



Ascending Mount Rainer to map glacio-volcanic caves (photo by FX DeRuydts).

# Lee J. Florea, Ph.D., P.G.

## Earth Resource Program Manager

Lee directs the Earth Resource Program at the Survey, where he manages a team focused on climate resiliency in the Columbia Basin. This team conducts studies organized around hydrogeology, geothermal resources, and carbon sequestration. On the side, Lee is part of an international team of cave scientists that map and study extensive glacio-volcanic caves on the Cascade volcanoes. He also maintains an international research portfolio in cave and karst science, specifically studies in the carbonate critical zone. Prior to working for the Survey, Lee spent 13 years as a university faculty—teaching classes, managing research programs, and advising graduate students. He enjoys challenging geological phenomena, field mapping and sampling campaigns, and scientific writing and publishing.

### Job Responsibilities

Program development, management, and leadership; outreach and communication; data accumulation, integration, and synthesis.

### Professional Interests

Speleogenesis, glacio-volcanic caves, critical zone science, carbon and nutrient flux, sulfur systematics, isotope geochemistry, geothermal.

### Skills

Geologic mapping, cave survey and cartography, carbonate petrography, analytical and isotope geochemistry, water quality monitoring, adobe creative suite, statistical analysis software, publication editing and production.

### Professional Experience

- Assistant Director for Research and Senior Research Faculty, Indiana Geological and Water Survey, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Fulbright Fellow, Faculty of Geology, University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania
- Associate Professor of Environmental Geosciences, Ball State University, Muncie, IN
- Assistant Professor of Geology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
- Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow, U.S. Geological Survey, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### Education

- Ph.D. Geology with specialization in Hydrogeology and Carbonate Geology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- M.S. Geological Sciences with specialization in Hydrogeology, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri
- B.S. Physics and Mathematics, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

### Personal Interests

Caving and mountaineering expeditions, backcountry camping, wild foraging and food preservation, cooking, science fiction and fantasy.