

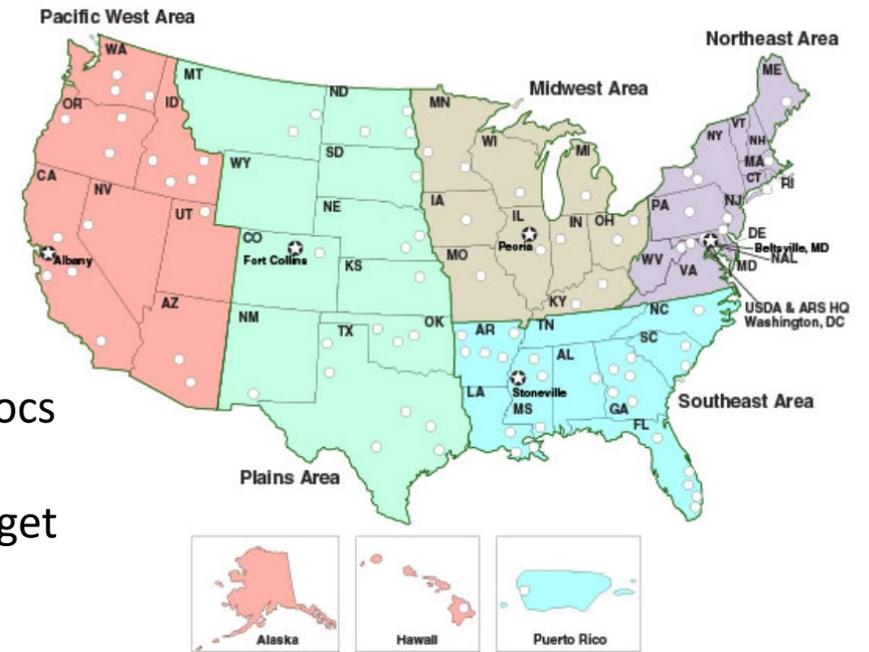
USDA – Agricultural Research Service

Mission

Deliver scientific solutions to national and global agricultural problems

Scope

660 research projects
2,000 scientists and postdocs
90+ research locations
\$1.4 billion fiscal year budget



Vacancies are coming

38% have been in government >20 years
31% plan to retire in next 5 years

Types of opportunities

- 1) Graduate education
- 2) Postdoctoral positions
 - a) ARS
 - b) ORISE
- 3) Support staff
- 4) Scientist positions
- 5) Administrative positions

Martin.Williams@USDA.gov

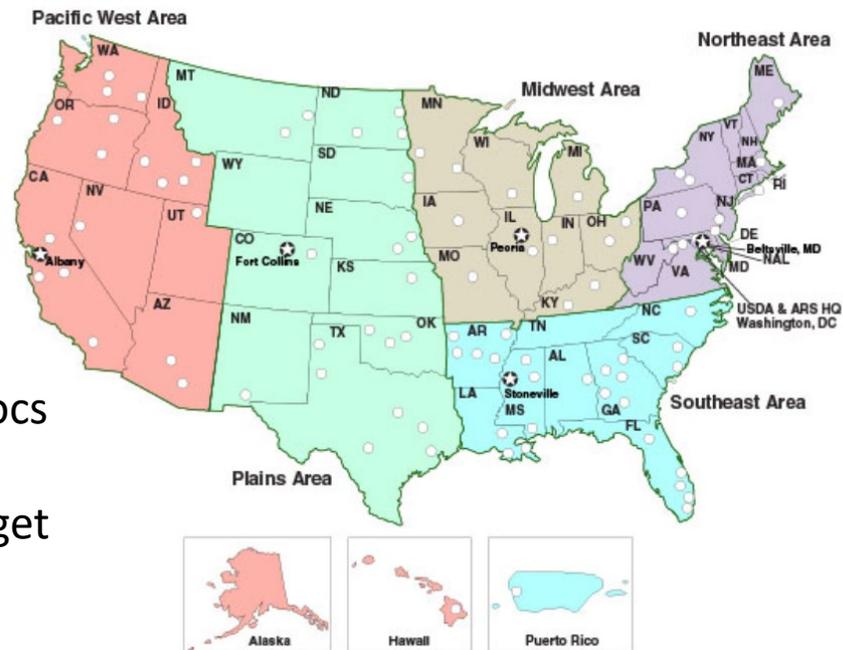
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

www.nifa.usda.gov
[@USDA_NIFA](https://twitter.com/USDA_NIFA)

