

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Federal environmental protection careers fall into two job series: Environmental Protection Specialist (0028) and Environmental Protection Assistant (0029). Both help federal agencies comply with environmental laws like the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and hazardous waste regulations. Specialists manage compliance programs, develop regulations, and oversee cleanup projects, while Assistants provide technical support. Unlike environmental engineers or ecologists, these roles focus on program administration and regulatory compliance rather than science or engineering.

0028: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SPECIALIST

These roles involve managing compliance programs, developing regulations, conducting inspections, overseeing cleanup projects, and administering grants. Work covers air and water quality, hazardous waste management, pollution prevention, and environmental restoration and often requires knowledge of environmental laws like the Clean Air Act.

0029: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSISTANT

These roles provide technical support by reviewing files, tracking compliance data, assisting with inspections, and preparing reports. This work follows established procedures and requires practical knowledge but not the full professional expertise of specialists.

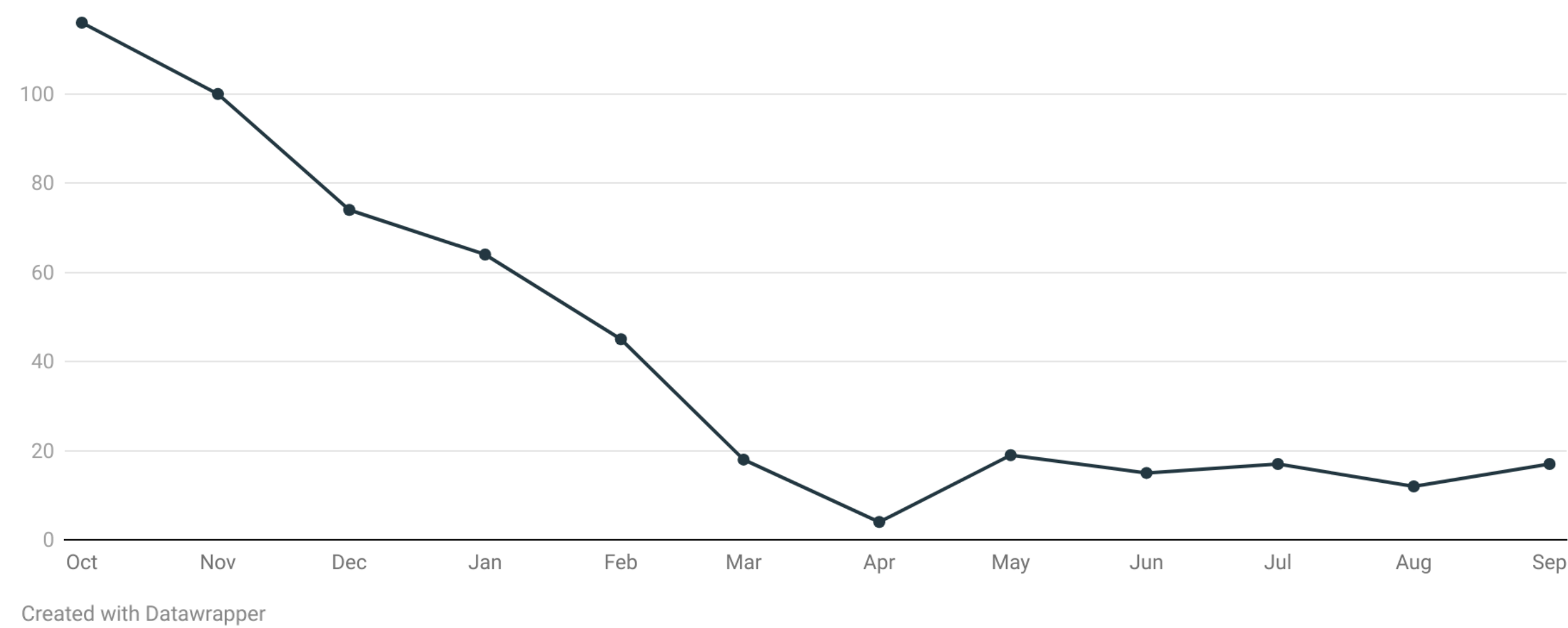
CAREER PROGRESSION


- Starting Point (GS-7/9)**
Entry-level specialists conduct inspections, assist with compliance reviews, and learn environmental regulations.
- Mid-Career (GS-11/12)**
Specialists independently manage environmental programs and handle complex compliance issues. Most federal hiring occurs at these grades.
- Senior Level (GS-13/15)**
Senior specialists serve as technical experts, develop regulations, resolve unprecedented problems, and advise agency leadership. Supervisory specialists lead teams and manage program operations at GS-12 through GS-15.
- Note on Assistants**
Environmental Protection Assistant (0029) positions are rare in federal hiring and typically hired at GS-3/4 for basic technical support work.

