

DESCRIPTION: Under administrative direction, plans, develops and organizes all phases of research and water regulation and supervises a group of professional staff conducting research work in collecting, analyzing, computing, and reporting 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 final classification level of four in the Natural Resources Specialist series. Positions allocated to this class on a regular and recurring basis, function as a supervisor of three or more positions allocated to lower levels of this class series and/or other professional level positions. 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. Positions allocated to the Natural Resources Specialist I class perform water data collection and analysis in a trainee capacity; the Natural Resources Specialist II class performs similar research functions at full performance.

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.)

Plans, assigns, directs and evaluates the work of staff including recommending personnel actions related to selection, disciplinary procedures, performance, leaves of absence, grievances and work schedules.

Acquires necessary data to compute the natural flow of surface water and compares the results with intrastate decrees and interstate compacts to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

Administers state water laws for a significant portion of the state.

Apportions storage releases from major reservoirs and publishes daily and cumulative storage use by individual canals.

Acquires discharge of canal diversions, administrative stream flow, reservoir contents, and other pertinent data for publication of a daily bulletin.

Coordinates stream gauging, records computation, and water quality and groundwater data collection with the USGS (United States Geological Survey), and other interested agencies.

Represents the agency at meetings and conferences pertaining to compliance with court decrees and interstate compacts.

Inspects departmental equipment periodically to determine its function ability in collecting important field data.

Speaks to various civic and private groups concerning water laws and policies.

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

Knowledge of: the principles and practices of supervision of staff and/or management of resources; hydrology and water principles; Nebraska water laws and related State statutes; case law or court decisions affecting administration of water rights; engineering design and construction; data collection and analysis.

Skill in: presenting information to individuals, groups and the media; communicating with individuals and groups with varying technical backgrounds to collect and relay information; persuading groups and individuals to conform and accept water resource laws, rules and regulations; preparing technical reports.

Ability to: plan, assign, direct and evaluate the work of staff; organize and assemble data; learn, interpret, apply and implement department directives and policies; be objective in the decision making process.

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 civil or agricultural engineering, natural resources, geology, hydrogeology or related field AND five years experience in water resources, administration of water rights or technical hydrologic work; two of which are in a supervisory capacity;

OR

Master's degree in civil or agriculture engineering, natural resources, geology, hydrogeology or related field AND three years experience in water resources, administration of water rights or technical hydrologic work; two of which are in a supervisory capacity.

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.