

NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST III

JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

This is professional and technical assistance work in support of various departmental projects and programs within Clark County, specifically related to environmental impact areas and with emphasis on environmental resource plans, programs, policies, and administration of critical areas regulations.

CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS

Level III incumbents hold responsibility for the most complex or advanced assignments within the Natural Resources Specialist job family. Employees in this classification act in a lead capacity within area(s) of expertise and may direct the work of others within the Department that assist with assigned project(s).

The Natural Resources Specialist III classification is distinguished by the level of judgment, communication, negotiation, and project management skills that are necessary to successfully complete work assignments and interact with the public and outside agencies. Incumbents are proficient in one or more areas within the environmental field (e.g. habitat, wetland, forestry, environmental monitoring, watershed management, etc). Incumbents provide technical support to other County departments, recommend Department policy, and make Department commitments, functioning with little supervisory direction and guidance. Being highly competent at the journey level with emphasis in a specific area is not sufficient alone to warrant classification at this level.

KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develops and executes work projects and programs.
- Reviews and analyzes plans and proposed development activity in relation to its impact on critical areas and to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
- Conducts site visits and inspections; gathers, analyzes and synthesizes data.
- Responds to inquiries and provides input and direction on preparation of plans and permit activity, relating information to applicants, County departments, external agencies, technical consultants, and the public.
- Assists in implementing a variety of environmental monitoring programs and projects.
- Assists in the enforcement of violations of County ordinances relating to federal, state and local guidelines and procedures.
- Represents the County on various committees; at neighborhood organization or community meetings; at public hearings; and before other agencies.
- Plans, schedules, assign, and supervise the work of subordinates, trainees, and administrative personnel. Participates in the hiring process, and may make recommendations on performance issues.

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- Evaluates program and project accomplishments against established goals and timetables, and makes recommendations.
- Assists in preparing special studies, summaries, statistical data, presentations, and reports.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Water Resources Emphasis

- Assists or leads in communicating, verbally and in writing, complex water resources issues in a professional and concise manner.
- Designs projects to perform water quality and benthic macro invertebrate monitoring; operates temperature and stream stage loggers and data recorders; operates automatic sampling equipment; collects stream discharge measurements; and observes and measures stream physical habitat characteristics using a variety of equipment and instruments.
- Designs and implements investigations of water quality, hydrology and aquatic habitat.
- Conducts investigations to identify pollutant sources.

Habitat Emphasis

- Conducts site visits to determine or verify the presence of fish and wildlife habitats.
- Prepares, reviews and analyzes habitat mitigation plans.
- Analyzes the proposed development activity in relation to its impact on fish and wildlife habitat.
- Provides input and direction to consultants on preparation of habitat reports, or habitat restoration and/or mitigation plans.
- Responds to questions and inquiries from the general public about ecological processes and habitat.

Wetland Emphasis

- Conducts site visits to determine or verify the presence of wetlands, including the determination of wetland categories.
- Conducts reviews of wetland delineation reports and function assessments.
- Verifies and conducts wetland delineations, including delineations conducted on problem or disturbed area sites.
- Analyzes the proposed development activity in relation to its impact on the wetlands.
- Provides input and direction to consultants on preparation of wetlands delineations, wetland delineation reports or wetland restoration and/or mitigation plans.
- Responds to questions and inquiries from the general public about wetlands and wetland regulations.

Forestry Emphasis

- Conducts site visits, analyzes and evaluates environmental impacts of forest practices.
- Conducts forest studies of a technical nature to facilitate forest management and current use/open space taxation programs.
- Provides technical assistance to forestry professionals and landowners on requirements for plans and permit submittals.
- Provides advice and assistance regarding implementation of Forest Practices Act and related county ordinances; regulates forestry activities to ensure compliance by reviewing and accepting or rejecting applications and plans, conducting compliance inspections, taking enforcement actions, and recommending final release from forest practices obligations.
- Responds to questions and inquiries from the general public about forestry and forestry regulations.

Archeology Emphasis

- Conducts site visits to determine or verify the presence of cultural materials.
- Prepares, reviews, and analyzes cultural resource reports.
- Analyzes the proposed development activity in relation to its impact on cultural resources.
- Provides input and direction to consultants on preparation of cultural resource reports.
- Responds to questions and inquiries from the general public about cultural resources and archeological regulations.

QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from a four-year college or university with major course work in environmental science, botany, biology, fisheries, forestry, soil science, water resources, wildlife biology, archeology, cultural resources, or in any other discipline applicable to the requirements of the position; and two (2) years experience in a position comparable to Natural Resources Specialist II;

- OR -

A Master's Degree in a discipline applicable to the requirements of the position; and one (1) year experience in a position comparable to a Natural Resources Specialist II;

- AND -

Qualified candidates must have a valid driver's license.

Knowledge of: planning principles, techniques, and current trends in the areas of environmental and natural resource management; archeological and cultural resource management; environmental laws; methods and objectives of urban and regional planning and development, land use concepts, demography; water quality and water resource data gathering and analytical tools, methods, and operation; water quality and water resource concepts and theory; wetland ecology,

hydrology, plants and soils, wetland classification systems, and habitat behavior; farming practices and their potential impacts on fish and wildlife; applicable Federal, State and local laws, regulations, policies and procedures; graphic and statistical presentations.

Ability to: think conceptually, observe and evaluate trends, analyze data, and draw logical conclusions; communicate effectively, orally and in writing; gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize data and assist in the formulation of comprehensive plans; identify plant and soil classification; interpret habitat behavior in the field; collect, analyze biological and physical data using standard research methodology; perform field work to collect environmental samples; meet and work with co-workers, public and private management officials, community groups, and the general public in an effective, pleasant and courteous manner; interpret and apply administrative guidelines and policy; read a variety of maps, plans and charts; make oral presentations to large groups of people.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This is a professional and technical service position that comprises a variety of settings including an office environment, work in the field under all types of weather conditions, on properties in all phases of development, and may include traversing difficult terrain.

Essential tasks may entail moderate lifting, seeing, reading, speaking in person and over the phone, handwriting, typing/keyboard and manual dexterity.

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