Career Pathways: The Presidential Management Fellows Program and the USDA Forest Service
Wednesday, 22 April 2020, 11 a.m. MDT

Register Here

About the Webinar
Geoscientists hold many positions in the federal government. Career opportunities include mineral exploration, mine remediation, earthquake research, groundwater management, hydrology, and more. Roles and opportunities for geoscientists in the federal workforce will be discussed, with an emphasis on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and recent graduates. One such opportunity for recent graduate students, the Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF), will be discussed in detail.

The PMF is a prestigious two-year fellowship that brings recent graduate students into public service at the GS-9, 11, or 12 level across the federal government. It is a hiring pathway that taps into a streamlined hiring pool identified by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Through a national competitive process, OPM gauges competency in critical thinking, interpersonal skills, and commitment to public service to determine the selection of PMF finalists. The USDA Forest Service PMF Program, in its current form, was established in 2002, and has earned a strong reputation for recruiting excellent talent.

About the Presenters
Tim Stroope is a hydrogeologist with the USDA Forest Service’s National Groundwater Program, where he provides project-level assistance, outreach, and training for all things groundwater related. Before that he was a Presidential Management Fellow and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in western Colorado. Prior to joining the Forest Service, Stroope was a hydrologic technician for the USGS and a research associate with IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering. His graduate and postgraduate research studied the effects of forest disturbance on watershed sediment production. He holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in geoscience from the University of Iowa.

Karen Vyverberg is a 2018 Presidential Management Fellow with the USDA Forest Service. She holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in geological sciences from the University of Florida. Her academic research focused on coastal hydrology, sea-level rise, and climate change. Vyverberg is currently a Water Resources Specialist and the Acting Water Resources Team Lead in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the USDA Forest Service. In this role, she oversees the Water Quality and Water Rights programs on National Forest System land in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, where her work focuses on watershed management, environmental planning, and partnership coordination.