TRANSLATABLE SKILLS

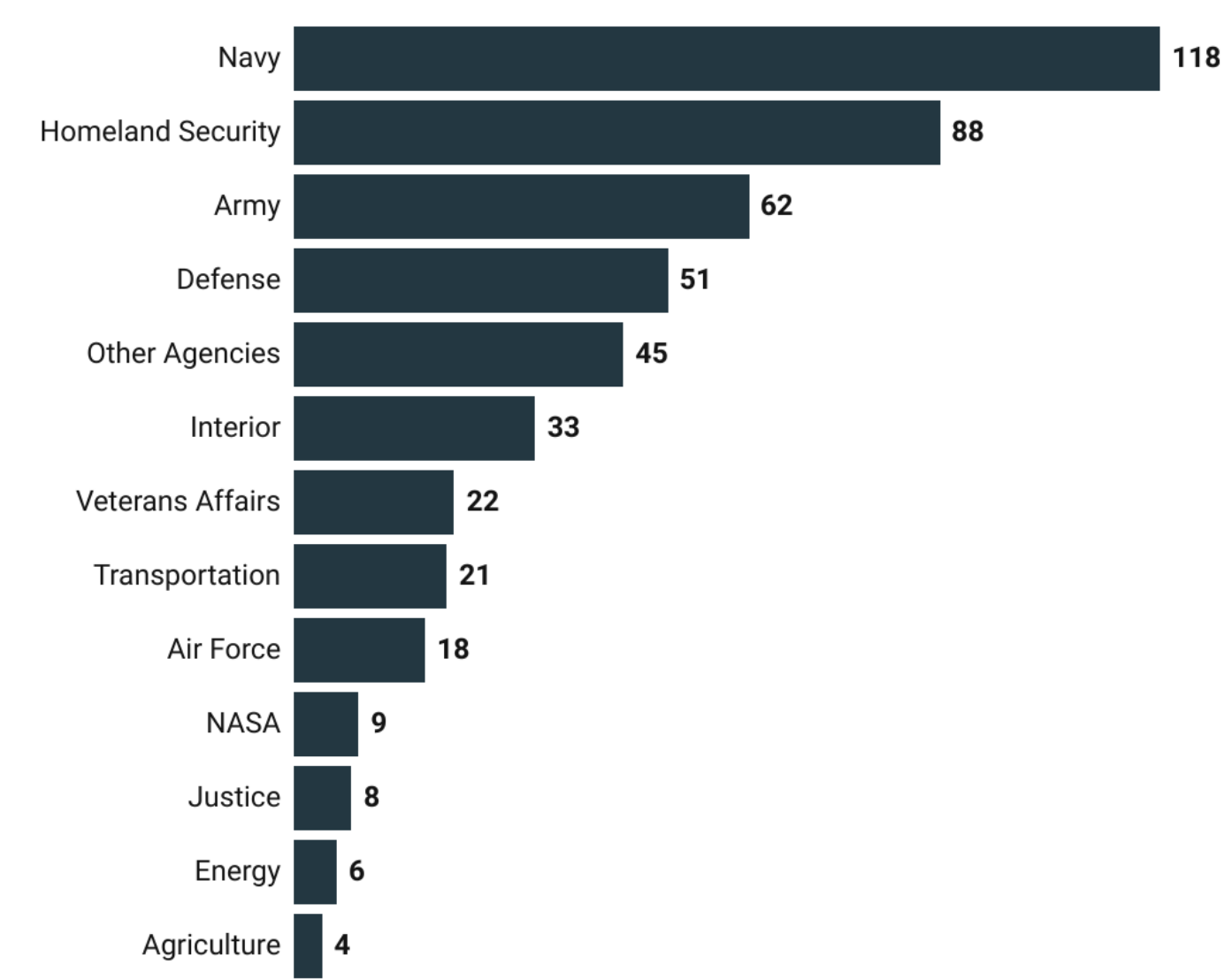
- Critical Thinking & Analysis:** Evaluate compliance with environmental regulations, assess pollution risks, and develop practical solutions.
- Attention to Detail:** Environmental compliance demands precise documentation, accurate permit reviews, and careful analysis of monitoring data.
- Regulatory Research & Interpretation:** Navigate Federal, State, and local environmental laws and stay current with regulatory changes. Success requires understanding how laws apply to specific situations.
- Negotiation & Interpersonal Skills:** Work with facility operators, regulatory agencies, and community groups who may have competing interests.

