



Working for the Great Outdoors

GEOLOGIST

Do you have an interest in earth science, geology, minerals, natural resource management? Would you like to be involved in the management of public lands? If so, a career as a geologist with the Forest Service may be of interest to you.

The Work Environment

Making up almost two-thirds of the Nation's Federally owned land, the Forest Service is responsible for the management, protection, and use of 193 million acres of forests and wood lands. Spanning 44 States, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico; Forest Service geologists work alongside hydrologists, engineers, foresters, biologists and other resource specialists in the conservation and development of our Nation's resources.

Operating on The Job

Geologists in the Forest Service provide vital technical expertise and skills needed to manage our natural resources. In many diverse ways, geologists actively contribute to the conservation and wise use of national Forest lands and resources. Geologists are called upon to perform many tasks. Examples include:

- Overseeing mined land reclamation including management of aesthetic values, wildlife, ground water and stream flow, vegetation, and other natural resources
- Evaluating and administrating lease applications and mining proposals
- Assisting in the development of land resource allocations and management plans
- Investigating mining claims and conducting minerals examination
- Appraising mineral claims
- Applying GIS and related skills and technology to geologic and mineral data
- Reviewing mining operations for regulatory compliance
- Inventorying and investigating abandoned mines
- Conducting reviews of oil-gas exploration and field development activities
- Assessing and interpreting geologic conditions that affect projects such as bridges, roads, dams, and buildings

To perform these important and complex jobs, Forest Service geologists work in partnership with local communities, environmental groups, City, County & State Government officials, industry representatives, and other Federal agency personnel.

Career Paths And Requirements

Geologists are hired at many different grade levels. Recent college graduates may be hired at the GS-5 OR GS-7 grade level. Others with advanced degrees and experience may be hired at higher grade levels, and there is substantial opportunity for advancement! To begin a career as a geologist in the Forest Service, you must meet the following requirements:

Have a degree in geology which includes at least 20 semester hours in any combination of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biological science, structural, chemical, civil, mining or petroleum engineering, computer science, planetary geology, comparative paleontology, geophysics, meteorology, hydrology, oceanography, physical geography, marine geology, and cartography

OR

A combination of education and experience as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.



These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at www.USAJobs.gov or the www.opm.gov subject index under "Qualifications."

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