



State of Washington  
**State Forest Geneticist, Natural Resource Scientist 4  
 (NRSci4)**

<b>SALARY</b>	\$7,443.00 - \$10,004.00 Monthly \$89,316.00 - \$120,048.00 Annually	<b>LOCATION</b>	Thurston County – Olympia, WA
<b>JOB TYPE</b>	Full Time - Permanent	<b>JOB NUMBER</b>	2026-5-2043-03992
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Dept. of Natural Resources	<b>OPENING DATE</b>	05/11/2026
<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	5/31/2026 11:59 PM Pacific	<b>SALARY INFORMATION</b>	The high end of the salary range, Step M is typically a longevity step

**Description**



**State Forest Geneticist, Natural Resource Scientist 4 (NRSci4)**  
**Recruitment #2026-5-2043**  
**Full-time, Permanent, Represented position (WFSE)**  
**Location: Meridian Seed Orchard- Olympia, WA**  
**Work Hours flexibility may be available and considered**  
**Relocation Compensation may be available and considered**  
**Salary: \$7,443.00 - \$10,004.00 Monthly**

**Review of applications is ongoing.** We reserve the right to make a hiring decision or close this recruitment at any time after 5/18/26. It is in your best interest to submit materials as soon as possible.

**Want to join something GREAT and make a difference?**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an exciting opportunity within our Forest Resources Division as the **State Forest Geneticist**.

Is helping to maintain healthy forests that are both productive and diverse important to you? Do you enjoy collaborating with people from other organizations? Are you good at adapting research results and technical information into operational practices? Do you want to work in an environment where innovation and creative problem-solving are encouraged? If so, then this is the job for you!

The Forest Geneticist works closely with our Seed Center and Nursery to ensure a reliable and genetically appropriate seed supply for State forests. The position provides leadership within the Department on the management of forest genetic resources, especially as it relates to reforestation decisions. As adaptation to climate change becomes a larger

focus, this work increasingly requires regional collaboration across administrative boundaries. The Department manages 2.1 million acres of State forest land, which includes a wide variety of forest types. The position directly supervises 4 full-time employees while leading a staff of 8.

## Duties

### Responsibilities:

Provides leadership in Washington for the forest genetics research cooperatives, with emphasis on the Douglas-fir tree breeding and testing program.

- Represents DNR in regional forest genetics research cooperatives and other forums related to forest genetics.
- Develops testing goals (tree species and areas) and experimental parameters (what traits will be emphasized and measured) and builds support among cooperators for these decisions.
- Develops test installation and maintenance procedures, and trains and supervises staff in this work.

Develops and maintains seed orchard capacity for species and seed zones needed to support DNR's operational planting program.

- Determines for which species and areas seed orchards will be established.
- Works cooperatively with other landowners to support adequate regional seed production and supply.
- Analyzes results from research trials to decide which trees to include in seed orchards.
- Designs orchard layout and composition.
- Conducts surveys and analyzes results from trials to inform innovation of new techniques and methods for improving yields and quality.
- Trains and oversees staff in orchard management techniques.

Develops climate change adaptation strategies relevant to DNR's reforestation operations.

- Develops experimental designs and implements research studies to evaluate potential changes to seed source choices to adjust to climate change.
- Participates both internally and externally in multidisciplinary efforts to develop effective adaptation strategies.
- Decides upon adjustments to the genetics program needed to implement adaptation strategies.

Devises and implements the gene conservation strategy for forest trees on State Lands.

- Makes decisions about orchard composition to ensure sufficient conservation of genetic diversity to support the agency's mission.
- Monitors the integrity of the Gene Pool Reserve (GPR) system.
- Considers additional approaches to support gene conservation across the agency's entire forested land base.

Consults with DNR staff of all levels and external partners on questions related to forest genetics and seed source management.

- Assists with determining structure and guidelines for managing seed source choices.
- Provides advice regarding seed transfer when seedling availability precludes using preferred choices.
- Advises upper managers when questions come up related to genetics and seed source.
- Gives presentations on forest genetics to both internal and external audiences.

Develops biennial budget, approves expenditures, and monitors spending to ensure adherence to approved budget.

Hires, trains, supervises, and evaluates direct reports.

