



# Central Federal Lands Highway Division Fall 2024 Newsletter



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**Edition No. 4**



## What is ERFO and How Does This Relate to Federal Lands Highway?

ERFO stands for Emergency Relief for federally-owned roads and provides funds for the repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways that have suffered serious damage because of natural disasters or catastrophic events. When disasters such as floods, hurricanes, or wildfires cause damage to transportation routes on federal land, we coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies to assess the damage and initiate the necessary repair work. Through its involvement in ERFO, Federal Lands Highway contributes to the resilience and safety of transportation infrastructure in federally managed areas, supporting the overall mission of providing safe and reliable access to national treasures.

## How Does Federal Lands Highway Support Work-Life Balance for its Employees?

- Flexible and Hybrid Work Arrangements
- Generous Leave Policies
- Wellness Programs
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)
- Supportive Work Environment
- Paid Overtime
- And more!

# CIVIL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION INTERNSHIPS

May-August 2025 \$14-27/hr U.S. Citizenship Required Apply by January 2025

The Central Federal Lands Highway Division designs and oversees the building of roads, bridges, and trails on public lands, including national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges. We solve unique project challenges that are wide-ranging in environment, geography, and complexity through engineering solutions that are both culturally and environmentally sensitive to the context of the land.



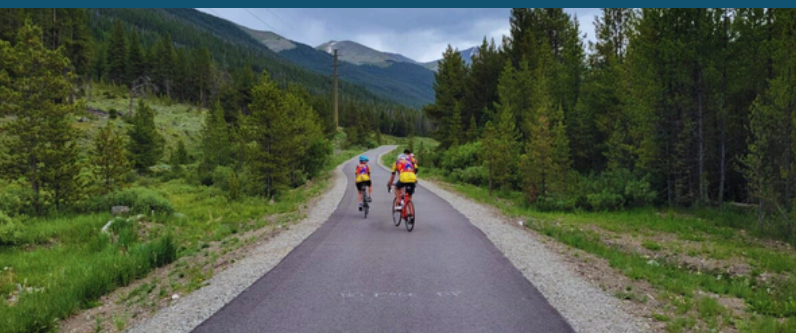
## Office Internship

Work will primarily be completed in the Lakewood, Colorado office with potential for site visits to projects in our 14-state region. Interns will be assigned to one of the following teams: Bridge, Geotechnical, Highway Design, Hydraulics, Pavements/Materials, or Safety.



## Construction Internship

Assist project engineers on an active construction project within our 14 states performing inspection, field sampling, monitoring stakeout, and participating in partner meetings. We pay per diem for food and lodging!



# ENTRY-LEVEL CIVIL ENGINEERING PROGRAM



**\$41,757 - \$82,249 per year**

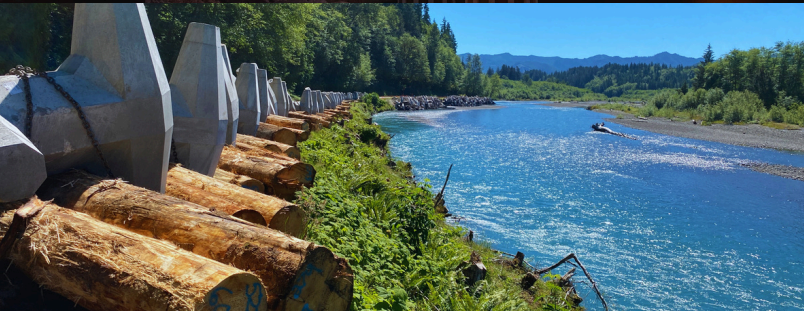
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Our Career Development Program (CDP) offers an unparalleled rotational experience designed to equip you with hands-on skills and training while refining your interests for a well-rounded professional journey. Upon joining, you'll be paired with a dedicated coach who will serve as your mentor throughout the program.

For six months, you'll be immersed in the heart of our projects across 14 states, nestled within the breathtaking landscapes of national parks and forests. Here, you'll support our project engineers and field staff, gaining invaluable insights into the construction of roads, trails, and bridges while enjoying per diem for lodging and meals. The remaining 18 months will be spent at our office in Lakewood, Colorado. You'll spend six months working in our Highway Design branch, contributing to the creation of reliable and resilient roadways and trails. Additionally, you'll rotate for the remaining 12 months through various office teams, including bridge, environment, geotechnical, hydraulics, pavements/materials, planning, programming, or safety.

