



JANET PEARSON

Surry County Ranger
North Carolina Forest Service

SCHOOL

BS Parks and Recreation Management
Western Carolina University

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB

"I enjoy assisting landowners make decisions with their land and becoming stewards of their property. I also like that I am able to help individuals plan for future generations."

WHY FORESTRY?

"I grew up in a farming family and I always enjoyed being outdoors. After college I worked with state parks. there, I became interested in fire ecology and gained experience and knowledge in prescribed burning and wildfire management. The Forest Service gave me the opportunity to combine all of my interests and work for my home county."

ADVICE

"Be willing to learn new ideas and be self motivated."



COUNTY RANGER

COUNTY RANGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAMS WHICH TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE COUNTY THEY ARE LOCATED.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise all forestry programs, which includes the following:
 - Forest fire control focusing on the prevention and suppression of forest fires
 - Provide technical advice on topics such as insects, disease, tree planting and harvesting to landowners
 - Prepare forest management plans
 - Lead forestry education activities and presentations to school and civic groups, as well as work with local media
- Supervise and train employees
- Administer forest management guidelines and serve as forest law enforcement and protection

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Graduation from a two year technical school with an Associates Degree in Forest Management, or an Environmental/Natural Science Curriculum
- Four years of related experience in forestry services

AVERAGE SALARY

- State Average \$43,000 (reported by state of North Carolina)

SKILLS NEEDED

- Strong customer service with ability to listen, understand, and implement landowner objectives
- Strong critical thinking and can provide good judgement
- Adaptable and flexible



photos by J. Pearson