INTRODUCTION

Serves as a technical assistant responsible for the collection, organization and analysis of fish habitat data on a National Forest.

MAJOR DUTIES

Individually, or as a crew leader, participates in the development of fisheries project plans. Assists biologists in the collection, ordering, and analysis of biological and physical data in the aquatic environment. Collects and makes preliminary analysis of biological and physical data. Tabulates and orders acquired field data prior to computer analysis. Computes and summarizes data and prepares charts, graphs, and figures for data analysis. Using a variety of tools takes bottom gravel samples and analyzes for silt, size fractions, etc. Keeps records of all data and develops these into statistical reports. Drafts maps or survey areas.

Assists with compilation, justification, and refinement of biological data, e.g., prepares charts and summaries, assists in developing an appropriate computer program, performs computations in numerical summaries, and cross references facts, dates, and other data.

In support of research, conservation, production, and management of fishes, or fishery resources, collects samples and assists in the identification and assessment of any problems caused. Compiles and summarizes data from survey, biological evaluations, and pilot tests. Runs routine computer programs and checks resulting data for inconsistencies. Provides results to professional personnel for refinement, adjustment, and analysis and may assist in the preparation of reports.

Performs laboratory analysis of sediment and water quality samples. Schedules, services, calibrate repairs, and installs sampling instrumentation. Collects data from field recording instruments and makes on-site measurements of study area conditions.

Performs other duties as assigned.

FACTOR STATEMENTS

Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position  Factor Level 1-4      550 Points
The position requires knowledge of the technical methods and procedures for a work area to employ them in carrying out (alone or as a fully functioning team or crewmember) a variety of technical duties common to the specialty area. The duties require a knowledge of the basic principles of a biological science to assess readings and measurements taken, tests executed, observations made, work completed, samples collected, etc., to understand and relate the significance of the results to the higher objectives to which the activity is elated, i.e., the technician must assess the worth of the data by considering its applicability to the higher objective, by assessing and reporting on the characteristics and quality of the source of the data, or by otherwise creatively interpreting the data produced. In addition, some technicians at this level are concerned with interpreting results of standard tests repetitively performed in the organization based on previous experience and observations.

Also required is the knowledge to operate complex equipment systems such as those with numerous components or parts which must be calibrated and synchronized to achieve desired results, e.g., those used in highly mechanized cartographic, hydrographic, or photogrammetric surveying; pressure chamber diving experiments; or sophisticated laboratory experiments on fluids. This may be the full performance level for some technician positions, such as those found in a field or production environment where a limited variety of standardized technical duties is.

**Factor 2. Supervisory Controls**  
Factor Level 2-3  
275 Points

Supervisor provides information on the objectives of the assignment and any unusual procedures for accomplishment. The incumbent exercises initiative in developing solutions to common technical and procedural problems such as changes in priorities, need for extended field time, minor need for additional equipment or personnel, and other such comparable issues. The incumbent keeps the supervisor informed of progress and advises when problems develop during the course of the work, which might affect results. Completed work is reviewed by the supervisor for adequacy of results.

**Factor 3. Guidelines**  
Factor Level 3-2  
125 Points

Procedures and instructions are available for most of the work. Supervisor provides guidance on unusually complex aspects of the project, or new procedures to be followed. Employee uses judgment in applying or adapting guidelines to meet the current situation.

**Factor 4. Complexity**  
Factor Level 4-2  
75 Points

Assignments consist of performing a variety of routine procedural tasks or one or more complex duties related to regular and recurring technical work, operating a variety of pieces of equipment or one or more complex equipment systems.

The employee is expected to exercise independence in recognizing such differences, choosing the right course of action, and then selecting and executing the proper task sequences for completing the work.
The employee determines what needs to be done to update or complete records and documentation packages and initiates action to acquire needed information from others as indicated by situations encountered in the work.

**Factor 5. Scope and Effect**  
**Factor Level 5-2**  
75 Points

The work involves execution of specific rules, regulations, or procedures, such as those found in common technical manuals, laboratory handbooks, and administrative manuals.

Work products affect the accuracy, reliability, or acceptability of further procedures, processes or services, or the quality of day-to-day operations of a significant program in an ongoing production environment.

**Factor 6. Personal Contacts**  
**Factor Level 6-2**

Personal Contacts  
Personal contacts are with employees in the agency, immediate organizations. In some work situations, personal contacts may be with the public, contractor personnel, or special users, e.g., special interest groups.

**Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts**  
**Factor Level 7-b**  
75 Points

Contacts are necessary to obtain, clarify, and exchange information related to the work, to assist in planning and coordinating work efforts, and to resolve problems.

**Factor 8. Physical Demands**  
**Factor Level 8-2**  
20 Points

The work requires some physical exertion, such as regular and recurring running, walking, or bending, walking or climbing ladders or scaffolds to observe, collect, or record research data. In many situations, the duration of the activity (such as most of a workday) contributes to the arduous nature of the job. In other situations, such as in a laboratory, there may be special requirements for agility or dexterity such as exceptional hand/eye coordination.

**Factor 9. Work Environment**  
**Factor Level 9-2**  
20 Points

The work involves regular and recurring moderate risks or discomforts which require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts, carts, or machines; with contagious diseases or irritant chemicals. For some positions the work may require, on a regular and recurring basis, require working outdoors, in other such environments with extreme temperatures, and/or exposure to adverse weather conditions. Employees are required to use protective clothing or gear such as hard hats, masks, gowns, earplugs, coats, boots, goggles, gloves, or shields to moderate risks, or to follow procedures for minimizing risk.

**Total Points: 1215**  
**Point Range: 1105-1350= GS-06**
References Used:


Source Documents:

Biological Science Technician (Fisheries), GS-0404-06, FS-SPD#N5010 classified 7/18/1986.

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