



May 2024

Working in the Great Outdoors

Forest Service Engineer Careers

There are engineers in the Forest Service? You bet! We have hundreds. Most are civil engineers, but there are also general, materials, sanitary, structural, environmental, mechanical, and mining engineers.

Forest Service Engineers work in all types of environments--from offices to mountains, from lakes to laboratories, from forests to grasslands--we have it all and the adventure is yours for the taking. Forest Service engineers answer the challenges posed by a huge variety of conditions, climates, and terrain. You will also work in the most scenic places in the Nation, places set aside and protected not just for their natural resources, but for their natural beauty as well.

Operation on the Job

Engineers support the management of our natural resources. You will provide resource managers with solutions to fish and wildlife habitat restoration recreation facilities management, and forest road system management.



Culvert replacement to improve natural stream flow and aquatic habitat. .

For more information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers/engineering-facilities-and-maintenance>

*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."

Your job is to support the management of almost 200 million acres of public land. This means retaining the natural beauty of that land, serving the recreational needs of our people, preserving the wildlife; and protecting the watersheds, soil, and streams as part of each project.

Career Paths

Forest Service salaries for Engineers are competitive and are adjusted for locality.

College graduates can start as trainees at the GS-5 or GS-7 grade levels (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/pay-systems/general-schedule/>), with the first 2 years devoted to the training and development of the engineer for future journeyman-level positions. Promotions to the GS-9 level generally occur within the first 2 years. After GS-9 is reached, competition is required for higher grades. The most common grade for engineers in the field in Forest Service is GS-11, and there are ample opportunities for further advancement. Your individual career path is up to you. Some individuals may choose to remain in one location for an entire career, while others choose to experience the many opportunities available. Where will your path lead you?

Entry Level Requirements

Qualifications require a 4-year engineering degree from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or a combination of education and experience. *