

0499, Student Trainee (Biology), GS-05

PD Tracking Number 0000028

Incumbent of this position serves as a student trainee under the Student Career Experience Program. This program is designed to provide the student with work experience directly related to their academic field of study and to orient and expose the student to the mission and work of the U.S. Geological Survey and the benefits and conditions of Federal employment. It provides formal periods of work and study while the student is enrolled in school, the conditions of which are outlined in the Working Agreement that must be signed by the student, the school, and the employing Office.

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#### Major Duties

Collects basic data from field investigations and make observations in which biological conditions are readily identifiable. Reports observations in field notes for use of higher grade-level employees.

Prepares graphs and charts.

Searches published technical sources for information on designated topics and prepares summaries for reference of others in the unit.

Assists biologists of higher grade in studying and preparing reports on fish and/or wildlife resources.

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

Prepares correspondence pertaining to technical aspects of the work.

Assists in planning, organizing, and implementing biological investigations that affect wildlife and/or habitat conditions. Prepares reports on progress and result of studies.

Receives training in gathering, organizing, and interpreting biological, ecological, pathological, public use, or other information pertinent to the research studies and/or scientific investigations.

Operates a motor vehicle as an incidental driver.

As needed, operates small motorized water craft.

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#### Factor Statements

**FACTOR 1 - KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-5, 750 points)**

- Knowledge of biological theories, concepts, and principles and a working knowledge of related disciplines, such as would be obtained through a bachelors degree program in the biological

sciences and/or equivalent work experience sufficient to perform trainee duties.

- Knowledge of techniques to gather, present, and analyze scientific data.
- Knowledge of techniques to prepare laboratory samples and perform experiments.
- Knowledge of computer software and mathematics to perform data analysis.

#### 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 work is checked closely during progress, and reviewed in detail on completion.

#### FACTOR 3 - GUIDELINES (Level 3-1, 25 points)

Guidelines include technical manuals, administrative manuals, policy memoranda, and oral instructions that are detailed and directly applicable to assignments. The incumbent must be capable of using judgment to select appropriate guidelines. 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 biology 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 5-1, 25 points)

The purpose of the work is to perform basic support tasks involved in scientific studies. The work affects the quality of scientific data generated by the project supported.

#### FACTOR 6 - PERSONAL CONTACTS (Level 6-1, 10 points)

Contacts are primarily with the supervisor and coworkers. The incumbent may also have contact with employees in other USGS organizations and the general public.

#### FACTOR 7 - PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 7-1, 20 points)

Contacts are to receive assignments and instructions, obtain or provide factual information, and report on progress or problems.

#### FACTOR 8 - PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-2, 20 points)

The field work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. The work requires moderate physical ability and average agility and dexterity.

#### FACTOR 9 - WORK ENVIRONMENT (Level 9-2, 20 points)

Work is performed in an office, laboratory, and/or in the field. The office is adequately lighted, heated, and ventilated. Temperature and weather extremes may be encountered in the performance of the outdoor work. Field and laboratory duties may require the use of special protective gear. The incumbent is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner so as

not to endanger self, fellow workers, or property with which entrusted.

TOTAL POINTS -1050

GRADE CONVERSION - GS-05

GS 401, General Biological Sciences Series

GS-482/486, Fishery/Wildlife Biology Series, 01/91

Introduction to the Position Classification Standards

(Source Document Std PD S0249)