## Qualifications

### Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in forest genetics or silviculture, with graduate-level coursework in forest genetics and tree breeding, AND (4) four years of professional experience working in a forest genetics breeding and testing program or a forest seed orchard;  
OR an equivalent combination of education and/or experience.

- Experience with experimental design, measurement, and analysis of research results related to forest genetics and seed production.
- Experience managing data, analyzing data, and/or scripting using MS Access, R, SAS, Python, or other software.
- Operational experience with forest regeneration.

#### Required Competencies:

- Reason logically, draw valid conclusions, and make recommendations.
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively through speaking and writing.
- Commitment to fostering and supporting an environment that honors diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice practices.
- Perform assigned duties in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and public records retention requirements, and ensure requests for public records are followed.
- DNR Core Competencies:
  - Personal Accountability
  - Value Others
  - Compassionate Communication
  - Inspire Others
  - Commitment to Excellence

#### Special Requirements and Conditions of Employment:

- This position works in multiple settings: office, forested sites, orchard blocks, and greenhouses. Ability to work alone in remote locations and in inclement weather. Arduous physical tasks, including hiking long distances on difficult terrain, sometimes carrying heavy objects.
- Occasional overnight travel throughout the state can be frequent during peak seasons.
- A current, valid driver's license and two years of driving experience. Additionally, DNR requires state drivers to possess a license that is not suspended, revoked, or restricted (for example, Occupational/Restricted Driver Licenses or requiring ignition interlock devices). This position requires driving as an essential function. Finalists and/or interview candidates will be asked to provide a driving record from all states in which they have held a license during the past three years.

#### Desired Qualifications:

- Three years of supervisory experience, ideally including supervision of first-line supervisors.
- Familiarity with forest types and practices common in the Pacific Northwest.
- PhD in forest genetics or silviculture, ideally with graduate-level coursework in forest genetics and tree breeding. A PhD counts for 2 years of the required experience.
- A Washington state pesticide handler's license.

**Don't let doubts stop you from applying for this position.** At DNR, we value diversity and inclusion in our organization, and we are looking for the best person for the job. We are invested in acquiring the best and most innovative candidate for the job, and that candidate may be one from a less traditional background. It is important you consider and clearly communicate within your application materials how your education, volunteer work, life skills, and experience transfer to this position and the qualifications. If you have any questions about the qualifications, please contact us at [DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov). Don't hesitate to apply!

#### Supplemental Information

**Application Requirements:** Failure to provide the listed documents may result in disqualification. If you have questions or difficulty attaching these documents, please contact [DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov).

- **Apply online:** at [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov) (Click on the APPLY button above).
- **Letter of interest:** describing your specific qualifications for the position and the position required, desired, and special requirements.
- **Resume:** that details your experience and qualifications.
- **References:** References are optional at the time your application is submitted. Finalists will be asked to provide a list of at least 3 professional references with current telephone numbers, including your current or most recent

supervisor.

- **Important:** Do not attach any documents that include photos or private information (Social Security number, year of birth, etc.).
- **Complete all supplemental questions.**
- Candidates who move forward in the recruitment process may be contacted via email at [info@governmentjobs.com](mailto:info@governmentjobs.com) with interview information/scheduling instructions. Please monitor the email listed in your application materials and check your junk email folder to ensure you receive those communications.

**Questions?** Please contact Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn at [calvin.ohlson-kiehn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:calvin.ohlson-kiehn@dnr.wa.gov)/(360-701-1452 or email us at [DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov).

Persons needing accommodation in the application/testing process or this job announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 522-2500 or email [DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov). Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing may call through the [Washington Relay Service](#) by dialing 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384.

### **About the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).**

At DNR, we approach our work through the lens of making Washington a better place environmentally and are dedicated to serving Washington's lands and communities through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Our Vision** – Our actions ensure a future where Washington's lands, waters, and communities thrive.

**Our Mission** – Manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations.

#### **Our Core Values:**

- Safety and Well-Being —Our top priority is the safety of the public and our employees.
- Public Service —We value and respect the public we serve, and we value and respect the people of the Department of Natural Resources who step up to serve.
- Innovation and Creative Problem-Solving — We solve our state's most pressing challenges through innovative thinking, dedication, and bold and creative vision.
- Leadership and Teamwork —We are committed to building leaders at all levels and building teams for success.

