

Welcome to Earth Matters: Field Notes on the Geology of New Mexico's Enchanting Landscapes. Celebrating Earth Science Week, I am Susie Welch

Are you thinking about what your next job might be? How about a career in Earth Science?

You may think that you would need a PhD in geology to work in earth science. But not all jobs are just for geologists. What other qualifications might land you a job in the earth science field? How about a sense of adventure and a willingness to learn something new about science and share it with others? Of course a good science background helps tie it all together.

As the manager of the Geologic Extension Service at the Bureau of Geology, my job changes every day! I work with a team of editors and writers to produce a fun to read, online publication called Lite Geology. I also coordinate a summer workshop for teachers where we explore the geology of a different part of our state each year. When school groups visit the Mineral Museum in Socorro, they see hundreds of awesome mineral specimens. The students learn that minerals are the building blocks of rocks, and that almost everything they use comes from minerals. It's fun to see kids fall in love with geology!

The New Mexico Bureau of Geology is a service and research agency, so people with a variety of backgrounds work there. Along with the many geologic disciplines, there are opportunities in publishing and graphic design, technical writing, geographic information, business management, and maintaining databases and collections.

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I earned my Bachelors of Science degree in Soil Science at New Mexico State University and worked in enhanced oil recovery research at New Mexico Tech before joining the staff at the Bureau of Geology in 1991. After several decades of service, I still enjoy learning and sharing something new about geology every day.

Celebrating Earth Science Week, I am Susie Welch from the Bureau of Geology at New Mexico Tech.