



A national soils program leader works on programs to maintain or restore soil productivity on national forests and grasslands.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Career Pathways



Which of your talents or skills contributes most to your work and why? Both my professional leadership experiences and continued education in natural resources have provided me with strong science-based reasoning skills and the ability to communicate and build partnerships.

What is a challenge you have encountered in your position?

In all of the positions I have had, communication with folks is a constant challenge. Communication is something we never have enough time for, but it's one of the most important things we do.

What is an example of technology or equipment that you use in your work? I use Microsoft Teams chat and video calls as a way of being able to communicate and work with folks all over the United States everyday.

What has been your most exciting project?

Working together with a group of soils folks across the agency to build a national soils training session and then using it to teach the next generation of soils scientists was an exciting project. The soils program has never had anything like this before, and it was truly a highlight of my year.

When did you know this career would be a good fit for you? I have always been interested in forest management.

When I started my career in 2002 as a soil scientist, I was able to do what was needed based on what the soils and ecology was telling us. I knew then that the Forest Service was the place for me.

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