Upon completing the two-year rotational program, you'll transition to a permanent role within the Construction Branch, Highway Design Branch, or another area aligned with both the needs of Central Federal Lands and your individual career interests.

**If you're a civil engineering student graduating in Spring 2025 and a U.S. citizen with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, you can apply directly here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/813054700>**





# Employee Spotlight: William Yeager

## Position at Central Federal Lands

I am a civil engineer in the Professional Development Program in my first rotation with the geotechnical team.

## Educational Background

I graduated last year with my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and I have my Engineer in Training (EIT) certificate.

## Tenure on the Team

I have been with Central Federal Lands for six months.

## Why Did You Decide to Work with Us?

I chose Central Federal Lands because of its location in Denver, Colorado, and the unique project locations. I am in the Professional Development Program that can be tailored to one's interests. The program has given me plenty of opportunities to learn and grow within the field of civil engineering.

## What is the Most Rewarding Part of the Job?

The most rewarding part about working at Central Federal Lands are the opportunities. I like collaborating with different disciplines and working in unique places. In my first six months I've already traveled to Arches National Park, Devil's Tower, Northern California, and Montana.

## Briefly Describe Your Favorite Project at CFL:

My favorite project so far has been the week-long geotechnical drilling along Delicate Arch Road at Arches National Park. I learned a lot about subsurface investigation techniques and how to properly log data on-site and write portions of the draft report using what was found.

## Why Do You Stay at Central Federal Lands (CFL)?

I stay at CFL because the people here are very friendly and helpful. If I have any questions, work-related or not, I feel comfortable asking, knowing I'll get an answer.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Downtown Estes Park Loop



## **Name/Location of Worksite:**

Estes Park, Colorado. Project website: <https://www.downtownestesloop.com/>.

## **Budget:**

\$27 million

## **Goal of Project:**

Because Estes Park is a small, aging mountain town, it was not designed to handle millions of visitors. The Downtown Estes Park Loop reroutes the flow of traffic through town to and from the park. The project moves traffic into a one-way circle through and around downtown, increasing capacity, improving flow, and reducing delays. It also revitalizes and expands pedestrian infrastructure around the downtown area.

## **What Makes this Project Unique?**

This project has many challenges: unknown utility conflicts, public information dissemination, public controversy, and intense schedule (24/7 operations).

## **Project Impact:**

This project will have an immense benefit to the public, the Town of Estes Park, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) because it involves a major overhaul of transportation infrastructure in an area popular to residents, tourists, and visitors alike. Benefits include improved safety and pedestrian access with a new bridge, new pavement through downtown, and updated utilities. The project will also benefit visitors to the region, which includes Rocky Mountain National Park, because improvements will help move visitors more efficiently through the congested area of downtown Estes Park. There are also benefits to the environment with reduced emissions from shorter traffic queues and decreases in vehicle idling times. In addition, the grading of the channel for the new bridge will help reduce risks of flooding to properties already affected along the Big Thompson River.

**“The Downtown Estes Park Loop project is intense. The project moves fast. We always must be looking ahead to be ready for the next challenge – potential design issues, unknown utility conflicts, traffic flows when construction and tourist season coincide, rampant misinformation, and involvement of the relevant partners at the appropriate time. This is a project where being adaptable is a must.” - Isiah Norman, Civil Engineer**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOB OPENINGS

There are over 400 national park areas spread across the country. Check [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) and search state by state to find one close to you.

When we talk about reducing the carbon footprint of our transportation system, we often focus on emissions from vehicles. However, the use of low-carbon materials in construction also presents a massive opportunity. We are making \$1.2 billion available to AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) for states to use and \$800 million for cities, tribes, and other agencies to buy materials used in transportation projects that create less pollution including steel, concrete and asphalt. [States Vie for \\$1.2B From FHWA to Boost Use of Low-Carbon Materials | Engineering News-Record \(enr.com\)](#)

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Intern Construction Internship:  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/813331600>

Student Intern Office Internship:  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/808560800>

Recent Graduate Civil Engineering Role:  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/813054700>

Civil Engineer (Highway - Construction)  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/786807400>

Civil Engineer (Highway)(Claims Engineer  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/808060400>

