

Natural Resources Area Hydrologist

KIND OF WORK:

Professional work in the areas of comprehensive water resource management; hydrology, hydraulics, hydrogeology, fluvial geomorphology land use management; GIS mapping and geophysics; water resource compliance; environmental review; and area administration for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

NATURE AND PURPOSE:

Under limited supervision, this position exists to ensure sustainability of the state's water resources through management of the activities of the public within a geographic work area. NR Area Hydrologists accomplish this through area administration of comprehensive water resource management and work assignments that involve statewide or region-wide projects and policy. NR Area Hydrologists serve as the principal representative and contact for DNR's water regulatory and land use management programs and is the delegated authority to issue most classes of water permits on behalf of the Commissioner. This position exists to aid in watershed wide assessments of hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality and connectivity to promote overall watershed health and protection and has the latitude for independent judgement and action within limits established by DNR Ecological and Water Resources statewide policies, and state and federal laws and program rules. This position is able to interpret and reconcile complex policies, rules, and opinions in order to issue decisions on projects. The NR Area Hydrologist is also a lead worker for the Hydrologist 2 and Hydrologist 1 positions located in various field offices around the state.

The NR Area Hydrologist provides professional work in water resource management, land use management, water resource compliance, hydrology, hydraulics, hydrogeology, GIS mapping and geophysics. The position requires the ability to manage and understand the complexities of water regulations and the intricacies of regulatory authorities across local, state, and federal jurisdictions. It is responsible for area administration, decision-making, and authorization of permitted activities under the commissioner's delegated authority.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The NR Area Hydrologist differs from the Hydrologist 2 in that the Hydrologist 2 provides support for Area Hydrologist permit and project initiatives. NR Area Hydrologists have greater delegated authority/responsibility and are capable of issuing individual and general permits, and act as a DNR representative on behalf of the agency among citizens, customers, government agencies, and partners within the assigned area.

OPTIONS:

No options associated with this classification.

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

Perform hydrologic, hydraulic and hydrogeologic monitoring and technical studies, elevation surveys and provide information and technical assistance to other local, state and federal authorities and the public.

Identify, develop and facilitate stream and wetland restoration projects to achieve Clean Water goals.

Coordinate DNR water and land use related communications and develop and expand partnerships with the public and other government agencies to improve collaboration and better integrate responsibilities among resource managers.

As the Department's representative, plan, conduct, and/or attend meetings of various public and private groups dealing with water resource management challenges, policies, and programs.

Maintain an awareness of water resource management activities throughout the referenced geographic work area and provide coordination and implementation strategies to achieve common resource objectives.

Coordinate data collection and analysis using established, accepted practices in order to thoroughly and efficiently describe complex hydrologic systems.

Conduct hydrologic/hydraulic and watershed modeling or have the ability to interpret the outcomes of watershed models

Develop partnerships with stakeholders to involve them in managing surface and groundwater resources.

Provide technical assistance to, and participate on, inter-agency and intra-agency work groups in the development of regional initiatives aimed at watershed-based resource protection and restoration efforts.

Compile, communicate, and participate in DNR-led community assistance efforts, as assigned.

Set and manage priorities regarding the operation of the area waters office to meet resource and administrative goals.

Review and evaluate environmental-related documents, other agency notices, and inter-divisional functions involving water resources. Provide the Division's response to these documents.

Determine and direct appropriate remedies to restore illegally altered water resources and water use conflicts.

Provide expert technical and program testimony and coordinate other expert testimony for court trials and hearings.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:

Knowledge of:

- Civil, Environmental or Agricultural Engineering; Forest Hydrology; Geography; Geophysics; Hydrogeology; Hydrology; Natural Resources and Environmental Studies; Soil Science; Water Resource Management; Geology; Hydraulics; Engineering Methods and Modeling; Watershed Management, Fluvial Geomorphology, and/or Natural Resource Management
- Underlying laws, rules, and policies that guide the department's water and related land use management programs and political processes
- Fundamentals of zoning principles and practices of land use planning and land use controls.
- Waste management systems, including feedlots and individual sewage treatment systems
- Erosion and stormwater control systems
- Coordinated resource management, ecosystem management, economics, computer systems, law enforcement, and budget process
- Knowledge and skills in the operation and use of Geographical Information System (GIS) and GPS equipment
- Local, state, and federal water resource programs and regulations.

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Skill in:

- Human relationship and communication skills to effectively achieve understanding, consensus, and cooperation

Ability to:

- Resolve conflicts that arise between competing users of available water resource supplies
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships and provide training to all levels of government officials, the public, and other DNR employees
- Evaluate and supply technical reports, provide critical reviews, make decisions, and render solutions to water resource management problems
- Organize and present expert testimony for departmental programs and policies
- Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Respect authority, share decision making, defer decision making, respect roles and responsibilities, and work in team or independently.

Est.: 11/03

T.C.:

Rev.: 1/21

Former Title(s):