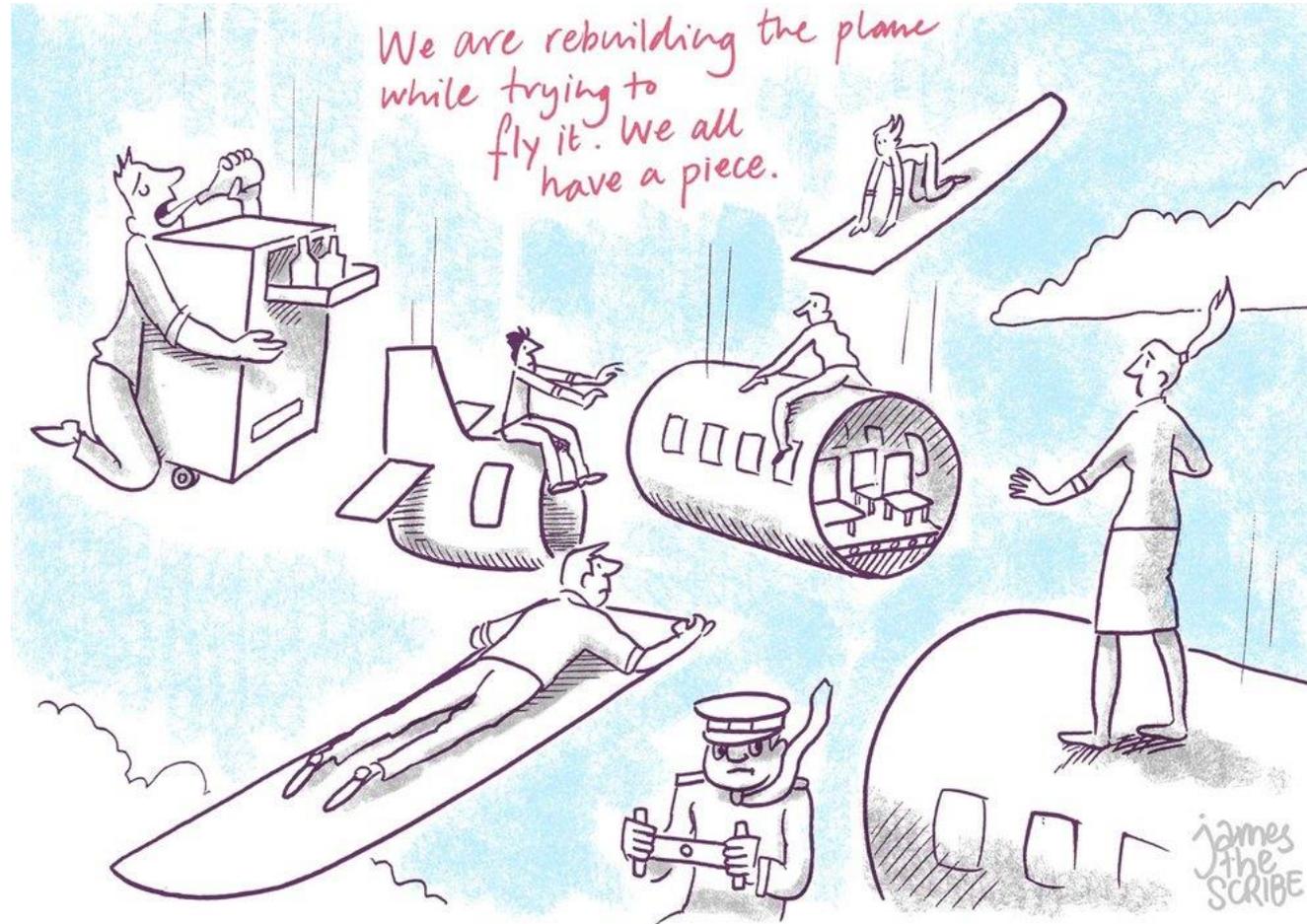
Investing in Agricultural Sciences to Transform Lives

*Leadership and Support for
Research, Education and Extension Programs*

USDA **NIFA**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NIFA's Journey





What Makes NIFA NIFA?

