

## **Biological Science Technician (Wildlife), GS-404-7**

### **Introduction**

The incumbent of this position assists professional biologists in completing all phases of a wildlife biological study or project of significant scope and duration including: project planning, logistical arrangements, field work, summarization and analysis of data, and completion of reports or other documents related to the project. Typical, but not all inclusive duties of the position are illustrated by performance of the following:

### **Major Duties**

The employee assists in the planning and implementation of wildlife censuses and surveys and recommends wildlife management practices. Assists in planning multifaceted wildlife studies by contributing ideas, determining research methods, establishing practical procedures for accomplishing and reporting the work and determining other needs, such as costs, equipment and personnel.

Monitors and assists in control of wildlife, plant disease outbreaks, pest plant control, mowing/seeding activities and vegetation removal.

Captures, applies visual and radio tags, and gathers physiological and spatial data on wildlife.

Monitors elements of the physical environment, such as temperature, precipitation, stream flow, snow depth, wind speed, and humidity.

Develops databases and analyzes data using standard statistical methods and procedures in preparation of wildlife reports. Enters and retrieves data from the Geographic Information System and/or other information management systems. Develops graphs, charts and illustrations for reports and technical publications using computer software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Harvard graphics.

Operates farm tractors, light trucks, vehicles, small water craft and various other equipment such as generators, radios, radio tracking equipment, water monitoring equipment, global positioning systems and cameras .

Provides work direction and guidance to biological technicians and volunteers and YCC enrollees, including safe handling of tools and operation of motorized vehicles and water craft.

Attends meetings with landowners, sports groups and local units of government.

Position may include the additional collateral duty or duties:

public use/environmental education.

Assists with sending and/or preparing environmental educational posters, brochures material of limited difficulty.

Assists in preparing drafts of news releases and gives informational talks to individuals, local organization, and schools.

Collects physiological and demographic data on harvested game at hunter check stations..

- Prescribed Fire/ Wild land fire suppression as a collateral duty

Participants in habitat management by assisting with controlled burning.

Participates in wild land fire fighting .

## **1. Knowledge Required by the Position                      750 points**

Technical knowledge of principles, practices and terminology related to wildlife biology and wildlife management and a familiarity with related disciplines.

Knowledge of FWS laws and regulations, policies pertaining to the protection of wildlife and their habitat.

Ability to use computer technology to maintain and retrieve information from automated data systems , develop spreadsheets, and use word processing and statistical software programs in order to develop reports.

Familiarity with geographic information system, aerial photography and survey techniques, and global positioning systems.

Ability to communicate orally in order to meet and deal effectively with people of different backgrounds including representatives of state, Federal and private agencies and organizations.

Ability to communicate in writing in order to assist in the preparation of wildlife management plans.

Ability to provide work direction and guidance to biological technicians, volunteers, and YCC enrollees.

Ability to operate small water craft, cars, trucks and farm tractors.

Ability to use various specialized tools and equipment required to conduct wildlife studies /surveys.

Ability to capture, handle, and tag or collar various wildlife.

Knowledge of Service safety guidelines.

- Prescribed fire/wild land fire fighting as a collateral duty  
Sufficient knowledge of fire behaviors, procedures, policies, guidelines, in order to serve as a member of a prescribed burn crew or to direct initial attack forces for the purpose of suppressing wild fires.  
Ability to use specialized tools and equipment required to perform firefighting duties.

## **2. Supervisory Controls**

**275 points**

The supervisor makes assignments by defining objectives, priorities, and deadlines. The technician plans and carries out assigned tasks uses initiative in solving problems and deviations in work assignments in accordance with instructions, policies and accepted practices. The supervisor is available to assist with unprecedented or unfamiliar assignments. The methods used in achieving the desired results are not usually reviewed in detail. The technician keeps the supervisor informed on progress and advises when controversial matters develop. Completed work is usually evaluated for technical soundness, appropriateness and conformity to policy and requirements.

## **3. Guidelines**

**125 points**

General guidelines are available in the form of approved project plans, scientific publications, management reports, standard textbooks, results of previous projects, and memoranda. Administrative and technical guidelines include the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual and Employee's Handbook, Annual Work Plan Advices, Federal and State law, practices and techniques common to the biological field, and standard scientific or technical texts.

Selection of the proper guidelines requires considerable familiarity with the reference. Guidelines once identified, require careful study and interpretation as they relate to current conditions/situation and experience.

The incumbent exercises judgment in applying the guidelines and recognizing when to deviate from them. Incumbent often works in isolated situations and must be capable of adapting guidelines, within the original intent, to new and unusual situations. Incumbent reports problems in the guidelines and advises supervisor as to methods used to correct them.

## **4. Complexity**

**150 points**

Incumbent performs a variety of unrelated duties relating to the full range of field station assignments, such as maintenance of equipment and facilities, public use, prescribed fire, and operation and maintenance of a variety of equipment and tools.

Incumbent conducts and reports on all assigned projects. Incumbent modifies projects by applying results of current applicable methodology or research. Incumbent stays current with new and existing scientific literature. Assignments are complex and the incumbent must use good judgment to select appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.

The incumbent is involved in a variety of technical and administrative activities which involve unrelated processes and methods. There are a number of possible courses for planning and execution of the work and the employee is given leeway in choosing among them. Judgment is required in applying a wide range of conventional, established approaches, methods, techniques, and solutions to new situations.

## **5. Scope and Effect**

**75 points**

The incumbent contributes to the effectiveness of the operation for the field station by applying conventional technical and administrative solutions and practices to a variety of problems. The incumbent is expected to make suggestions for improvement of methods and techniques. Providing information about the station to the public contributes to their understanding of, and interest in wildlife. Maintenance of waterfowl habitat impacts wildlife populations and migration patterns.



Must possess a valid State driver's license.

First Aid training

- Prescribed fire and wild land firefighting as a collateral duty
- require satisfactory medical examinations and random drug testing