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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00001

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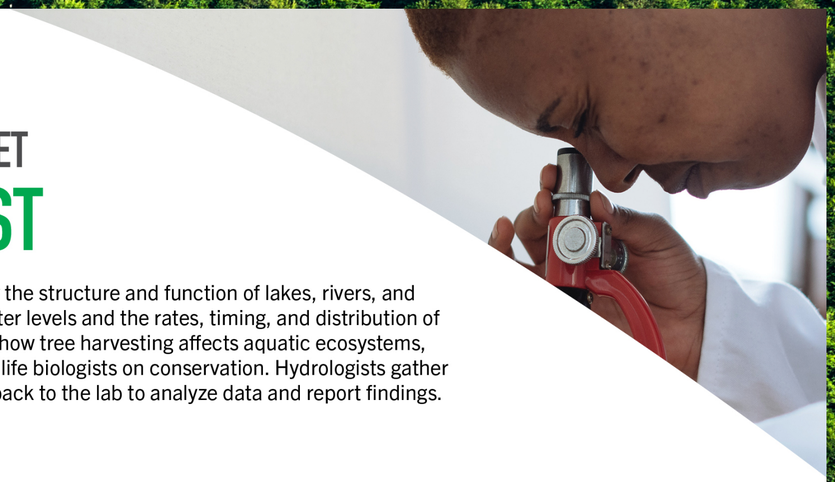
GREEN JOB FACT SHEET

HYDROLOGIST



Hydrologists are scientists who study the structure and function of lakes, rivers, and watershed systems. They analyze water levels and the rates, timing, and distribution of water flows. In forestry, they analyze how tree harvesting affects aquatic ecosystems, and they work with foresters and wildlife biologists on conservation. Hydrologists gather information in the forest, then head back to the lab to analyze data and report findings.

The Big Picture

Hydrologists investigate water and the water cycle to solve important questions, by:

- **Learning** how streamflow shapes forests.
- **Studying** the ways in which climate change affects watersheds.
- **Understanding** the environmental consequences of erosion, drought, and other water-related issues.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

ARE YOU DRAWN TO WATER? ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER, CLIMATE, THE EARTH, AND LIVING THINGS?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Hydrologists have great research and analysis skills. They gather information and use critical thinking to identify and solve problems. To succeed in this job, you need analytical, strong communication, critical-thinking, and interpersonal skills. In addition, you must have physical stamina and be comfortable working in and near bodies of water.

Salary

U.S. salaries range from about $52,900 to $130,030 per year and average about $84,040.

Where Can You GROW?

A career as a hydrologist can include working as **a climatologist, environmental geologist, oceanographer, or hydrogeologist.** Possible employers include:

- Federal, state, or local governments
- Management, scientific, and technical consulting companies
- Private companies that provide engineering services

Moving Forward

Here's a path of study that could lead to a career in hydrology. You'll likely need a four-year college or even a graduate degree.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Focus on biology, statistics, social sciences, math, and physics classes.
- **COLLEGE:** Choose a hydrology concentration within a geoscience, engineering, environmental science, or earth science program. Earn a master's degree to get more opportunities and a higher salary.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests