

Job Description - Operations Manager Harvesting & Marketing (PB4)

Job summary

Lead the Harvesting and Marketing function to deliver safe, sustainable and commercially successful timber harvesting, marketing and supply operations across the East Forest District.

Provide strategic leadership for harvesting programmes, timber sales, contractor performance and stakeholder engagement while contributing to the wider Forestry and Land Management team, Strategy and Business Plan.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Leadership and Management

- Lead, inspire and develop the Harvesting and Marketing team and associated contractors. Promote a positive, inclusive and high-performing culture. Play a key role within the Forestry and Land Management Team and deputise for the Head of Land Management as required.

Operational Delivery

- Plan and deliver annual harvesting programmes in line with business objectives, industry standards and UKWAS requirements. Ensure harvesting operations are delivered safely, efficiently and to agreed quality standards.

Timber Marketing and Commercial Management

- Lead timber sales and marketing activities. Maintain strong relationships with timber buyers, processors and commercial partners. Maximise timber value and contribute to income targets. Through your team, work with Foresters to ensure continuity and quality of timber supply.

Financial Management

- Manage significant harvesting income and expenditure budgets. Monitor performance, forecast income and costs, and report against key performance indicators.

Health, Safety and Environmental Management

- Champion a strong health, safety and wellbeing culture. Ensure corporate and legal compliance and environmental standards are maintained throughout all operations.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Represent Forestry England with customers, industry partners, contractors, communities and regulatory bodies. Build productive relationships across the organisation and wider sector.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Proven experience leading forestry, harvesting or land management operations
- Experience managing budgets, programmes and contractors
- Strong commercial and timber marketing awareness
- Ability to lead multidisciplinary teams and influence stakeholders;

Desirable professional and technical experience

- Institute of Chartered Foresters membership or willingness to work towards membership
- Knowledge of wildlife management, conservation, forest engineering and contract negotiation.

Qualifications

Essential

- Good level of basic educational qualifications
- High level of computer literacy
- Full UK driving licence

Desirable

- Degree or equivalent experience in forestry or related land-based discipline