Peter Ninteman

Society of American Foresters member 18 years

Forester, Weyerhaeuser Company

Pete’s path to forestry started in restaurant kitchens of the greater Seattle area in Washington State. Upon graduation from Auburn High School in 1996, Pete knew that the four-year college path was not for him and so he started a carrier in the hospitality industry. First, he attended South Seattle Community College, where he earned a associates degree in culinary arts. From there he worked in numerous restaurants in Renton, Seattle, Kirkland, and traveled for a while. As a traveling culinary artist, he worked in Mt. Rainier National Park, Park City, UT. and Zion National Park. After six years of the fast pace of restaurants, he knew that it was time for a change.

Returning to Auburn, Pete visited Green River Community College to learn what other employment opportunities were waiting for him. Wandering the halls, Pete learned that there was a natural resources program and meet Dick Hopkins with his rigging pant, hickory shirt, and a smile from ear to ear. Pete was hooked and enrolled in GRCC for the next quarter. During his final quarter he made the big decision to attend Oregon State University however, he needed a job in Oregon first to gain residency. He found a position with Lone Rock Resources in their Medford, Oregon office for the summer and moved to Roseburg. Lone Rock was more than willing to allow him to work for year then attend OSU.

In the fall, Pete began studying Forest Operations Management at OSU and graduated in 2012. During his time at OSU, he worked through the summers for Starker Forest and Sierra Pacific Industries in Anderson, CA. After graduation, he landed in the twilight zone of Forks, WA. working for Pacific Forest Management. With the economy final recovering in 2014, he took a forester position with Weyerhaeuser in Seaside, Oregon. He has worked for Weyerhaeuser for the last seven years as a forester, with an emphasis in silviculture.

In Pete’s free time he enjoys the outdoors, visiting nieces/nephews, and of course SAF events. He would personally like to thank Mark Kincaid, Chris Sexton, Fred Pfund, and Dick Hopkins for believing in him. He would not be where he is today without their leadership.