- Lead federal agency providing extramural funding for food & agriculture science
- Agency mission encompasses research, extension & education and provides dedicated funding for each
- Performs all functions of NSF or NIH but with much smaller budget & staff
- Budget is complex and constrained
 - Appropriation includes 60 budget lines & detailed instructions on how to spend most funds
 - Sometimes congress provides funds that haven't been requested



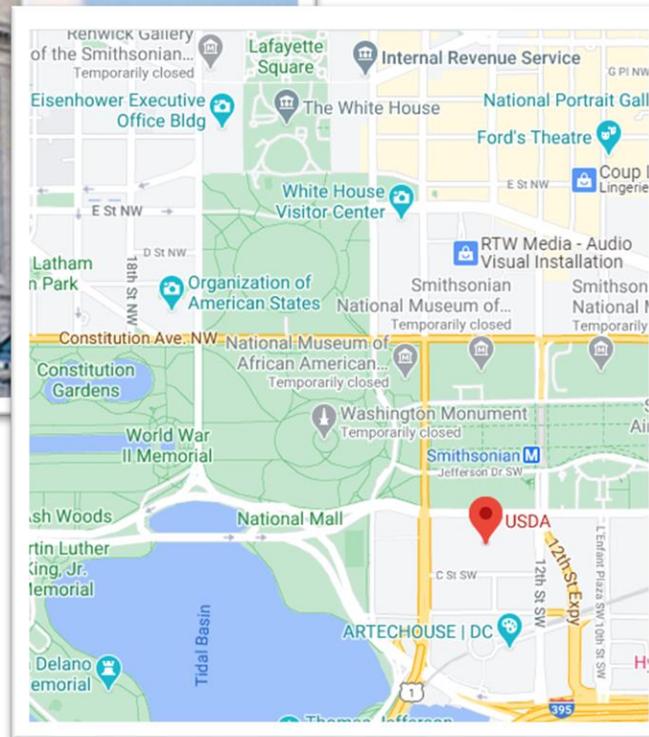
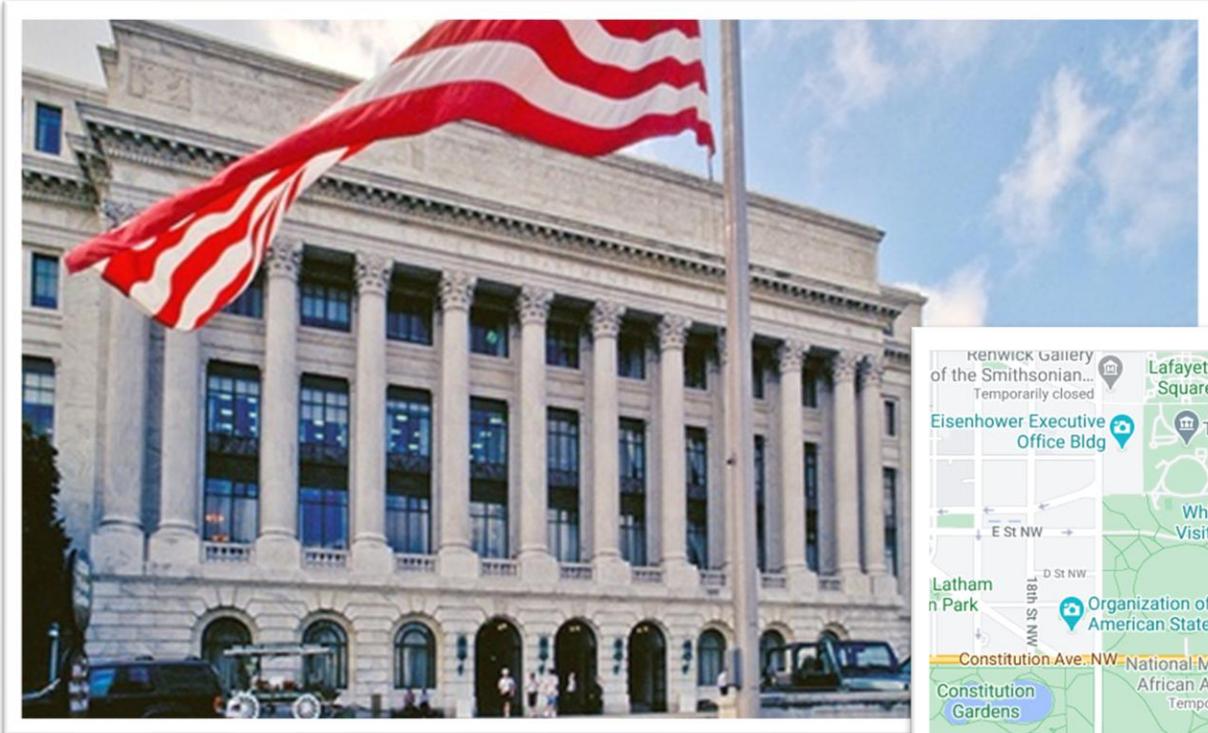
NIFA is a Partnership Organization

