



DIRECTOR OF FOREST PROTECTION

The Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) is a statewide trade association representing forestland owners and forest products manufacturers. OFIC's core mission is to advocate on behalf of its members to maintain a positive, stable business operating environment for Oregon's forest products community that fosters long-term investments in healthy forests; to ensure a reliable timber supply from Oregon's public and private forestlands; and to promote stewardship and sustainable management of forestlands that protect environmental values and maintain productive uses on all forestlands.

OFIC is currently seeking to fill the Director of Forest Protection position.

General Description

The Director of Forest Protection will represent OFIC and its member companies to state agencies, boards and commissions, and state legislators regarding public policy, budget and legislation affecting all manner of forest protection and health issues, including those related to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, the federal Clean Air Act, state and federal ESA issues, and similar regulatory programs. The Director of Forest Protection will work closely with Oregon's 12 Forest Protection Associations supporting the state's complete and coordinated wildfire prevention and suppression program.

The successful candidate will be a good team player able to take input from association members, other staff members and affiliated interests to identify and implement successful policy strategies.

Applicants should have a combination of education and work experience in forest policy issues that demonstrates the experience and skills to perform the duties of this position. Experience in wildfire policy, animal damage and pest management issues, policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement are desirable.

This position is based out of Salem, Oregon. **Anticipated start date: May 2024**

Specific Responsibilities

- Serve as a liaison for OFIC by developing professional working relationships with key department staff at the Oregon Department of Forestry, Office of the State Fire Marshall, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, among others
- Engage with critical partners including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Pacific Northwest Coordinating Group, federal PNW Fire Operations Coordinator, Emergency Fire Cost Committee, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Smoke Management Advisory Committee, and other relevant trade association staff, among others
- Track and publish industrial landowner land closures
- Provide administrative support for OFIC internal policy committees, including the Forest Protection Committee, OFIC Animal Damage Committee and any associated standing or ad-hoc subcommittees that may arise
- Identify developing issues and challenges facing the forest industry on all manner of protection issues (*ex: wildfire funding mechanisms, federal protection agreements, public-private interface risk issues, fire liability, forestland classification, pest damage/forest health (wildlife, insects, diseases and invasive species), forestland security, hunter/recreation/public access, trapping, prescribed burning, smoke management and pesticide use*) and work to develop both long and short-term strategies and tactics to address situations
- Engage the landowner community in all manner of policy arenas to successfully communicate protection issues in public forums



- Analyze the effects of potential legislation, state agency budgets and administrative rules to OFIC members and work with staff to develop credible positions protecting and enhancing OFIC member interests
- Cultivate “trusted leader” relationships with partner organizations like the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Associated Oregon Loggers, Keep Oregon Green Association, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, and the National Wildfire Suppression Association, among others
- Establish and maintain a rapport with OFIC members. Communicate regularly with staff and members, and respond to individual member inquiries and requests, particularly on large fire activity, resource needs, drawdowns, etc.
- Write clear and content-rich testimony and other public comment documents
- Contribute regularly to OFIC member newsletters, podcasts and other creative content
- Collaborate on OFIC research investments in protection issues
- Maintain current rosters, spreadsheets and related data gathered from multiple sources
- Other duties as assigned

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Experience with and a working knowledge of Oregon’s “complete and coordinated” fire program
- Experience with issues related to wildlife and pest management in forestry and relevant regulatory programs
- Experience with public policy making processes and advocacy
- Ability to communicate complex issues and information in a manner that is readily understood
- Ability to work and communicate effectively in diverse environments, including public settings that may involve conflict on emotional issues
- Creative thinking and intuitive processing capability
- Ability to assemble and work with teams and coalitions
- Ability to prioritize and balance competing demands during regularly occurring intervals of heavy work loads
- Ability to effectively manage feedback from a diverse range of OFIC member companies and partner organizations
- Self-starting personality comfortable with diverse responsibilities
- Strong communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills including meeting planning and follow-through on commitments
- Ability to regularly travel across state, occasionally work non-traditional hours, and be available on an emergency basis in response to fire season, as needed

Preferred Qualifications

Degree in Forestry, or related field

Compensation & Benefits

- Starting salary will be industry-competitive, and commensurate with education and experience
- Employer-sponsored medical and dental benefits
- Employer-sponsored 401(k) plan with up to a 10% employer contribution
- Employer-sponsored professional development, networking and industry events
- 10 days of paid time off for holidays, in addition to paid vacation

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a cover letter, resume and references to Chris Edwards at: chris@ofic.com.