

Geologist, GS-1350-11

Position Number: A5084 / FS0083

Introductory Statement: This position is located on a Forest Service unit. This position will work in a team to accomplish field work, data management and analysis, report writing and administration of current oil and gas developments on the Forest.

Collects and Analyzes Geological Data 25%

Conducts geological studies of some scope and complexity. Determines and adapts methods to meet field problems. Existing data may be unreliable or scanty, so requirements for careful interpretation of data collected are substantial.

Examines and assesses lands for mineral potential in order to develop, evaluate, and administer minerals management activities. Conducts validity examinations to determine and make recommendations about the lack of a mineral discovery or reaffirm that a discovery has been made. May serve as an expert witness providing testimony in validity determination cases.

Carries Out Geological Study Procedures 25%

Has wide latitude for exercising independent judgment in performing work that involves complex, intensive investigations into one or more recognized phenomena. Carries out investigations of metal and mineral deposits in a variety of geographic locations. Reviews surface and subsurface geologic conditions in conjunction with engineering projects. Assesses new or unusual situations and develops variations in approach to respond to problems.

Conducts studies and investigations on projects where geology and mineral activities have an effect on development and/or management of forest resources. Applies geologic principles to methods of prospecting, exploration, development, and mining and their related impacts.

Prepares Geological Reports, Recommendations, and Leases and Special Permits 25%

Records the results of studies of some scope and complexity. Records study results and interprets the findings in terms of their scientific significance. Reports are reviewed for overall technical adequacy of conclusions, fulfillment of objectives, and compliance with USDA FS policy.

Administers and monitors mineral leasing activities, including oil and gas leasing, lease exploration, and operating mining. Ensures that operators comply with approved operating plans and that disturbed sites and access roads are rehabilitated. Reviews and administers special use permit applications related to minerals activities, and ensures permittee compliance with terms and conditions of the approved permit.

Reviews Geology Literature and Develops Methodology 25%

Plans for complex studies using conventional methods and techniques, going beyond clear precedents to adapt methods to existing problems. Prepares and plans for project reviews and evaluations. Studies involve intensive investigations into one or more recognized phenomena. Handles studies and investigations of some complexity which require considerable planning for

proper execution. Methods and techniques may require adaptation to the requirements of the project.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTS:

Bargaining Unit Status: Eligible.

Performs other duties as assigned.

Performs wildfire suppression support as directed within training and physical capabilities.

Factor 1- 7 Knowledge Required by the Position

The position requires a knowledge of a wide range of geologic concepts, principles, and methods applicable to varied and complex problems, projects, or studies that may involve diverse geologic, hydrologic, biologic, chemical, mineral, or other environmental conditions and varying processes.

Problems encountered demand skills sufficient to modify standard practices, adapt precedents, and make significant departures from existing approaches and techniques.

The position requires a knowledge of applicable environmental statutes and regulations.

Factor 2- 4 Supervisory Controls

The supervisor sets the overall objectives and resources available. The geologist and supervisor, in consultation, develop the deadlines, projects, and work to be done, or, in some cases, the geologist may have continuing responsibility for a particular organizational area or specialization.

The geologist, having developed expertise in the specialty area, is responsible for planning and carrying out the assignment; resolving most conflicts as they arise; coordinating the work with others as necessary; and using judgment in interpreting and adapting policies, regulations, and precedents on own initiative in terms of established objectives. In some assignments, such as special studies or evaluations, determines the approach to be taken and the methodology to be used. Keeps the supervisor informed of progress and of potentially controversial matters.

Completed work is reviewed only from an overall standpoint in terms of feasibility, compatibility with other work, or effectiveness in meeting requirements or expected results.

Factor 3- 3 Guidelines

Evaluates, interprets, selects, and applies guidelines to specific cases and requirements; and adapts and modifies existing guides in applying established methods and practices to new situations or in relating new assignments to precedent ones.

Factor 4- 4 Complexity

Plans and coordinates various projects and studies, and makes recommendations/decisions regarding a range of multifaceted problems. Precedents must be applied to new work situations and guidelines adapted to reconcile conflicting demands.

Factor 5- 3 Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to apply established scientific techniques to investigate and analyze various conventional problems and questions or to investigate and analyze discrete aspects of more complex problems.

Work products contribute materially to the effectiveness of completed projects.

Factor 6- 3 Personal Contacts

Personal contacts include a wide range of professional and administrative personnel throughout the agency, at other federal agencies, in state and local government, private industry, academia, and environmental advocacy groups.

Factor 7- 2 Purpose of Contacts

The purpose of the contacts is to plan, coordinate, or advise on work efforts or to resolve operating problems by influencing or motivating individuals or groups who are working toward mutual goals and who have basically cooperative attitudes.

Factor 8- 2 Physical Demands

The work regularly requires some physical exertion such as long periods of standing; walking over rough, uneven, or rocky terrain; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, or reaching; or recurring moving, lifting and carrying of moderately heavy items.

Factor 9- 2 Work Environment

The work regularly involves moderate risks or discomforts associated with visiting field sites that require special safety precautions.