

0408, Ecologist, GS-07

Based on PD Tracking Number 0002202

PD Tracking Number 0002231

Major Duties

Performs advanced trainee assignments in planning the approach and collecting data to carry out less complex ecological studies or portions of larger investigations. Performs data analysis and writes small reports to evaluate findings.

Assists in ensuring completion of program objectives and associated documentation in accordance with established program directives. Performs limited analyses of program plans.

Prepares a variety of samples and performs data analysis in an office or laboratory and drafts assigned portions of reports. Prepares graphs and charts.

Performs advance trainee assignments in gathering, organizing, and interpreting ecological, biological, botanical, zoological, or other information pertinent to limited scientific studies or investigations. Prepares correspondence pertaining to technical aspects of work.

Gathers, organizes, and interprets ecological, biological, pathological, public use, or other information pertinent to research studies and/or investigations.

FACTOR 1 - KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-6, 950 points)

Professional knowledge of ecological theories, concepts, and principles and a working knowledge of related disciplines, such as would be obtained through a bachelors degree program in the ecological sciences and/or equivalent work experience sufficient to perform advanced trainee duties.

Knowledge of techniques to gather and analyze scientific data.

Knowledge of computer software and mathematics to perform data analysis.

Knowledge of techniques to plan work procedures and develop schedules.

Skill in oral and written communication.

FACTOR 2 - SUPERVISORY CONTROLS (Level 2-2, 125 points)

The supervisor or project leader provides detailed instructions of work to be performed. The incumbent is expected to perform independently those tasks that include simple and direct application of acquired learning. Problems previously encountered by the incumbent are resolved independently; unusual problems are referred to the supervisor. As tasks recur, the incumbent performs them with greater independence and less controlled guidance from the supervisor. The worked is checked closely during progress, and reviewed in detail on completion.

FACTOR 3 GUIDELINES (Level 3-2, 125 points)

Detailed and directly applicable guidelines are available in the form of technical manuals, administrative procedures, policy memoranda, and oral instructions. The incumbent uses judgment to select and adapt guidelines where deviations from guidelines are minor. Significant deviations are referred to the supervisor.

FACTOR 4- COMPLEXITY (Level 4-2, 75 points)

The work consists primarily of a variety of well-defined tasks in which the incumbent directly applies the principles and methods of ecology to assist higher-grade scientists in research or project activities. Assignments are for training purposes and are characterized by standard problems, a limited number of variables, and clearly specified objectives. The factors to be considered vary with each assignment.

FACTOR 5 SCOPE AND EFFECT (Level 5-2, 75 points)

The incumbent works as an advanced trainee. The purpose of the work is to plan and perform some of the less complex aspects of studies, such as collecting and recording data, assuring data quality, and entering and managing data in computer formats. The work affects the accuracy and adequacy of project investigations.

FACTORS 6 & 7 NATURE AND PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 2a 45 points)

Contacts are primarily with the supervisor and coworkers, and with employees in other USGS organizations.

Purpose of contacts is to receive assignments and instructions, obtain or provide factual information, and report on progress or problems.

FACTOR 8 PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-1, 5 points)

The work is mainly sedentary.

FACTOR 9 WORK ENVIRONMENT (Level 9-1, 5 points)

Work is performed in an office setting.

TOTAL POINTS 1405

GRADE CONVERSION GS-07

GS-408, Ecology Series, 06/77

GS-482/286, Fishery Biology/Wildlife Biology Series 01/01