- Has complex relationships with its sister agencies and partners
- USDA's primary linkage is to the nation's land-grant universities
- Has something no other federal agency has, a partnership with Cooperative Extension and its ability to deliver programming to 3000+ counties
- Other key partners include:
 - Agricultural Experiment Stations
 - Colleges of agriculture, forestry, veterinary medicine, and human science
 - Non-land grant universities

NIFA Invests in Three Types of Activities

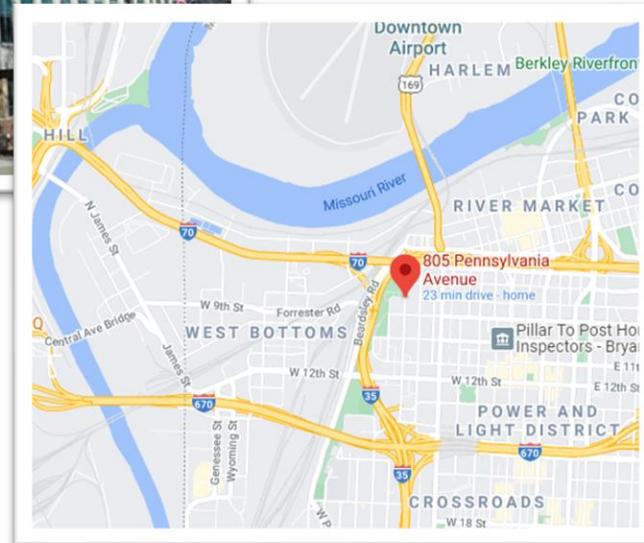


NIFA's Headquarters



- Small DC staff (~20) located at the USDA headquarters on the National Mall
- National Science Liaisons host visitors and meet with DC-based organizations

NIFA's Main Location



- Kansas City, Missouri
- 216 staff members now, ~300 eventually
- Co-located with ERS
- NIFA panels, project director meetings & other events are hosted in KC



Who works for NIFA?

- **Biological and social scientists (“Biological Science Specialist”)**
 - Program Specialist, National Program Leader
 - Relevant weed science expertise: agroecology, cropping systems, sustainable agricultural systems, weed genomics, etc.
- **Data scientists**
- **Managers and leaders**
- **Accountants**
- **Policy specialists**
- **Administrative professionals**
- **Grants and financial management experts**
- **Communication experts**



How to Learn About NIFA Jobs

- Check our Career Opportunities page: <https://nifa.usda.gov/career-opportunities>
 - NIFA and ERS Virtual Career Expo Frequently Asked Questions
 - Federal Internships and Early Career Opportunities
- Check NIFA's LinkedIn page: www.linkedin.com/company/usda-nifa/mycompany
- NIFA frequently hires AAAS science & technology policy fellows for 1-2 year terms
 - Serving as a NIFA fellow provides the experience necessary to successfully compete for a permanent position
 - WSSA also hires AAAS science & technology policy fellows
 - Applications due every November, jobs start the following August
 - Reach-out to current or former fellows for insights
 - Go to www.stpf-aaas.org/#overview for more information



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The logo for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), featuring the letters "NIFA" in a large, white, sans-serif font against a green background with a stylized white outline of a mountain range.

NIFA's Communication Products

- NIFA annual reports are available at the Annual Report Archives at <https://nifa.usda.gov/nifa-annual-report-archives>
- Go to <https://nifa.usda.gov/impacts> for impact stories
- Sign-up for NIFA's subscription service at <https://bit.ly/NIFAsubscribe> for updates on partnership successes, grant programs, budgets, and other news
 - Subscribe to news by topic or to our newsletter (NIFA Update)
- Bookmark NIFA's public website: www.nifa.usda.gov

Positions for Weed Scientists in the NPS

Terri Hogan, NPS Invasive Plant Program Lead

terri_hogan@nps.gov

970-267-7306

Some positions include some management focused research

- Parks – land management positions
- Programs – field science
- Regions – program management, support to parks
- National office – program management, support to parks



