0404,Biological Science Technician (Field Assistant),GG-06

PD Tracking Number 0000828

Major Duties
Incumbent performs technical work in a laboratory or field environment in support of professional or technical employees engaged in data collection activities or analysis of biological data collection activities or analysis of biological samples. Performs one or more of the following duties:

--Collects biological, botany, fisheries, or wildlife data from study files or monitoring stations.

--Performs laboratory analysis of biological samples to determine specified chemical, biological, or physical characteristics.

--Operates a government motor vehicle or a boat as an incidental driver.

FACTOR I KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-4, 550 points)
Practical knowledge of the techniques and methods and procedures of biological sciences to organize and execute a wide variety of limited operational projects.
Knowledge of routine field data collection procedures in order to collect biological data.
Skill in the operation, maintenance, and servicing of a variety of biological recording and measuring instruments.
Knowledge of procedures and techniques utilized in a biological laboratory for measuring the physical and chemical parameters of organisms.

FACTOR 2 SUPERVISORY CONTROLS (Level 2-3, 275 points)
Works under the general supervision of a biological scientist or technician. Assignments involving prescribed or standard methods are given in terms of objectives to be achieved, with general instructions as to methods. Work is completed independently, but unusual problems are referred to the supervisor for guidance. Completed work is reviewed for technical adequacy.

FACTOR 3 GUIDELINES (Level 3-2, 125 points)
Guidelines include manuals on techniques of data collection or laboratory analysis, procedural directives, oral instructions, and previously established methods of operating, servicing, installing, and setting up equipment and instruments. These guidelines are detailed and usually are directly applicable to the assigned work. The employee uses judgment in locating and selecting the appropriate guidelines or procedures for assignments. Unusual technical problems for which guidelines are available are handled independently.

FACTOR 4 COMPLEXITY (Level 4-2, 75 points)
Assignments normally consist of data collection or laboratory analysis duties that involve standard techniques and procedures. The work requires consideration of varied biological factors and measurement site conditions while assessing the reliability of a measurement or laboratory analysis.

FACTOR 5 SCOPE AND EFFECT (Level 5-2, 75 points)
Purpose of the work is to collect data or perform laboratory analysis of biological samples that will be subject to further analysis by scientist or technicians. Work efforts have an impact on the accuracy of reports prepared by the office.

FACTOR 6 PERSONAL CONTACTS AND
FACTOR 7 PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 2-b, 75 points)

Personal Contacts
Personal contacts are with professional employees or technicians in the immediate office or laboratory. There may be some contact with the general public, such as landowners, in conducting day-to-day field activities.

Purpose of Contacts
Contacts are chiefly to obtain advice or direction, to clarify or exchange information. Contacts with landowners are to obtain permission for access to property.

FACTOR 8 PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-2, 20 points)
Work is physically demanding and includes walking, bending, climbing, and lifting of equipment up to 100 pounds when in the field, sometimes during adverse conditions.

FACTOR 9 WORK ENVIRONMENT (Level 9-2, 20 points)
The work is performed in a laboratory or field environment. Field work involves moderate or sometimes extreme exposure to the discomforts of rain, cold/hot weather, and rapidly running or icy streams and rivers. Special safety precautions are required in many cases, and the employee may typically wear life jackets, special safety boots, waders, and special organism handling gear.

TOTAL POINTS 1215
GRADE CONVERSION GG-06
Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences GS-400, 12/91