

Marvin Brown

Oregon State Forester

Marvin Brown became Oregon State Forester in June 2003. The former Missouri State Forester brings diverse experience in forest policymaking at the state, national, and international levels to the job. He has worked extensively as a professional forester in both the private and public sectors.

As director of the Oregon Department of Forestry, Brown administers the agency under policies set by the Oregon Board of Forestry. The department provides wildfire protection to 16 million acres of private and public forestland, implements the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and manages 781,000 acres of state-owned forests. The agency also provides technical assistance to the state's many family forestland owners.

"Oregon has a truly special forest resource that is highly valued by its citizens," says Brown. "Our job in the department is to work closely with those interests to see that our forests are in a sustainable condition now, and for future generations to come."

Brown held several management positions within the Missouri Department of Conservation over the course of some 22 years and served the last seven years of his tenure as Missouri's State Forester.

As director of forest policy for Willamette Industries (now merged with Weyerhaeuser) from 1999-2002, he was responsible for certification of environmental standards on the company's 1.7 million acres of forest holdings. He also developed Willamette's corporate-wide forest policy. As the CEO's representative, he helped develop and refine the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, an internationally-recognized certification standard for sustainable forest management that is currently in use by major forest products companies throughout the United States and Canada.

Brown was director of private forestland management for the American Forest and Paper Association prior to becoming Oregon State Forester. In that position he directed private lands-related policy, and regulatory and legislative activities for the trade association, which represents the forest-products industry in the United States and abroad.

During his career, Brown has served as technical advisor to the U.S. State Department, and as a non-governmental representative on numerous international delegations to United Nations forest policy negotiations. As a panel member of the intergovernmental Montreal Process, Brown assisted in developing a set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry that are recognized worldwide.

Throughout his career, Brown has served in key forest policymaking roles with several professional associations including the National Association of State Foresters (president in 1998), and the Society of American Foresters (president, 2006), as well as serving on the boards of the Forest History Society and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.

Since assuming the Oregon State Forester position he has been a strong advocate for increased agency involvement in federal lands issues, exploring ways to expand the agency's urban forestry efforts in developed and developing areas, increasing agency involvement in education, and strategically evolving the agency's fire, public lands, and private lands programs to better meet future challenges.

Brown holds both master's and bachelor's degrees in forestry. He and his wife, Pamela, live in Salem.