

Program Endorsement Brief: 0114.00/Forestry

Wildland Resources and Forestry AS

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, February 2019

Summary:

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to forestry. This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with relevant occupations.

The following summarizes key findings from this data brief:

- The number of jobs for forest and conservation technicians is projected to increase by 2% through 2022. Nearly 100 job openings will be available annually due to new job growth and replacement need.
- Over the past 12 months, there were 25 online job postings related to forest and conversation technicians in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- No other related program recommendation requests were received in 2018 from regional community colleges.
- Citrus College is the only college in the region with an existing forestry program.
- Between 2015 and 2018, Citrus conferred an average of 19 certificates.

Occupational Demand — In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for forest and conservation technicians is projected to increase by 2%. There will be nearly 100 job openings per year through 2022 (Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties¹

Geography	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017-2022 Change	2017-2022 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	606	617	11	2%	73
Orange	88	92	4	5%	11
Total	694	709	15	2%	84

¹ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Wages — Entry-level and median hourly wages for forest and conservation technicians in the region are between \$12.48 and \$19.64, respectively. Median hourly wages for these workers are higher than the MIT Living hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$13.54 in Los Angeles County and \$15.31 in Orange County). Experienced workers earn between \$26.07 and \$29.25.

Job Postings — There were 25 online job postings for forest and conservation technicians and related workers listed in the past 12 months. The majority of job postings were for forestry technician, water resources technicians, and conservationists. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region include: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Services, and National Park Service.

Educational Attainment — The BLS lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for forest and conservation technicians. The national-level educational attainment data indicates 34% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the majority of job postings request either a bachelor’s degree or a high school diploma with at least one year of experience.

Community College Supply — Appendix A shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Forestry programs (0114.00). Currently, only one college in the region has an existing Forestry program. Between 2015 and 2018, Citrus has conferred an average of 19 certificates. Between January 2018 and the present, no other related program recommendation requests have been received from regional community colleges.

Appendix A: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2015-18

TOP Code	Program	College	2015-16 Awards	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0114.00	Forestry	Citrus	18	23	15	19

Appendix B: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 2. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Forest and Conservation Technicians (19-4093)	606	617	11	2%	73	\$15.16	\$19.64	\$29.25

Exhibit 3. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Forest and Conservation Technicians (19-4093)	88	92	4	5%	11	\$12.48	\$15.90	\$26.07

Exhibit 4. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Forest and Conservation Technicians (19-4093)	694	709	15	2%	84	\$15.01	\$19.17	\$28.98

Appendix C: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (EMSI)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- MIT Living Wage

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