

# Forest Health Specialist



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



## High School Courses

- Forestry
- Biology
- Environmental Science
- Plant Science
- Statistics



## Education/Training

- 4-year degree or higher in entomology, plant pathology, forestry or related field.
- A graduate degree may be necessary for certain jobs.



## Responsibilities

- Identify and manage insects, diseases and invasive species
- Plan and conduct research on insects, diseases and invasive species
- Create management plans
- Use digital mapping systems
- Compose written reports
- Respond to calls about suspected forest health issues
- Teach others about insects, diseases and invasive species



## Skills

- Use forest measurement and mapping tools, including GIS
- Understand scientific language and methods
- Understand insects and tree diseases
- Pay attention to detail
- Write and speak effectively about science
- Follow precise procedures (for example, applying pesticides)



## Abilities/Personality

- Able to walk long distances
- Curious
- Inquisitive
- Passionate about learning



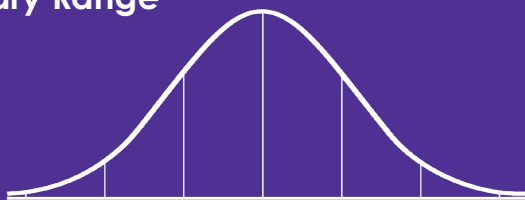
## Work Environment

Forest health specialists work in a large variety of environments. They may hike into forests to examine dying trees or spend the day in the lab doing research on tree diseases. Specialists use personal protective equipment both in the field and lab to protect themselves from injury and chemicals.

## Job Description

Forest health specialists are experts at identifying and managing forest tree diseases, pests and invasive species. Some may also research new methods to fight insects and diseases. Some people think of forest health specialists as doctors for trees.

## Salary Range



\$54,000  
Low end

\$72,000  
Median

\$104,000  
High end