IPMT Program Liaison



IPMT Program Crew



Vegetation Ecologist



Park Vegetation Ecologist



Program Aquatic Ecologist



Regional Fire Ecologist

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Phil Andreozzi
USDA Invasive Species Coordinator

- My paths into the Federal Government
 - Non-competitive hiring eligibility (Military, Peace Corps, etc.)
 - Fellowships and Internship programs (PMF,
- USAjobs.gov
 - Resume builder
 - Notifications
- Options once within the Federal Government.
 - Ease of transfer

Opportunities in APHIS

- The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects the health of U.S. agriculture and natural resources against invasive pests and diseases, regulates genetically engineered crops, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and helps people and wildlife coexist.
- APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests, and facilitates the safe trade of agricultural products.
 - PPQ has ~3,000 employees
 - 40% of which are 401 Series (General NRM and Biological Sciences)
 - Science and Technology
 - Botanists, Plant Pathologists, Plant Physiologists,

Working in the Forest Service



USDA Forest Service Career Website

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us>

Examples of program overlap for weed management professionals

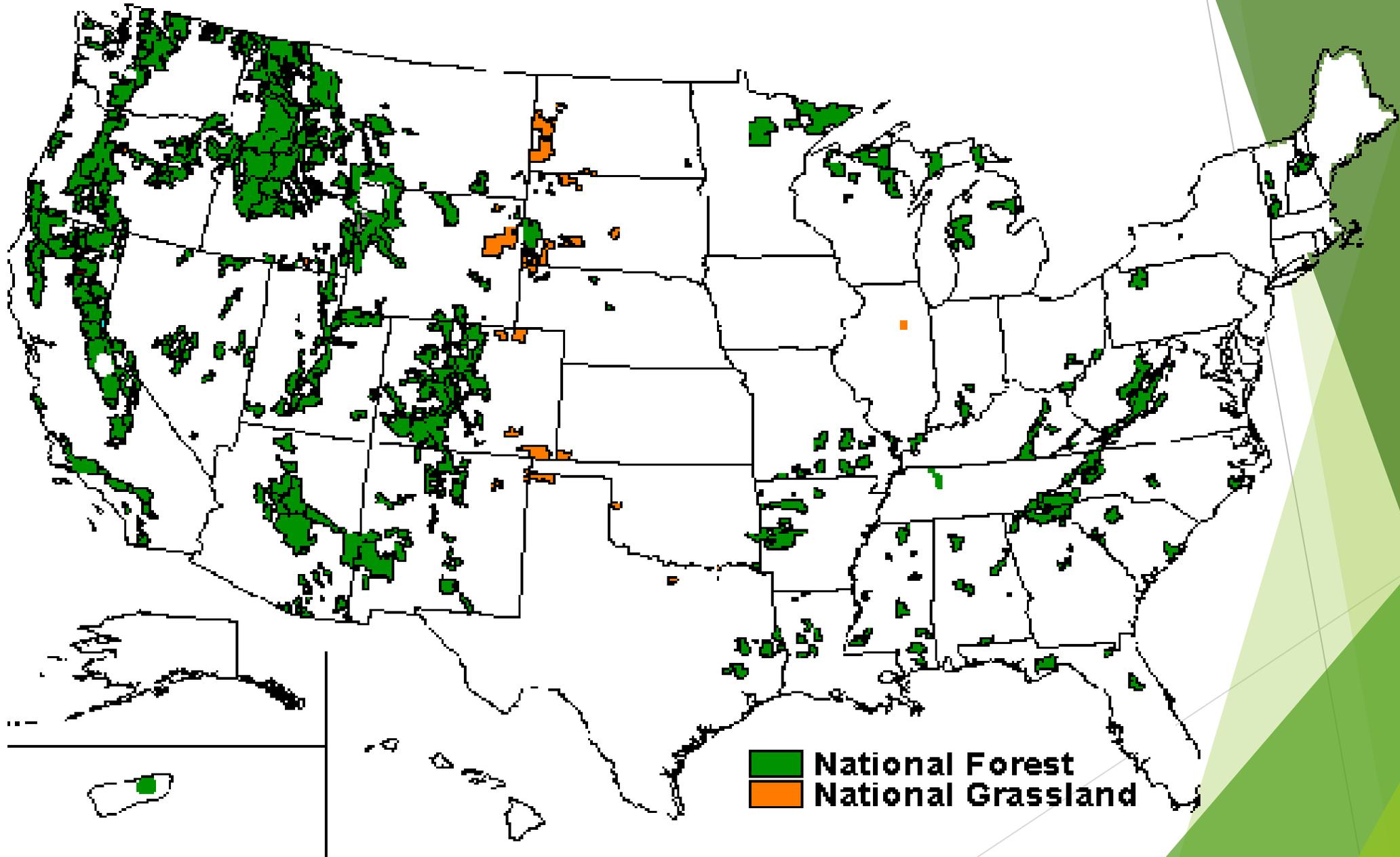
Forestry

Wildlife Habitat Management

Aquatic Resources Management

Rangeland Management

Invasive Species Management



Invasive Species Management

- ❖ **Detection, Prevention and Control of Aquatic and Terrestrial Weeds**
- ❖ **Nationwide Opportunities (Alaska to the Caribbean)**
- ❖ **Forest Service Research and Public Land Management Jobs**

ACES Program

Through the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program, non-federal experienced workers, age 55 and over, assist the Forest Service in conservation-related programs under temporary technical assignments.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/aces-program>

USAJOBS

1 Create a USAJOBS Profile



First, you need to create an account and complete your profile to apply to any job on USAJOBS.

With a USAJOBS account and profile you can save jobs, save and automate job searches, and manage everything you need to complete your application, including resumes and required documents.

2 Search for Jobs

3 Review Job Announcement

4 Prepare your application in USAJOBS

5 Submit application to agency

Transition to Agency

Agency

6 Agency reviews application

7 Interview

8 Agency Selects Candidates

9 Job Offer

Explore Hiring Paths

The Federal Government offers unique hiring paths to help hire individuals that represent our diverse society. Learn more about each hiring path and your eligibility.



Open to the Public

U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.



Federal Employees

Current or former, includes the competitive and excepted services



Veterans



Military Spouses



National Guard & Reserves

Current or prospective members



Students & recent graduates



Senior Executives



