulations
- Safe use of fuel, fertilizer and herbicides
- Timber accounting and trespass measures
- Harvest taxes and forest assessments
- Land uses to keep forestlands in forests
Advances in technology over the last century have changed harvesting and reforestation techniques at a lightning fast pace. Continuous improvement in forest engineering helps meet America’s demand for forest products, while complying with ecological demands. Technology has been the key to better care for the environment, as well as improved safety, productivity, and fiber utilization. Today’s forest operation is amazing compared to yesteryear’s Paul Bunyan. Even a 1980’s logger would not recognize much of the modern technology now in use!

Innovations in logging methods combine with forest science to improve techniques for low-impact harvesting, reducing fire risk, keeping forests looking healthy, well-designed road access, protecting streams, and enhancing wildlife habitat. The latest technology makes sustainable forestry and ecosystem management possible during harvesting, roading and transportation. The growing and harvesting of trees is an effective tool to sustain desired forest resources over time.

The sophistication of harvesting today is a surprise to most people. Modern logging equipment can now process an entire tree into log lengths in one motion, thereby saving time, improving safety, and reducing impacts on the environment. Computer systems are integrated into forest machinery, producing optimized performance, less energy use, a cleaner environment and greater wood utilization. Today’s machines are purpose-built to be more efficient and have lower site impacts. Much of this innovation in forest operations results from skilled loggers, who apply their extensive on-the-ground experience to continually improve methods and mechanization.

**FACT**

Forestlands cover 30 million acres, comprising 48% of Oregon’s land area.
THE PROFESSIONAL LOGGER

With skill, experience, innovation, technology and sophisticated understanding of forestry laws – today’s professional logging operator (contractor) provides the actual on-the-ground operations to manage Oregon’s rich forest resources. Although the “logger” is best known for their expertise in tree harvesting, these forest professionals actually work in a far greater scope of allied forest occupations. Their work truly involves tending the forest over its full life-cycle – typically spanning over 40 or 100 years throughout the life of a productive Oregon forest.

There are more than 1,000 forest contractors managing Oregon forests. These small businesses are typically rural family-owned outfits that on average employ under a dozen skilled workers. The “logger,” “forest operator” or “contractor” is a forestry company engaged in allied forestry operations, such as: timber cutting, logging, maintaining and building forest roads, reforestation, forest protection, fire management, appraisal and layout, young forest care, log/chip trucking, heavy haul, mechanical repair, suppliers, consulting, or other forest contract operations.

Nearly all logging and forest operations are done on a contract basis by small forestry or logging companies. Similar to the homebuilding trades, forest contractors are hired by a forest landowner, timber mill, or a log purchaser to conduct a wide assortment of forest management projects. The forest contractor follows the contract plans and maps provided by the landowner/purchaser/forester – just like a homebuilder follows a blueprint – to complete the technical operations instructed by the contract agreement.

Even though much has changed over time in Oregon’s forest, today’s professional logger continues their strong tradition of land stewardship and innovation to improve their methods and results. Loggers play an important role on the forestry team that keeps Oregon’s forests sustainable and our forest sector competitive in the world marketplace.

OREGON PROFESSIONAL LOGGER PROGRAM

Across Oregon, logging operators participate in the Oregon Professional Logger program (OPL) to keep their business competitive in today’s forest industry. The OPL program is a voluntary professional standard that certifies logging and forest operator companies (contractors) for their continuing education and adherence to professionalism. Today’s forest contractor understands that credibility of their profession relies on maintaining sustainable forest practices, safe work, and reliable business operations.

• Over 500 OPL-certified contractors statewide are committed to sustainable Oregon forestry
• Professional standards in regulations for forestry, safety, fire, insurance, labor, tax and business practices
• Many forest landowners and timber mills prefer logs and fiber supplied by OPL contractors
• OPL is Oregon’s wood producer training program recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and American Tree Farm System® – America’s two largest forest certification programs.
Forest growth statewide exceeds timber harvest by a wide margin.

Every American, every year, consumes the wood and paper equal to one tree that's 100' tall... and many of those trees are grown and harvested from Oregon forests.

"WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SOUND CONSERVATION POLICY AND SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICE GO HAND IN HAND"

FACT
Forest growth statewide exceeds timber harvest by a wide margin.

FACT
Every American, every year, consumes the wood and paper equal to one tree that's 100' tall... and many of those trees are grown and harvested from Oregon forests.
TIPS BEFORE LOGGING

HOW TO HARVEST YOUR TIMBER

For small forest landowners or woodlot owners who want to harvest

Choose a Logger
Picking a professional logging operator (logger or contractor) is an important step taken when harvesting a forest, selling timber and completing tree planting. Landowner may want to receive quotes from more than one logger, before choosing the right contractor for the job.

Work with a Forester
Many forest landowners enlist the services of a consulting forester to help manage complex forestry operations – because an owner may not be familiar with the details concerning: logging methods for selling timber; timber accountability; Oregon forest regulations; reforestation; contracts; or market prices.

Develop a Management Plan
A forest management plan should include goals for timber growth, harvest, reforestation, resource benefits, protection and income – and ways to attain those goals.

