



Career Spotlight

Forest Service
Career Pathways



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As a soil scientist on the White Mountain National Forest, I analyze how different projects could affect soils, make recommendations for protective measures if needed, and monitor soils before, during, and after management activities.

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Which of your talents or skills contributes most to your work and why? My curiosity contributes to my work in different ways. Soils are complex with many topics and interactions to learn about, so seeking out learning opportunities is important. In another sense, developing relationships is part of my job, so being curious about other resources and how we can work together is essential.

What is a challenge you have encountered in your position? One of the biggest challenges I struggle with is organizing my time. There are multiple projects going on at once, tasks to do, or emails to send, so it can be hard to prioritize my time and stay focused with a lot going on!

What is an example of technology or equipment that you use in your work? I use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to look at maps of project areas. I often use LiDAR to identify landforms, which help indicate what the soil properties might be. I then load the maps on my tablet to use out in the field to survey those projects.

What has been your most exciting project? It's been exciting to witness the Zealand River restoration. The river was straightened in the 1900s, so in 2024, watershed staff and operators moved the channel to reconnect it to its floodplain to restore the ecosystem. It's inspiring for me to see a restoration project like this early in my career.

When did you know this career would be a good fit for you? As a soil scientist, I have lots of variability in my work since most projects done 'on the ground' on the forest involve soil considerations. I enjoy learning about the interactions of soils/ ecology/forestry, and how soils can inform other projects. And the forest is a beautiful office!

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