

Ecologist, GS-0408-11

Position Number: MR: A9059

Introductory Statement: This position is located on a Forest Service unit. This position will work in a team to accomplish field work, data management and analysis, report writing and administration of current oil and gas developments on the Forest.

Ecological Assessment and Ecosystem Management 40%

Assists in developing and adapting concepts of landscape ecosystem analysis and management to derive and apply techniques applicable at the landscape and watershed scale for planning land allocation and projects as well as for project implementation. Assists in the development and integration of the Ecological Program. Participates in formulating policy within the Regional framework. Recommends long-range objectives and develops area investigative programs. Consults with other specialists on local forest land ecological problems.

Assists in formulating and recommending long-term and short-term eco-management objectives and integrating them with Regional objectives. Participates, as requested, in formulating Regional policy.

Handles complex ecological problems requiring the consideration of a number of biological and environmental variables. Conducts the ecological study of the vegetation, soil, and environmental characteristics of the area. From this study, an ecological classification is produced containing useful land management and planning information. Investigation requires intensive field sampling and sophisticated computerized data analysis.

Conducts vegetation successional studies and other studies to acquire information to predict present and future resource conditions and production. Develops practical criteria for evaluating local vegetative conditions, trends, and production in numerous vegetative types at various elevation zones on a variety of site conditions used by wild animals and people.

Analyzes training needs of field units, develops and conducts training sessions on ecological classifications and on special projects and findings. Facilitates technology transfer to land managers by summarizing ecological information in a useful way. This is accomplished by obtaining results of vegetation research (ecological, silvicultural, soil interpretation, wildlife habitat manipulation, etc.) through timely literature review, correspondence, personal contacts, and attendance at meetings and symposia. Inspects on-the-ground research to see how it can best be applied.

Consults with land managers on diverse and complex problems by field review or technical discussion. Provides long-term ecological studies generally dealing with changes in vegetation over time. From these investigations, develops and recommends solutions which can be successfully implemented by the land manager.

Remedial Project Management in Ecology 40%

Serves as remedial project manager for Category I and II hazardous waste sites that require utilization of a wide variety of sampling and comprehensive assessment techniques and/or interpretation of applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements. Manages sites or cases where environmental and public health and safety threats are moderate, potentially responsible party searches and/or contractor oversight are required, and/or community concern and media attention is likely.

Assesses assigned hazardous waste sites using remedial investigation and feasibility studies and implements remedies through the use of remedial design and/or remedial action. Coordinates and oversees the contributions of other federal, state, and local officials and potentially responsible parties. Participates in or monitors enforcement activities against responsible parties who must be identified and whose share of clean up costs must be determined and recovered.

Performs contract management duties centered on the statement of work, including evaluation of contractor performance and financial and schedule planning and tracking. Manages the schedule of scientific/engineering, contractual, management, and informational documents, including preparation of records of decisions, administrative orders, and consent decrees. Performs community relations activities.

Ecological and Environmental Analysis Report Preparation 20%

Prepares comprehensive environmental assessments and impact statements and makes recommendations to ensure that natural resources and ecosystem integrity are adequately addressed and considered.

Prepares reports, evaluations, and assessments to provide input for various environmental documents. Makes on-the-ground analyses of the effects of specific activities on the environment, providing recommendations for action in specific cases.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTS:

Bargaining Unit Status: Eligible.

Performs other duties as assigned.

Performs wildfire suppression support as directed within training and physical capabilities.

Factor 1- 7 Knowledge Required by the Position

The position requires knowledge of a wide range of ecological concepts, principles, and methods applicable to varied and complex problems, projects, or studies that may include diverse ecological, biological, chemical, or other environmental conditions; and varying ecological processes.

Problems encountered demand skill sufficient to modify standard practices adapt precedents, and make significant departures from previously used approaches and techniques.

Knowledge of applicable environmental statutes and regulations is required.

Factor 2- 4 Supervisory Controls

The supervisor establishes overall objectives and resources available. The supervisor and ecologist jointly develop projects, priorities, and deadlines. The ecologist independently plans and carries out assignments, interprets policy, coordinates work with others, resolves most of the conflicts that arise, and keeps the supervisor informed of far-reaching implications.

Completed work is reviewed from an overall standpoint in terms of feasibility, and effectiveness in meeting requirements.

Factor 3- 3 Guidelines

Evaluates, interprets, selects, and applies guidelines to specific cases and requirements; and adapts and modifies existing guides in applying established methods and practices to new situations or in relating new assignments to precedent ones.

Factor 4- 4 Complexity

The ecologist plans and coordinates various projects and studies, and makes recommendations/decisions regarding a range of multifaceted problems. Precedents must be applied to new work situations and guidelines adapted to reconcile conflicting demands.

Factor 5- 3 Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to apply established scientific techniques to investigate and analyze various conventional problems and questions or to investigate and analyze discrete aspects of more complex problems.

Work products contribute materially to the effectiveness of completed projects.

Factor 6- 3 Personal Contacts

Personal contacts include a wide range of professional and administrative personnel throughout the agency, other Federal, State and local government agencies, private industry, academia, environmental advocacy groups, and in some cases the media and elected officials.

Factor 7- 2 Purpose of Contacts

The purpose of contacts is to plan, coordinate, or advise on work efforts or resolve operating problems in dealings with others who are working toward mutual goals.

Factor 8- 2 Physical Demands

The work regularly requires some physical exertion such as long periods of standing; walking over rough, uneven, or rocky terrain; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, or reaching; or recurring moving, lifting and carrying of moderately heavy items.

Travel away from the duty station to perform field activities is frequently required.

Factor 9- 2 Work Environment

The work regularly involves moderate risks or discomforts associated with visiting field sites that

may require use of protective equipment/clothing and special safety precautions.