Individuals with a disability



Family of overseas employees



Native Americans

American Indian or Alaskan Native



Peace Corps & AmeriCorps VISTA



Special authorities

Soil Conservationist (Direct Hire)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Department of Agriculture

Multiple Locations

Starting at \$35,265 (GS 5-9)

Permanent • Full-Time



 Open 01/08/2021 to 07/15/2021

Federal Jobs Application Process

- Create a [login.gov](#) account at [usajobs.gov](#)
- Create a **USAJOBS profile** - includes your name, address and other important information; with a profile, you can also upload resumes, save jobs and save job searches.
- **Create/upload a resume** – upload a resume or create one using Resume Builder; 5 unique resumes may be stored (each <3 MB) in JPG, JPEG, PNG, RTF, PDF, or Word.
- **What to include in a resume** - When applying for a federal job, it's important to clearly describe how your skills and work experiences align to the selection criteria defined by the job announcement. You should tailor your resume to the job announcement to which you are applying.
- **Search for jobs** - Filter your job search; You can search for jobs by keyword, occupation or job category, agency, location, salary range and pay grade; Save searches and receive notifications; You can set up automated job searches based on your search criteria; USAJOBS will email you (daily, weekly or monthly) when there are new jobs entered into the database that meet your needs.
- **Review the job announcement** - Once you find a job you're interested in, read the entire job announcement and pay close attention to This job is open to and Who may apply sections to see if you're eligible for the job. Qualifications section to learn what skills and experience you need for the job. How to Apply section to learn about agency specific instructions, required doc., & contact info.
- **Found a job you are interested in** - 1. Prepare your job application (a five-step process). 2. Submit your application (Once your application is ready, you'll be transferred to the hiring agency application system and at that point you move into the hiring agency process. 3. Check your USAJOBS account for status updates.

Jobs in 'Other' Federal Agencies (01/24/2021)

<https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/>

Agency for International Development (USAID) - Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist; Foreign Service Agriculture Officer

Bureau of Land Management (Department of the Interior) - Biological Science Tech (Wildlife), BST (Plants)

US Geological Survey (DOI) – Management and Program Analyst; Biologist

Congressional Research Service - Analyst in Agricultural Policy, Legislative Branch,
Library of Congress

Corps of Engineers

Foreign Agricultural Service – some positions overlap with USAID

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist; Environmental Scientist; Natural Resource Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Biologist, Soil Conservationist;
Rangeland Management Specialist