

DESCRIPTION: Under limited supervision, performs advanced technical professional research work in collecting, analyzing, computing and reporting on surface and groundwater flow and use data to develop plans and procedures to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, rules, regulations, standards and interstate compacts and decrees; 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 third classification level of four in the Natural Resources Specialist series. Positions allocated to this class perform advanced independent technical research work developing procedures to collect and analyze surface and/or groundwater flow, diversion and water use data in compliance with water rights, interstate compacts and decrees. The Natural Resources Specialist I class performs water data collection and analysis in a trainee capacity; the Natural Resources Specialist II class performs similar research functions at full performance. Positions allocated to the Natural Resource Specialist IV class supervise 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.)

Develops or oversees the development of procedures to collect and/or analyze surface and/or groundwater flow, diversion and water use data to determine compliance with water rights or interstate compacts or decrees.

Monitors compliance with state laws, rules and regulations or with interstate compacts by contacts with permit holders, performing and/or reviewing field investigations, monitoring and analyzing stream and ground water diversions, and reviewing documents generated in this process.

Investigates conflicting data, researches historical, administrative and legal documents, evaluates geological, hydrological, economic, social environmental, legal and structural data and models to make recommendations on applications for permits or concerning the adjudication, cancellation or compliance with existing permits.

Investigates complaints concerning water use, the interference of water supplies by others, and similar public concerns about utilization of public water supplies.

Coordinates projects and programs with various local, state, and federal agencies and organizations through cooperative discussions and planning.

Oversees the collection, computation and compilation of surface water data as necessary.

Oversees the development of specifications and the procurement, utilization, installation and repair of permanent stream gauging sites.

May research agency records and maps, legal documents and arguments filed by attorneys and parties; compile agency exhibits; participate in pre-hearing conferences with parties; pose questions in the hearing process to elicit information required for a decision; review testimony and exhibits to draft an argument relating to approving, denying or modifying a water right.

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Researches and compiles information for agency reports or publications.

Writes orders to approve, cancel, or adjudicate water rights based on statutory requirements or conditions of the permit as requested.

Represents the Department and the State at technical meetings with other state and federal agencies.

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; equipment used for measuring, testing and recording streamflow including maintenance, installation and operation; hydrology and dam construction; irrigation practices and surface water resources; stream gauging and water sampling; fundamental engineering principles; principles of surface and groundwater flow and modeling; basic geology; evapotranspiration; mapping techniques; statistical analyses of data; basic computer input methods for data computations.

Skill in: coordinating agency activities with individuals, other state agencies and the federal government; persuading groups and individuals to conform to and accept water resource laws, rules and regulations; analyzing, interpreting and assembling data for distribution; understanding and preparing technical reports and orders; explaining scientific data to individuals with varying technical backgrounds.

Ability to: communicate with all segments of public and private sectors to receive and convey information; measure streamflow to compute water records, to gather water samples, to perform simple carpentry tasks and to maintain and repair stream measurement equipment; interpret results or trends reflected by data collected; maintain an adequate record keeping system.

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

Bachelor's degree in natural science, geology, hydrology, civil or agricultural engineering or related field AND one year experience in groundwater and/or surface water modeling; OR Master's degree in the previously mentioned fields. Registration as a professional engineer may substitute for the experience requirement.

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).