#### **DNR provides excellent benefits, a few of which include:**

- Commitment to organizational health and wellness
- Work/life balance
- DNR Employee Resource Groups (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, Women's Employee Resource Group, Veterans Employee Resource Group, etc.)
- Statewide Employee Business Resource Groups, [visit here to learn more](#)
- Leadership that empowers and supports employees
- Professional development opportunities
- Educational and career development aid
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Eligibility
- Opportunities to participate in wildland fire suppression assignments
- A comprehensive benefits package includes employer contributions toward health insurance, paid holidays, retirement plans, sick leave, and vacation days. Visit <http://careers.wa.gov/benefits.html> for more information.

#### **Additional Information:**

This recruitment may be extended and used to fill future similar vacancies for up to sixty (60) days.

DNR does not use the E-Verify system. For more information, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

Veterans wishing to claim Veteran's preference, please attach a copy of your DD214 (Member 4 long-form copy), NGB 22, or a USDVA signed verification of service letter. Please black out all PII (personally identifiable information) data, such as social security numbers. We thank you and are grateful for your service!

Equal Opportunity Employer: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender identity diversity. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disability, persons over 40 years of age, veterans, military spouses or people with military status, and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply.

Once you submit your online application, you can check your status by logging into your account. If you experience technical difficulties creating, accessing, or completing your application, call 360-664-1960 or 1-877-664-1960 or email [CareersHelp@des.wa.gov](mailto:CareersHelp@des.wa.gov).

Check us out on: [DNR's website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [WordPress](#)



## Benefits

### More than Just a Paycheck!

Employee benefits are not just about the kind of services you get, they are also about how much you may have to pay out of pocket. Washington State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the nation.

We understand that your life revolves around more than just your career. Like everyone, your first priority is ensuring that you and your family will maintain health and financial security. That's why choice is a key component of our benefits package. We have a selection of health and retirement plans, paid leave, staff training and other compensation benefits that you can mix and match to meet your current and future needs.

### Read about our benefits:

*The following information describes typical benefits available for full-time employees who are expected to work more than six months. Actual benefits may vary by appointment type or be prorated for other than full-time work (e.g. part-time); view the job posting for benefits details for job types other than full-time.*

**Note:** *If the position offers benefits which differ from the following, the job posting should include the specific benefits.*

### Insurance Benefits

Employees and their families are covered by medical (including vision), dental and basic life insurance. There are multiple medical plans with affordable monthly premiums that offer coverage throughout the state.

Staff are eligible to enroll each year in a medical flexible spending account which enables them to use tax-deferred dollars toward their health care expenses. Employees are also covered by basic life and long-term disability insurance, with the option to purchase additional coverage amounts.

To view premium rates, coverage choice in your area and how to enroll, please visit the [Public Employees Benefits Board \(PEBB\) website](#). The [Washington Wellness](#) program from the Health Care Authority works with PEBB to support our workplace [wellness programs](#).

[Dependent care assistance](#) allows the employee to save pre-tax dollars for a child or elder care expenses.

Other insurance coverage for auto, boat, home, and renter insurance is available through payroll deduction.

The [Washington State Employee Assistance Program](#) promotes the health and well-being of employees.

### Retirement and Deferred Compensation

State Employees are members of the Washington Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). New employees have the option of two employer contributed retirement programs. For additional information, check out the [Department of Retirement Systems' web site](#).

Employees also have the ability to participate in the [Deferred Compensation Program \(DCP\)](#). This is a supplemental retirement savings program (similar to an IRA) that allows you control over the amount of pre-tax salary dollars you defer as well as the flexibility to choose between multiple investment options.

### **Social Security**

All state employees are covered by the federal [Social Security](#) and Medicare systems. The state and the employee pay an equal amount into the system.

### **Public Service Loan Forgiveness**

If you are employed by a government or not-for-profit organization, and meet the qualifying criteria, you may be eligible to receive student loan forgiveness under the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

### **Holidays**

Full-time and part-time employees are entitled to paid holidays and one paid personal holiday per calendar year.

**Note:** Employees who are members of certain Unions may be entitled to additional personal leave day(s), please refer to position specific [Collective Bargaining Agreements](#) for more information.

Full-time employees who work full monthly schedules qualify for holiday compensation if they are employed before the holiday and are in pay status for at least 80 nonovertime hours during the month of the holiday; or for the entire work shift preceding the holiday.

