

METRO

Classification Description

Title: Principal Natural Resource Scientist **Bargaining Unit:** AFSCME 3580
Job Code: 6022 **Established:** 2007
Pay Range: 22 **Revised:**
FLSA Status: Exempt – Professional Learned

Classification Summary:

Perform the most complex duties that are related to the conservation, management, protection or utilization of natural resources. The classification does the most complex scientific and technical data collection, analysis, evaluation, monitoring, and planning and develops methodologies for new and unique research. The classification is the highest level of represented employee and may lead interdisciplinary/interdepartmental teams on projects that have significant affect on Metro, other professionals at Metro, and the region as a whole.

Supervision Received:

Broad policy direction is provided by the Metro Council. Supervision is provided by a Department Director or Deputy Director.

Supervision Exercised:

Leads other professional staff and manages contractors.

Distinguishing Features:

This class is not part of a series.

Essential Functions:

An employee in this classification may perform any of the following duties. However, these examples do not include all the specific tasks an employee in this classification may be expected to perform.

1. Serves as Metro's subject matter expert and principal representative for activity related to the conservation, management, protection or utilization of a natural resource.
2. Functions as a resource for Metro Council, advisory committees and staff. Communicates complex technical or policy impact information, and prepares special reports and responses to inquiries.
3. Leads teams in special or new programs and/or major projects. Develops strategy, goals, objectives and procedures, plans, scopes of work, budgets, schedules, issues work assignments, and reviews final work products.
4. Plans, develops methodology, designs, and conducts research on complex issues with regional impact to evaluate project or program options, determine resource utilization, and assess environmental impacts.

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5. Critiques in-house and contracted studies for completeness and accuracy.
6. Analyzes data to identify resources and their significance, and evaluates potential policy impacts of proposed projects using a variety of methods, including statistical analysis.
7. Writes reports and memoranda of investigations and statistical analysis describing findings, conclusions, and potential for impact. Explains and defends research in a variety of settings including that of expert witness in court and hearings.
8. Represents the agency at meetings to give information about specific projects or natural resource concerns and as an expert witness. Evaluates and responds to public or media questions, comments, and concerns. Answers correspondence from other agencies and the public.

Secondary Functions:

1. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Job Specifications:

Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Botany Zoology, or a related field and five years of directly related professional experience; and special qualifications as determined by the specific requirements of the position; or any combination of education and experience that would provide the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the job.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

1. Extensive knowledge of the theories, practices, and principals of a natural resource discipline or program
2. General knowledge of the laws, procedures, principles, and regulations governing a natural resource program or subprogram
3. General knowledge of mathematics including statistics and quantitative and qualitative analyses
4. General knowledge of project or program administration methods, techniques, principles, and practices
5. General knowledge of research methods used in natural resource program planning, or science
6. General knowledge of trends, technological changes and developments in a natural resource area
7. Skill using computer programs to manipulate, enter, or retrieve information, and develop computer applications
8. Skill writing clear and concise status, summary, technical, or narrative reports
9. Skill analyzing natural resource data and statistics to determine the effects a variable has on a program or issue and decide upon or recommend an appropriate course of action

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10. Skill writing clear and concise reports, legally-sufficient documents, grant proposals, and press releases
11. Skill reviewing, applying, and advising staff about any new or revised natural resource policies, regulation, and requirements
12. Skill writing and presenting agency or program information at public hearings, meetings, or conferences to explain and gain cooperation
13. Skill coordinating a complex natural resource program or project that includes monitoring and measuring the effects
14. Skill providing professional or technical staff with information, policy advice, training, and assistance
15. Skill reviewing the work of an assigned staff or team
16. Skill representing the agency, or serving as a staff person, for project, advisory, or technical committees
17. Skill serving as a research project leader or natural resource program or project leader, who identifies resources and schedules the steps of the project and monitors, inspects and reviews it

Working Conditions:

This position requires the ability to perform those activities necessary to complete the essential functions of the job, either with or without reasonable accommodation. Duties are primarily performed in an office environment, but this position often requires walking on uneven or rough terrain in all weather conditions. This position requires talking (both in person and over the phone), sitting, repetitive motions of the hands/wrists and good general hearing ability. It may also require the ability to lift or carry up to 40 pounds. Incumbents in this position are required to attend off-site meetings during and after normal working hours.