

**9964**  
**WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST 1**

**Nature of Work**

Under limited supervision, performs professional tasks at the full-performance level. Functions as a lead in the planning, organization and implementation of time-specific and geographic-limited activities and/or maintenance of multiple district-level wildlife management areas and public access sites. Applies scientific procedures and data analysis to studies of wildlife, fisheries, botany and biological and environmental conditions. Performs as team leader in the conducting of scientific investigations, preparing draft scientific and technical reports and recommendations and presenting findings to the public and professional community. May serve on statewide or regional professional committees or may represent agency on statewide or regional professional management councils. Interacts with the public to provide information on wildlife resources section projects and programs and may serve as the agency's point of contact to client based local organizations. Work is reviewed for conformance to operational and technical procedure, scientific findings, timeliness and proposed conclusion of action plan. May be required to perform as a special natural resources police officer and perform law enforcement duties on wildlife management areas or other state-owned facilities. Work requires overnight travel and is often performed outside in varying weather conditions, over difficult terrain and/or in state waters. Performs related work as required.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

These positions are distinguished from the Wildlife Biologist 2 and 3 as these positions direct and conduct activities of time-specific and geographically-limited scope involved with scientific research, applied resources management and investigations at the full-performance level. May oversee the maintenance of multiple district-level wildlife management areas and/or public boating and fishing access sites or other state-owned facilities. May serve on statewide or regional professional committees or may represent agency on statewide or regional professional management councils.

**Examples of Work**

Directs and conducts activities of time-specific and geographically-limited scope involved with scientific research, applied resources management and investigations.

Assists in the preparation of narrative and technical reports regarding findings and/or factors affecting status of natural resources.

Assists in the application of survey results to the development and implementation of resource management plans.

Investigates reports of wildlife sightings and kills, habitat disturbances, property damage and assists public with nuisance wildlife problems.

Participates in public information activities including educational presentations and public speaking; may prepare news releases and scientific articles, reports and brochures.

Oversees the operation and maintenance of wildlife management areas and/or public boating and fishing access sites or other state-owned facilities.

May represent the agency on statewide or regional professional committees or may represent agency on statewide or regional professional management councils.

Assists in developing grant and proposal applications, land acquisitions and public access applications.

May enforce natural resources laws, rules and regulations in assigned area.

Performs routine maintenance and minor repairs on testing and sampling equipment, vehicles, boats and attire.

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## WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST 1 (cont'd)

### Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of the basic principles, practices and objectives of the various phases of planning.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of fisheries, wildlife, botanical and/or aquatic biology.
- Knowledge of flora and fauna native to West Virginia and rare, threatened and endangered species; their habits and/or habitat requirements; environmental sensitivities; and principles and practices of natural resource management.
- Knowledge of scientific research, data analysis, field investigation and literature search techniques.
- Knowledge of environmental/natural resource laws and regulations.
- Knowledge of Federal and State fish and wildlife laws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Knowledge of biological statistics, scientific applications, sampling techniques and computerized data analyses.
- Knowledge of first-aid procedures and standard scientific safety precautions.
- Ability to use environmental and biological sampling, laboratory and technical equipment, as well as analytical techniques.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to follow oral and written instructions and exercise sound judgment in decision making.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
- Ability to operate four-wheel drive, standard transmission vehicles; pull, launch, operate and trailer motorboats; pull and park trailers; and communicate via mobile radio equipment.
- Ability to lift and carry equipment, supplies and/or biological specimens for considerable distances and under rugged conditions.
- Ability to perform strenuous and potentially hazardous work for long hours under varying climatic and environmental conditions; which may include adverse conditions or situations.

### Minimum Qualifications

**Training:** Master of Science degree from an accredited college or university with a major in wildlife or fisheries management and biology, fish culture, conservation biology, natural resources, aquatic biology, botany, biological sciences or environmental sciences. Preference will be given to educational and field experience as related to specific job postings.

**Substitution:** Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university with a major in wildlife or fisheries management and biology, fish culture, conservation biology, natural resources, aquatic biology, botany, biological sciences or environmental sciences.

### **AND**

Two years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in wildlife or fishery management or related fields.

**Special Requirement:** A valid West Virginia driver's license is required. May be required to obtain a commercial driver's license. Skill in swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, rock-climbing, rappelling and/or trapping may be required for certain positions. May be required to successfully complete special natural resource police officer training and pistol qualification requirements as established by the Division of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Section. May be required to qualify as a special natural resources police officer and perform law enforcement duties on wildlife management areas or other state-owned facilities.

Established: 09/17/1992

Revised: 04/20/2017

Effective: 05/13/2017