



Science Cuts at the U.S. Geological Survey Hurt All of Us

Federal science funding is foundational to America's health, economic success and national security. But reduced staff, frozen grants and other cuts are already limiting the essential work of our science agencies. Further reductions would be even more devastating. Scientists are already seeing the consequences — here are their stories.



Impacts of Federal Cuts to USGS

The USGS remains a backbone to scientific infrastructure essential to public safety, environmental stewardship, and national resilience.

Cuts to USGS funding would put lives and infrastructure at risk, including halting updates to national earthquake hazard maps used to set building codes, delaying groundwater monitoring critical to drought-stricken regions of the nation, and reducing support for volcano observatories like those monitoring Mount St. Helens and Kilauea.

In Their Own Words

**Cuts to science aren't abstract: they affect lives and livelihoods.
These scientists know firsthand.**

As a fired biologist, I see the **loss of my work on biosecurity protections against invasive species and pathogens affecting invasion potential and disease spread on public lands** where people live, work and recreate. Less ability to limit invasive species can change the wildfire potential of an area, posing risks to lives and property.

Early career biologist and ecologist

Many researchers working at the Northwest USGS office who were just fired were working on very important research concerning invasive species in the Midwest U.S., like invasive carp and mussels, which are detrimental to local fish stocks and water quality. **These cuts will have wide-ranging effects on the local recreation industry, local fisheries, and overall well-being of the people and economy** of the Upper Midwest.

Early career geophysicist

Disruptions to the federal grant/award process for my colleagues means that some of them have had to stop their fire science and management technical transfer work. This means **less work is being done to learn and share best practices for wildfire management**, which will result in more and costly wildfires, and a decrease in public safety.

Mid-career scientist studying wildfires and ecology

The Hawaiian and Alaskan Volcano Observatories are on the list of the federal leases being terminated. Hawaiian volcanoes are actively erupting, and the preemptive termination of this lease **puts lives in danger because it could disrupt the observatory scientists' ability to monitor eruptions**. Monitoring in Alaska is very important for air travel and for the local communities, since those volcanoes tend to produce ash that will crash airplanes if they are not properly monitored.

Ph.D. student studying volcanology

Firings of federal scientific employees will make society less safe from earthquake hazards. For example, one of these researchers was doing work to understand seismic hazards in the Pacific Northwest using new data collected by telecom fibers. The Pacific Northwest is an area that is at high seismic risk, yet with fairly limited observations.

Mid-career scientist