

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision, performs 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 second classification level of four in the Natural Resources Specialist series. Positions allocated to this class perform water data collection and analysis at full performance. Positions allocated to the Natural Resources Specialist I class perform similar functions as a trainee under closer supervision. 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.)

Collects surface water and sediment samples of natural streams for analysis of temperature, pH specific conductancy, dissolved oxygen, discharge, fecal coli form, fecal strep and other biological and chemical components.

Measures discharge of streams, rivers and irrigation canals at designated locations; performs stream gauging activities by reading and recording staff gauges and electronic recording equipment to obtain base flow stream measurements, irrigation diversion measurements and other basin flow measurements; computes surface water records from field data.

Installs, operates, maintains and inspects various instruments and equipment used to measure and/or record water level, water quality, sediment and stream gauging.

Performs routine phases of technical analysis of the hydrologic data collected in the field, including the preparation of maps, tables, graphs and other illustrative material.

Researches records, files and various databases to obtain necessary information concerning surface water/ground water issues.

Writes technical field reports and correspondence which may be used for litigation of surface water/ground water hearings.

Inputs and updates surface water/ground water information pertinent to research demands and technical documentation in applicable computer databases/programs.

Investigates complaints from water right appropriators concerning water right usage.

Explains in detail surface water/ground water laws to public verbally and through correspondence.

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Inspects various dam and reservoir structures for proper usage and safety.

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

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

Knowledge of: hydrology and water principles; Nebraska water laws and related State statutes; stream gauging procedures including the operation and maintenance of stream gauging and sampling equipment; mathematics for computing stream discharge and surface and ground water records; physical, chemical and biological characteristics of water for water quality sampling; mathematics for computing discharge measurements and stream flow records.

Skill in: basic surveying techniques; maintaining and repairing scientific equipment; reading state highway maps, county maps, township plats, and topography maps; communicating with the public on sensitive issues concerning water rights.

Ability to: operate, maintain and repair field data collection equipment; interpret and explain relevant water laws; accurately collect data, gauge streams, sample water quality and prepare investigative reports; write accurate and concise reports; use good judgment in all field situations, in adverse weather and in icy river conditions.

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

Post high school coursework/training in natural or water resources, hydrology, geology, floodplain management, chemistry, engineering or related field AND one year experience in research or data analysis.

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.