Boundaries and Legal Restrictions
Prior to any operation, all legal matters and location of the forest property and harvest area must be determined, described in writing, mapped and marked on-the-ground, including: surveyed property lines, clear title to timber, and no mortgage or easement restrictions.

Harvest/Reforestation Prescription
Designating which trees to cut or grow should be tailored to the site, visibly-marked, and based on a forest management plan. The harvest area and method are closely-linked to the terrain, roads, water and habitat, fire hazard, slash disposal, reforestation, and management plan.

Logging/Transportation Plans
Carefully planned forest roads are a valuable investment necessary to harvest, reforest and manage a forest.

After harvest and planting is completed, road management remains important to protect the landowner’s forestry investment.

Timber Appraisal and Scale
It’s necessary to have the timber appraised prior to harvest, and scaled/measured after harvest by a knowledgeable forester – to assure that the timber value is accurately measured or “scaled,” for payment.

Written Contract
A written contract is very important to describe the responsibilities of each party to conduct a forest operation. By putting agreements in writing, a contract protects all parties: forest landowner, logging contractor, and timber purchaser (mill). Logger rarely takes title to timber/logs. Standing timber is real estate until it is cut.

Planting after Harvest Required
Oregon law requires a landowner to assure successful reforestation after harvest to keep forestland productive and sustainable. Seedlings must be planted within two years after logging, and at six years after logging, the law requires the young trees to be healthy and “free to grow.”

Legal Requirements for Logging
Forest operations in Oregon are regulated to assure environmental protection, fire prevention, and tax payment. Prior to beginning any commercial forestry operation, the landowner or operator must file a detailed Notification Form with the local office of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Questions Before Harvesting

A forest landowner should exercise as much care in choosing a logger or consulting forester as they would in choosing a painter to paint your home, or a general contractor to build a new home. It’s prudent business practice to communicate the planned forest harvest, reforestation and other operations prior to beginning work.

Forest landowners with questions about harvesting their forestland should contact a logging contractor, or consulting forester, and can find more information online at: www.oregonloggers.org

FACT
Oregon forest products are delivered to all 50 states and exported worldwide.
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. (AOL) is the statewide trade association that encourages the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products. AOL provides business services to Oregon logging operators and allied forest businesses.

For more information about logging professionals:
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
PO Box 12339
Salem, Oregon 97309-0339
(503) 364-1330 or 1-800-452-6023
aol@oregonloggers.org
www.oregonloggers.org

CAREERS IN LOGGING

Oregon’s forest sector employs at least 85,000 men and women – including 15,000 in logging operations, 18,000 in allied forestry, and 52,000 in manufacturing. That means over 33,000 Oregonians enjoy a variety of rewarding forestry careers engaged in outdoor work to manage forests, grow trees and harvest timber products.

Forestry and logging jobs include a wide range of fascinating occupations working in or near rural Oregon forests – to harvest and deliver the wood to timber mills; to design and engineer projects; to maintain and build roads; to protect forest resources; and also to grow and tend trees. The variety of work settings and assignments often changes weekly or seasonally in outdoor forest operations. Although most logging employers are private forestry contractors, many other forestry employers are forest landowners, timber mills, government agencies, suppliers, and consulting firms.

The future is bright for young men and women, or other job seekers, seeking rewarding forest careers in an outdoor setting. Because of Oregon’s highly-productive forestlands, and its world-class forestry and forest products manufacturing, there continues to be strong employment demand in the nation’s leading forest sector. With the baby boomer generation nearing retirement age, many sought-after jobs are available. The outlook for all sorts of positions (entry level and above) is excellent, and advancement can come quickly for the reliable person willing to work hard to get ahead. Wages in Oregon’s forest sector significantly exceed the statewide average.

There are several pathways to acquiring skills needed for a career in logging and forest operations. Most careers begin with a high school diploma – and career advancement is enhanced by additional job experience, trade school, community college coursework, or a college degree. The many career opportunities for men and women seeking a great forestry career include work in the following categories:

- Logging Crew
- Forestry/Fire Crew
- Road Crew
- Heavy Equipment Operation
- Trucking and Transportation
- Equipment Mechanical Repair
- Forestry/Engineering Technician
- Management/Supervision
- Small Business Ownership
- Forestry/Resource Professionals

INFORMATION ONLINE

With a professional logger and a good management plan, an Oregon forest landowner is well on their way to getting the most for their timber, protecting forest resources, and reforesting a site to begin a new forest.

More information about Oregon sustainable forestry operations – including logging, reforestation, forest management, forest roads, forest laws, or forest protection – is available online from Associated Oregon Loggers at: www.oregonloggers.org or from Oregon Forest Resources Institute at: www.oregonforests.org

For more information about logging professionals:
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
PO Box 12339
Salem, Oregon 97309-0339
(503) 364-1330 or 1-800-452-6023
aol@oregonloggers.org
www.oregonloggers.org

Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. (AOL) is the statewide trade association that encourages the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products. AOL provides business services to Oregon logging operators and allied forest businesses.