



LISA JENNINGS

Recreation & Trails Program Manager
US Forest Service

SCHOOL

BS Natural Resources
Masters of Forestry
North Carolina State University

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB

"I love that I go out in the woods and create trails for people to visit and enjoy. It is satisfying to think big picture and make plans for the forest 100 years from now. With the forest service I can dream big and follow through."

WHY FORESTRY?

"I grew up camping and hiking with my parents. As a child I saw the redwoods and knew I wanted to work with trees when I grew up. In college I studied environmental science, but it was too general for what I was looking for. I switched majors and gained more experience in the woods and made connections with mentors through internships."

ADVICE

"The more people you know the more connections you can make. Participate in internships and begin networking now."



NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST (RECREATION)

NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS DEVELOP GUIDANCES FOR RECREATION AND WILDERNESS OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES ON MANAGED SITES.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Direct and manage programs, which may include:
 - Develop, plan, and monitor miles of trail systems
 - Oversee campgrounds, picnic areas, and recreation sites
 - Maintain boundary lines
 - Long term planning and assess needs of all programs
- Set program budget and secure additional funding when needed
- Partner and build relationships with various stakeholders and interest groups
- Supervise and train employees and volunteers
- Serve as a spokesperson

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Graduation from a four year school in a preferred field
 - Advanced degrees needed for executive roles
- Experience needed will vary based on position

AVERAGE SALARY

- Average pay for a federal employee classified GS9-11 is \$59,000 (reported by the U.S Office of Personnel Management)

SKILLS NEEDED

- Confident communicator who is comfortable with public speaking
- Team player
- Enjoys working outdoors



photos by L. Jennings