POSITION DESCRIPTION

**director of the united states geological survey, Department of the interior**

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Energy and Natural Resources |
| Agency Mission | The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives and affiliated island communities.[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Overview | The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects, monitors, analyzes and provides scientific understanding about natural resources conditions, issues and problems. The USGS carries out large-scale, multidisciplinary investigations and provides impartial scientific information to policymakers, resource managers, planners and other customers.[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| Compensation | Level V $145,700 (5 U.S.C. § 5316)[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Position Reports to | Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | In fiscal 2015, the USGS had a budget of $1.032 billion and 4,843 employees.[[5]](#endnote-5) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Oversees the planning, direction and management of the interdisciplinary and integrated programs that contribute to USGS’s environmental science mission * Manages and directs the scientific and technical resources needed to plan, develop and accomplish the department's science programs * Represents the USGS in its interaction with other federal agencies; international, national, state and local organizations; academic institutions; and Congress[[6]](#endnote-6) * Has historically served simultaneously as science advisor to the secretary of the interior, and represented the department in White House science meetings |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Doctoral degree in one of USGS’s science mission areas: earth science (geology, geophysics or a related field), hydrology, ecology or geography * Management experience in running complex organizations (highly desirable) * Some familiarity with the federal government (highly desirable) |
| Competencies | * Excellent speaking and interpersonal skills * Ability to think strategically and build consensus * Nonpartisan and able to work effectively with a broad range of stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes * Ability to respond to emergency situations with calm demeanor and decisive action * Strong leadership skills * Experience with matrix management, fiscal acumen and ability to explain complex scientific concepts to non-scientists (desired) |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Suzette Kimball (2015 to 2017): USGS Deputy Director; USGS Associate Director for Geology; Director of the USGS Eastern Region; USGS Eastern Regional Executive for Biology[[7]](#endnote-7) | |
| Marcia K. McNutt (2009 to 2013): President and Chief Executive Officer, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute; President, American Geophysical Union; Director, MIT-WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering, School of Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology[[8]](#endnote-8) | |
| Mark Myers (2006 to 2009): Department of the Interior Representative, Climate Change Science Program, Committee on Climate Change Science and Technology Integration, Executive Office of the President; President and Board Member, Alaska Geological Society; Director, Oil and Gas Division, Natural Resources Department, State of Alaska; Director, Geological and Geophysical Surveys Division, Natural Resources Department, State of Alaska[[9]](#endnote-9) | |

1. Partnership for Public Service position description [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgDocument.asp?OrgId=-1&LDIBookId=19&LDIOrgId=153493&LDISecId=180&FromRecent=0&Save=1&Position=-1#O153493 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgDocument.asp?OrgId=-1&LDIBookId=19&LDIOrgId=153493&LDISecId=180&FromRecent=0&Save=1&Position=-1#O153493 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgDocument.asp?OrgId=-1&LDIBookId=19&LDIOrgId=153493&LDISecId=180&FromRecent=0&Save=1&Position=-1#O153493 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. OPM position description [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/suzette-kimball [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=323152&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=1120944&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-9)