Part-time employees who are in pay status during the month of the holiday qualify for the holiday on a pro-rata basis. Compensation for holidays (including personal holiday) will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status in the month to that required for full-time employment, excluding all holiday hours. Pay status includes hours worked and time on paid leave.

### **Sick Leave**

Full-time employees earn eight hours of sick leave per month. Overtime eligible employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month, earn a monthly proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Overtime exempt employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month do not earn a monthly accrual of sick leave.

Sick leave accruals for part-time employees will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

### **Vacation (Annual Leave)**

Full-time employees accrue vacation leave at the rates specified in [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Full-time employees who are in pay status for less than 80 nonovertime hours in a month do not earn a monthly accrual of vacation leave.

Part-time employees accrue vacation leave hours in accordance with [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA) on a pro rata basis. Vacation leave accrual will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment.

Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

As provided in [WAC 357-58-175](#), an employer may authorize a lump-sum accrual of vacation leave or accelerate the vacation leave accrual rate to support the recruitment and/or retention of a candidate or employee for a Washington Management Service position. Vacation leave accrual rates may only be accelerated using the rates established WAC 357-31-165.

**Note:** Most agencies follow the civil service rules covering leave and holidays for **exempt** employees even though there is no requirement for them to do so. However, agencies are required to adhere to the applicable RCWs pertaining holidays and leave.

### **Military Leave**

Washington State supports members of the armed forces with 21 days paid military leave per year.

### **Bereavement Leave**

Most employees whose family member or household member dies, or for loss of pregnancy, are entitled to five (5) days of paid bereavement leave. In addition, the employer may approve other available leave types for the purpose of bereavement leave.

### **Additional Leave**

[Leave Sharing](#)

[Parental Leave](#)

[Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#)

[Leave Without Pay](#)

Please visit the [State HR Website](#) for more detailed information regarding benefits.

Updated 01-07-2026

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### **Employer**

State of Washington

### **Address**

[View Job Posting for Agency Information](#)

[View Job Posting for Location, Washington, 98504](#)

### **Website**

<http://www.careers.wa.gov>

## **State Forest Geneticist, Natural Resource Scientist 4 (NRSci4) Supplemental Questionnaire**

### **\*QUESTION 1**

Please describe what interests you about the Department of Natural Resources.

### **\*QUESTION 2**

Please describe what a work environment based on diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging means to you.

### **\*QUESTION 3**

Please select which of the following best describes your education and/or experience:

- I have a master's degree in forest genetics or silviculture, with graduate-level coursework in forest genetics and tree breeding, AND (4) four years of professional experience working in a forest genetics breeding and testing program or a forest seed orchard.
- I have a combination of education and/or experience equivalent to a master's degree in forest genetics or silviculture, with graduate-level coursework in forest genetics and tree breeding, AND (4) four years of professional experience working in a forest genetics breeding and testing program or a forest seed orchard.
- None of the above.

**\*QUESTION 4**

Do you have experience with experimental design, measurement, and analysis of research results related to forest genetics and seed production?

- Yes
- No

**\*QUESTION 5**

Do you have experience managing data, analyzing data, and/or scripting using MS Access, R, SAS, Python, or other software?

- Yes
- No

**\*QUESTION 6**

Do you have operational experience with forest regeneration?

- Yes
- No

**\*QUESTION 7**

Do you have a valid driver's license and at least two years of driving experience?

- Yes
- No

**\*QUESTION 8**

Do you now, or will you in the future, require sponsorship for employment visa status (e.g., H-1B visa status, etc.) to work legally for our agency in the United States?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**\*QUESTION 9**

Where did you originally hear about this job posting?

- [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)
- [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov)
- WA WorkSource office or [WorkSourceWA.com](http://WorkSourceWA.com)
- [Governmentjobs.com](http://Governmentjobs.com)
- Monster
- Indeed
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- College/university website/career fair
- Handshake
- Newspaper
- Direct Email Notification

- Statewide Employee Business Resource Groups (BRG)
- Professional/Personal Network
- Job Board
- Job Fair
- Zip Recruiter
- Diversity Jobs
- Facebook
- Other (please specify below)

#### QUESTION 10

If you answered "other" to the previous question, please specify where you originally learned of this employment opportunity in the space below.

\* Required Question