

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

Specification for Class of

FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER 1

Abolished Effective June 1, 2005

Definition: Within the Department of Fish and Wildlife, enforces all fish, wildlife, food fish and shellfish laws, department rules/regulations, all laws of the state and specific federal and tribal laws. Resolves dangerous and problem wildlife situations. Assists in emergencies such as flood, fires, and rescues. Assists all other law enforcement agencies. Responds to criminal activities in progress.

Distinguishing Characteristics: The duties of this class require the development of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to recognize, evaluate, correct and/or take action on fish and wildlife enforcement and control issues within the assigned duty area. Supervision of these positions diminish over time and positions are expected to function with independence by the end of the training period. Positions acquire full, commissioned police powers as authorized by the RCW's prior to obtaining a duty assignment.

Typical Work

Patrols fresh and saltwater ways and adjacent lands by vessels, auto, foot, ORV, etc., to enforce state fisheries and wildlife laws and regulations and federal and tribal laws; monitors commercial, recreational and tribal harvest of food fish, game fish, shellfish, game animals and birds; checks commercial and recreational licenses, monitors buyers and processors of food fish and shellfish; checks special license holders and permittee to ensure compliance;

Operates and maintains patrol equipment, i.e., boats with standard or jet propulsion, canoes, drift boats, ORVs, horses, snowmobiles;

Monitors compliance with hydraulic codes, Forest Practices Act, Model Litter Control Act, ORV activities; sanitary shellfish laws, watercraft registration and boating safety regulations, use of departmental lands, wildlife areas, and access areas;

Responds to and resolves wildlife problems dealing with human health and safety;

Attends and satisfactorily completes scheduled training;

Responds to violation reports, gathers evidence, makes arrests, organizes and coordinates investigations of suspected violations, conducts surveillance, participates in searches, interviews witnesses and suspects, secures and serves search warrants, prepares case reports, maintains liaison with local and federal law enforcement agencies;

Monitors and provides instruction to hunter and trapper education programs;

Makes presentations to local sport clubs, schools, and civic groups, etc., participates in preparation of local news releases and media programs, interprets fish and wildlife laws to the public;

Operates and maintains all assigned equipment;

Provides resource management support for other programs;

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: state, federal and international fish and wildlife laws and state criminal laws; laws of arrest, search and seizure, evidence, court procedure, report writing; wildlife damage control methods and techniques; life histories and habits of fish and shellfish inhabiting waters of the Northwest; first aide; use and maintenance of a variety of vehicles and equipment; principles and needs of fish propagation, fisheries management and conservation; principles and operation of loran, radar, fathometers and fish-finder devices.

Ability to: deal with the public tactfully and effectively; work well with others; carry out oral and written instructions; testify in court; keep records; write reports; perform arduous duty under trying conditions.

Minimum Qualifications

A Bachelor's degree in a natural resource science or criminal justice. **OR**

A two year college degree, and two years of paid, full-time, fish or wildlife experience or two years of paid, full-time, fully commissioned law enforcement experience that includes successful completion of the Criminal Justice Training Commission Basic Law Enforcement Academy or its equivalent.

New class: Effective 7/1/97

Revised minimum qualifications: 9-21-00