

Master Record Number: FS2735

Title/Pay Plan/Series/Grade: Biological Science Technician (Natural Resources), GS-0404-04

FLSA Code: Non-exempt

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in a Forest Service unit. The *position is a technical* biological assistant performing routine tasks in natural resources, under a higher graded technician or professional.

Major Duties

Performs a variety of tasks relating to natural resources, i.e., water, land, food, plants, animals, and soils. Assignments are performed within established methods, techniques, and procedures. Such tasks might include:

Independently, or as part of a team, makes browse surveys; takes and records data, counts, sorts, identifies species, and performs measurements. Utilizes topographic maps; photographs, and data that identify a variety of natural resource areas and conditions.

Uses a variety of tools to collect and record data such as numbers, measurements, weights, samples, and special notes.

Makes recommendations for easily identifiable corrective action, based on site survey findings.

Summarizes data obtained from field collections using prescribed statistical procedures. Under supervision, prepares data summaries in proper format.

Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position Factor Level 1-3 350 Points

A practical knowledge of terminology, processes, methods and procedures of the specified area of natural resources in order to perform standardized support duties such as collecting and quantifying samples, take measurements, record data, identify species and habitat or environmental factors, etc.

Skills in oral and written communications and math, to work with field data, and prepare reports and records.

Knowledge of tools involved in the work in order to effectively and safely makes use of provided equipment.

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls

Factor Level 2-2

125 Points

The supervisor assigns routine work without specific instructions as to work methods.

Incumbent uses initiative in independently carrying out recurring assignments. Detailed instructions are provided for new assignments. Technical or controversial problems are referred to supervisor.

Completed work is reviewed for technical adequacy and adherence to instructions. Complex assignments may be reviewed in process.

Factor 3. Guidelines

Factor Level 3-1

25 Points

Guidelines exist in the form of manuals, handbooks, and oral and written instructions.

The instructions are generally clear cut and easy to apply. The incumbent works in strict adherence to the guidelines. Incumbent must identify those situations that do not fit standard practice and refer the problem to supervisor.

Factor 4. Complexity

Factor Level 4-2

75 Points

Assignments typically involve a sequence of related steps or procedures involving a limited number of tasks in well-defined situations.

Some difficulty exists in analyzing new assignments. When conditions present unusual problems, the supervisor is available for technical guidance.

Incumbent is expected to use some discretion in choosing between several obvious courses of action in accomplishing the work.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect

Factor Level 5-2

75 Points

The work involves applying techniques and carrying out procedures in conformance with established natural resource guidelines.

The completed work has an effect upon the accuracy, reliability, and effectiveness of various projects underway.

Factor 6. Personal Contacts**Factor Level 6-2**

Personal contacts are with employees in the immediate organization, forest users, or cooperators in field assignments. Contacts are usually established on a routine basis, though the incumbent's authority may not be initially clear to the person contacted.

Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts**Factor Level 7-a****45 Points**

Contacts are for the purpose of obtaining, clarifying or exchanging information and to receive instructions regarding work assignments.

Factor 8. Physical Demands**Factor Level 8-2****20 Points**

The work requires moderate to strenuous physical exertion such as long periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces, recurring bending, or similar efforts.

Factor 9. Work Environment**Factor Level 9-2****20 Points**

Work is performed in a forest environment where terrain may be uneven, rocky, or covered with thick vegetation, and where there is exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. Protective clothing and gear may be required.

Total Points: 735**Point Range: 655 - 850 = GS-04****Reference Used:**

OPM Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences Series, GS-0400 TS-111 December 1991.

Source Document:

Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-04, FS-SPD#N5009, classified 11/16/92.

Name of Classification Delegate: Penny Coronell**Date Classified: November 28, 2012**