

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision, performs entry level professional research work in collecting and analyzing water data for the regulation of water use; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

This is the first classification level of four in the Natural Resources Specialist series. Positions allocated to this class function in a trainee capacity assisting other specialists in stream gauging and water rights activities. Positions allocated to the Natural Resources Specialist II class perform similar functions at the full performance level. Positions allocated to the Natural Resources Specialist III class perform technical research to collect and analyze water flow and use to develop plans and procedures to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, interstate compacts and decrees. The Natural Resources Specialist IV class supervises positions allocated to lower levels of this class series and/or other professional level positions.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Assists in collecting basic field data for chemical analysis and water quality studies to determine temperature, acidity, dissolved oxygen and other chemical components of the water samples; collects sediment samples for additional laboratory analysis.

Assists in stream gauging activities by measuring stream discharge at designated locations, reading and recording staff gauges and electronic recording equipment to obtain base flow stream measurements, irrigation diversion measurements and other basin flow measurements.

Conducts field investigations of stream-users to determine water usage for the purpose of canceling the irrigation water rights of non-users; assists in preparing notices of cancellation hearings and title searches; may present findings of the investigation at the hearings.

Investigates complaints of water shortage on streams used for irrigation and livestock watering purposes.

Enforces the administration of water rights according to priority during water shortages.

Maintains stream gauging equipment and recording equipment to ensure accuracy for quality measurements.

Records measurement data and compiles the information to determine area, discharge and velocity of the stream or canal.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: water resources; basic data gathering and record keeping techniques; mathematics for computing discharge measurements and stream flow records; stream measuring instruments.

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Skill in: communicating with the public on sensitive issues concerning water rights; listening to and understanding information and/or instructions received to perform assigned tasks.

Ability to: learn and apply water rights laws, department policies and State statutes for use in water administration; read topographical maps and other maps relating to various land usage; collect data and maintain accurate records.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Coursework/training or experience in natural or water resources, hydrology, geology, floodplain management or related field.

SPECIAL NOTES:

State agencies are responsible to evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Specific positions in this class may require an employee to possess a valid driver's, or the ability to provide independent authorized transportation, in order to perform work-related travel.