

Master Record Number: FS2736

Title/Pay Plan/Series/Grade: Biological Science Technician (Natural Resources), GS-0404-05

FLSA Code: Non-exempt

INTRODUCTION

This position is located on a Forest Service unit and is assigned a variety of complex and recurring technical duties individually or as a crew member or leader, in support of unit resource management.

MAJOR DUTIES

Performs a variety of routine and frequently complex tasks involving techniques and practices relating to natural resources, i.e., water, land, food, plants, animals, and soils. Assignments support field projects and program planning activities. 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. Analyzes information; prepares reports of findings with appropriate recommendations; assembles information for development of natural resource plans and coordination of resource need information for analytical reports.

Utilizes topographic maps; photographs, and data that identify a variety of natural resource areas and conditions. May drafts maps or diagrams of survey areas.

Utilizes a variety of tools to collect and record data such as numbers, measurements, weights, samples, and special notes. Keeps records of all data and develops these into statistical reports.

Identifies and classifies principal natural resource types in assigned geographic areas. Collects natural resource samples and makes determinations, such as species identification, habitat condition, injury, disease. Makes qualitative observations of injury and disease and makes recommendations for resolution of problems.

On an individual basis or as a crew leader, constructs or completes habitat projects such as watershed development, fencing, or clearing areas to establish more desirable food or cover habitat.

Participates in developing new or improved prevention practices relating to conditions and findings of natural resource areas where information and data have been collected.

Assists in layout of field experiments, pilot projects, impact evaluations, and specific natural resource projects. Assists in determining validity of survey or evaluation techniques. Suggests improvements of methods and techniques.

Is fully responsible for compliance with safety rules and regulations.

Performs other duties as assigned.

FACTOR STATEMENTS

Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position Factor Level 1-4 550 Points

Knowledge of the basic principles of natural resources to assess readings and measurements taken, tests executed, observations made, work completed, samples collected, etc. to understand and relate the significance of the results to the resource program objective.

Knowledge of the processes, methods and techniques associated with work in natural resources to resolve the full range of irregular or problem situations when performing a wide variety of either highly interrelated tasks or nonstandard assignments.

Knowledge and skill to use a variety of field instruments and equipment to collect natural resource data and information that can be used for further analysis.

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

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls Factor Level 2-2 125 Points

Supervisor assigns projects and provides general instructions on methods and procedures to be followed. Routine work is performed 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, adherence to instructions, and overall quality of work products. Complex assignments may be reviewed in process

Factor 3. Guidelines Factor Level 3-2 125 Points

Guidelines include manuals, policies and practices, oral and written instructions and guides, and standard operating procedures. Guides may range from complex,

standardized, codified regulations to maps, blueprints, oral instructions, equipment or instrument manuals, or standard scientific or technical texts.

Incumbent selects methodology from available guides, and uses judgment in applying them to field conditions. Guidelines contain criteria to resolve problems, however the applicability may not be readily apparent. The incumbent must recognize situations not covered by guides and must bring them to the attention of the supervisor.

Factor 4. Complexity

Factor Level 4-2

75 Points

The work consists of a variety of tasks in the assigned functional area, including day-to-day planning, field work, and data review. Projects vary with such things as habitat types, visibility of areas, as well as available information relevant to specific projects and objectives of projects; i.e., measuring spawning areas, density of aquatic insects, analyzing silt, size fractions, insect identification, area sampling, etc.

Assignments are generally in areas where incumbent is familiar with basic procedures and techniques.

Incumbent plans activities to accomplish daily tasks. Incumbent is not involved in setting new standards or precedents.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect

Factor Level 5-2

75 Points

The work involves applying techniques and carrying out procedures in conformance with established biological 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 receiving 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: 1035**Point Range: 855-1100= GS-05****References Used:**

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

Source Documents:

Biological Science Technician, GS-0404-05; FS PD# N5010; Classified 11/16/92.

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