FEDERAL JOB POSTINGS BY MONTH

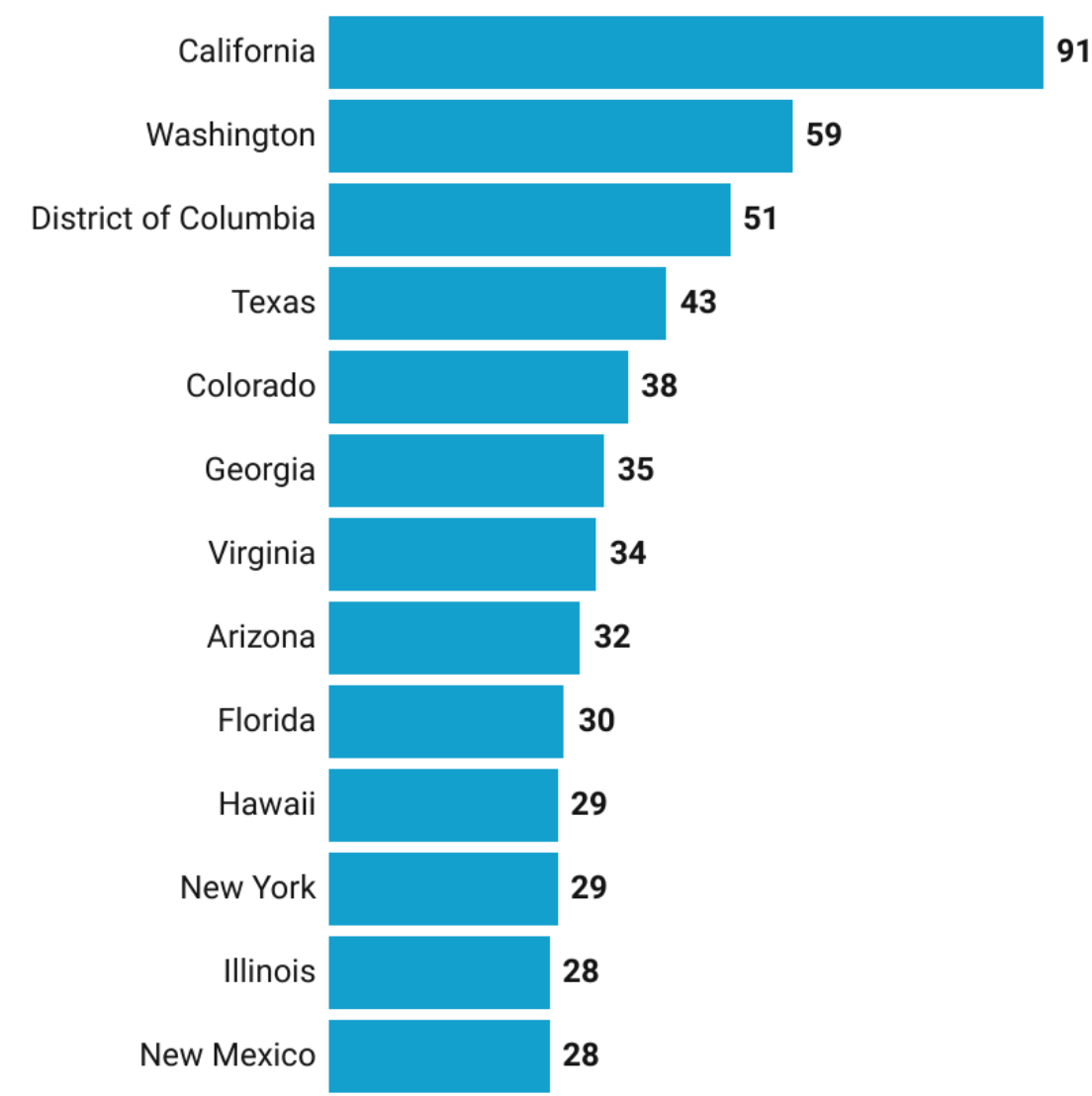


 **Key Takeaway:** 0029 Environmental Protection Technician roles are rare in federal hiring, most of this work is performed by Specialists.


TOP FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS



TOP STATES



 **Why So Many Defense Roles?** Military branches account for 60% of environmental protection positions (249 of 414 jobs). DoD manages 425+ installations covering 25 million acres and each must comply with environmental laws like any private facility. This creates demand for specialists to manage hazardous materials, ensure regulatory compliance, and protect endangered species on training ranges.

 **Nationwide Opportunities:** Environmental protection positions are distributed across all 50 states. California leads with 91 positions, but significant opportunities exist in Washington (59), DC (51), Texas (43), and Colorado (38). No single state dominates the market.