

Fishery Biologist (GS-11)

Major Duties

A Fishery Biologist (GS-11) is responsible for developing programs to help protect, manage, and improve the rich variety of fishery habitat in the National Forests. Fisheries Biologists have an exciting and varied job that gives them the opportunity to work with many different people both within the Forest Service and the general public. Duties include

- Managing the fishery habitat
- Developing fisheries management programs to protect resources and also meet the public's need for recreation and commercial uses (e.g., stream and lake restoration and enhancement)
- Monitoring and inspecting projects designed to improve fishery habitats
- Conducting studies and surveys to get information about how forest management policies effect the habitat and fish populations
- Meeting with the general public and Forest Service experts to develop programs that both protect the fishery habitat and use the resource wisely
- Maintaining special studies on rare, threatened, and endangered species
- Developing budgets
- Coordinating planning with other agencies, tribes, and the general public

This job may require supervising other employees. This involves monitoring employee performance, conducting performance appraisals, developing budgets, etc.

A Typical Day

Judy is a fishery Biologist (GS-11) at the Mt. Hood National Forest. She is responsible for planning, monitoring, and giving professional advice on programs to protect fisheries in the forest. Judy's days are typically filled with a variety of activities. She can be found giving advice to the public on how to protect aquatic resources, or conducting studies of streams and rivers to determine the types and quantities of fish, she often conducts studies on stream productivity and how streams are being used, and keep track of the physical and biological characteristics and the fish population

Judy enjoys her job because she works with other Forest Service experts like hydrologists, geologists, and foresters to help protect the rich and varied resources found in the forest, she enjoys participating in investigations and surveys to determine how to restore and protect the fish populations, habitats, harvest, and fish movements.

Judy spends some of her time writing reports and making formal presentations of the results of her investigations on how to use and protect the habitat.

Knowledge and Education

A college degree is required for those interested in becoming a Fishery Biologist. Courses leading to these careers include;

- Mathematics (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus)
- Biology
- Physical Science (Earth Science)
- Ecology
- Geology
- Hydrology

Career Path

Jobs leading to becoming a Fishery Biologist (GS-11) include;

- **Student Trainee (Fishery Biology GS-3)** – This job is a student trainee position under a cooperative education agreement with a college or university. The person holding this job participates in many on-the-job training activities to increase their base knowledge of the job as practices in the Forest Service. Types of things this person does include;
 - Working on fisheries habitat surveys
 - Collecting data from streams and lakes for survey reports
 - Assisting in classifying fish habitats and conditions
- **Fishery Biologist (GS-5)** – The person in this position is a trainee in fisheries management. Typical activities include;
 - Collecting field data about streams and lakes
 - Attending training and study courses in fisheries management
 - Preparing reports that record their activities