STATE OF MINNESOTA
CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Code: 3756
Barg. Unit(s): 214

NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST INTERMEDIATE - WILDLIFE RESEARCH

KIND OF WORK

Professional wildlife biology research work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, performs professional wildlife research work, assisting the Research Scientist 2 in planning management oriented research, assisting and leading seasonal employees in conducting research, evaluating new technology, and providing biological expertise to wildlife professionals and the public; perform related work as required.

Intermediate level distinguished from entry level by independent responsibility for programs or projects of more limited scope and complexity and lead work of other professional, as well as technical staff. The class is differentiated from senior level by narrower scope of project/program (non-statewide impact). The distinction between this class and the Research Scientist 2 is that it does not lead other professionals, nor is it responsible for major or statewide research projects.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Designs limited research studies and wildlife population surveys to increase scientific knowledge applicable to wildlife management by determining needs, planning investigations, formulating tests or hypotheses.

Conducts wildlife research so valid findings are reported by maintaining field and laboratory equipment, making field decisions, and leading the work of others.

Analyzes and evaluates research findings to reach valid conclusions by preparing collected material, identifying, quantifying, analyzing, summarizing, and interpreting data.

Prepares progress reports and final reports by analyzing data, organizing material, and putting it into report format.

Plans investigations with Senior Researchers to support wildlife management projects by consulting with management staff to determine needs, conducting literature reviews, designing investigations, identifying equipment, personnel, time and budget needs, sampling techniques and analytical methodology.

Report on species in natural communities to professional and lay clientele so data is incorporated into the planning process and knowledge is expanded by interpreting project results, writing management policies and resource inventory documents, writing technical articles for publication, presenting papers at scientific conferences or public meetings, writing popular articles, and making audio visual presentations.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Wildlife ecology and management, data analysis and interpretation sufficient to conduct research investigations, interpret and analyze data, and prepare final reports and support research activities of higher level research biologists.

Parasites, diseases, trauma, and reproductive physiology sufficient to identify cause of death and provide depositions for use in court cases.

Formulation of hypotheses and experimental designs sufficient to support the statistical and scientific validity of research projects.

Plant taxonomy and plant ecology sufficient to interpret data and serve as a technical assistant to senior biologists.

Computer applications sufficient to manage data input, retrieval and compilation, design simple computer programs, maintain data bases and train others in the use of the system.

Statistics sufficient to analyze data properly.

Wildlife harvest techniques and wildlife related recreational patterns sufficient to plan for population control and multiple uses in wildlife areas.

Ability to:

Communicate orally and in written form with diverse audiences, including both lay and peer groups, sufficient to document and disseminate completed research results.

Write and edit reports and articles sufficient to be published in scientific journals.

Plan, organize, and conduct field research sufficient to collect pertinent data.

Interpret wildlife and other data sufficient to draw reasonable conclusions.

Conduct many phases of field work including aerial and terrestrial, radio-telemetry, capturing and handling wildlife animals, wildlife census, vegetation and food habit analysis.

Maintain and operate equipment sufficient to collect data.

Lead work of others.

Work in adverse weather and environmental conditions.