

# NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST I

## **JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

This is the entry level in the Natural Resources Specialist classification series. 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**

Incumbents occupying positions in this class are responsible for performing a limited range of monitoring, data management, and reporting support tasks such as assisting in managing program grants, implementing environmental monitoring programs and projects, and working with other County departments, local municipalities, external agencies, technical consultants, and the community.

Work is performed with latitude for independent judgment and action with problems and deviations handled in accordance with instructions, policies and accepted practices. Work is reviewed periodically for technical conformance and consistency with established practice and policy and meeting of assigned objectives and deadlines.

Specific natural resources work may include office and field work, including conducting inspections; tracking and maintaining equipment and supplies; data analysis; gathering and reviewing field information and lab results; preparing environmental documents and permit requirements, and non-technical or semi-technical reports.

The next level of Natural Resources Specialist is distinguished from Level I by the increased responsibility for overall coordination of a basically structural program and/or the planning and implementation of routine to highly complex projects. Incumbents may also be authorized to make departmental commitments within well-defined limits. Work affects a substantial range of county activities; general, but significant activities of public concern; or the operation of other county organizations.

Work is performed with overall objectives set by supervisor and with resources available. Work is reviewed from an overall standpoint in terms of feasibility, compatibility with other work, or effectiveness in meeting requirements or standards of performance.

## **KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Assists with, 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.

## Clark County, Washington

- 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.
- Evaluates program and project accomplishments against established goals and timetables, and makes recommendations.
- Assists in preparing special studies, summaries, statistical data, presentations, and reports.
- Trains, assists, and coordinates the activities of volunteers and the equivalent of less experienced employees.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

### Water Resources Emphasis

- Assists in communicating, verbally and in writing, water resources issues in a concise manner.
- Performs 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.
- Maintains and calibrates field instruments and equipment; ensures vehicle and boat maintenance; prepares for field work; and oversees shipment of samples.
- Maintains and operates the Monitoring Resource Center equipment lending library.

### 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, and analyzes and evaluates environmental impacts of forest practices.
- Conducts forest studies of a technical nature to facilitate forest management programs.
- Provides advice and assistance regarding implementation of Forest Practices Act; regulates forest activities to ensure compliance with the act by reviewing and accepting or rejecting applications and plans, conducting compliance inspections, taking enforcement actions, and recommending final release from forest practices obligations.

### 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;

**OR**

Any combination of education and experience which would demonstrate the ability to satisfactorily perform the work will be considered.

**Knowledge of:** planning principles, techniques, and current trends in the areas of environmental, natural, 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.