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Born in New Jersey to Irish immigrants, Mike began his appreciation for the natural world by rambling through urban forests and traveling extensively throughout the United States. Inspired by these experiences, Mike earned a BS degree in Resource Development from Michigan State University. In 1993, he joined the US Peace Corps and moved to Paraguay where he worked with small-scale farmers while serving three years as an Agroforestry Extensionist. After Peace Corps, Mike traveled throughout South America and met his future wife along the journey.

Upon his return to the U.S., Mike moved to eastern Oregon where he briefly worked for a small forestry consulting firm conducting forest inventories on the Umatilla and Boise National Forests. Attracted by the appeal to restore salmon habitat and water quality in coastal watersheds, Mike moved to southwestern Oregon where he worked for four years with Oregon State University Extension Service and the South Coast Watershed Council, a small non-profit organization. Mike was the lead author of nine watershed assessments which formed the foundation for the watershed council's management decisions during the next decade.

In 2001, Mike left Oregon for Maine to study silviculture at the University of Maine in Orono. His graduate work, titled "Rehabilitation of Northern Hardwood Stands Following Diameter-Limit Cutting," led him to build upon his ecological restoration efforts while earning a master's degree from the University of Maine in 2005. During the next ten years, Mike worked as a Forester on the Saco Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest. In 2011, he completed the National Advanced Silvicultural Program, a two-year training program leading to certification as a Silviculturist with the USDA Forest Service. He served as the District's Silviculturist for the next five years before resigning in 2016. Mike left the Forest Service to return to his roots working with landowners in the private sector.

Mike is currently Manager of Kezar Forestry, LLC, a forestry consulting firm committed to the sound stewardship of forest ecosystems. His passion for forestry is evident with his thoughtful approach, guided by science, to manage woodlands in consideration of his clients' objectives. Mike is a licensed forester in Maine and New Hampshire and he is a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters. He serves as a Board Member of the Greater Lovell Land Trust and is actively involved with the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee. Mike lives with his wife and two daughters in Lovell, Maine.