

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

Specification for Class of

FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER 2 (41141)

Abolished Effective June 1, 2005

Definition: Within the Department of Fish and Wildlife, serves as journey level officer and enforces state/federal fish, wildlife, food fish and shellfish laws, department rules/regulations statewide and within its concurrent and territorial waters.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Positions at this level function with the highest degree of independence, responsibility and initiative in solving fish and wildlife enforcement problems and performing wildlife control responsibilities within an assigned duty area. Positions require fully developed skills and broad familiarity with all departmental programs. Plans, organizes, and has the delegated lead responsibility to plan and conduct enforcement efforts, emphasis patrols, and investigations.

Typical Work

Plans and conducts emphasis patrol and enforcement efforts;

Plans, organizes, and leads investigations of suspected violations of fish and wildlife laws which may transcend district/state boundaries and/or involve coordination of multiple investigative contacts;

Assists the Statewide Investigations Unit (SIU) in conducting, developing and coordinating complex investigations (e.g., commercialization or trafficking in fish or wildlife etc.), may serve as a team leader in coordinating activities or as a member of the SIU team;

Responsible for specific resource management activities;

Conducts patrols by automobile, boat, aircraft, OFF Road Vehicle etc.; enforces state, federal and/or tribal laws/regulations; monitors tribal, recreational, and commercial harvest of wildlife, food fish, shellfish, and game fish; performs compliance checks of commercial/recreational licensees; responds to all types of violation complaints; investigates hunting accidents; provides information to Game Violation Information System (GVIS); contacts and inspects special license holders and commercial facilities to ensure compliance, i.e., taxidermists, game farms, rehabilitates, private wildlife farms, fish processors, canneries, smokers, wholesalers, etc.; investigates and visits license vendors; monitors compliance of all state law including Hydraulics Code projects, Forest Practices Act, litter control, ORV and federal laws including Lacey Act, Magnuson Act, Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Act, Safe Boating Act, etc.; monitors and enforces use regulations on all department-owned lands;

Identifies the need for, plans, and leads emphasis patrols, keeps supervisor informed and reports results, functions as a team leader or primary coordinator;

Plans, organizes, and leads investigations of alleged or suspected violations of state and federal fish and wildlife laws, commercial fishing and shell fishing, migratory waterfowl, illegal marketing of wildlife, collects and assembles facts; conducts surveillance; secures and serves search warrants; interviews witnesses and suspects; collects, maintains and documents evidence; prepares administrative and criminal investigative reports; coordinates work and maintains liaison with local, county, state and federal enforcement and natural resource agencies; conducts covert operations on a short-term basis;

Operates and maintains assigned equipment, i.e., boats with standard or jet propulsion, canoes, drift boats, 2 and 4 wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, Off Road Vehicles, bicycles, horses, snowmobiles, etc.;

Attends and satisfactorily completes all required proficiency training in defensive tactics, firearms, officer survival, defensive driving, field training program, dangerous wildlife control, etc.; may serve as a designated instructor in one or more of these areas;

Maintains contact with the media and public, prepares for and coordinates news releases, television and radio coverage; represents the department to sports groups, schools, community groups, etc.; instructs and monitors hunter and trapper education classes;

Operates and maintains all assigned equipment;

Responds to and resolves wildlife problems dealing with human health and safety and provides for the public safety and humane removal of the animal (immobilization or lethal);

Performs other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: state, federal and international fish and wildlife laws and state criminal laws; treaty hunting and fishing rights and laws; laws of arrest, search and seizure, evidence, court procedure, report writing; attorney general opinions and case law; wildlife damage control methods and techniques; life histories and habits of fish and shellfish inhabiting waters of the Northwest; commercial and sport fisheries, including gear and methods; first aide; use and maintenance of a variety of vehicles and equipment; vessel piloting and dead-reconing; navigation; principles and needs of fish propagation, fisheries management and conservation; principles and operation of loran, radar, fathometers and fish-finder devices.

Ability to: plan and execute patrols; deal with the public tactfully and effectively; work well with others; carry out oral and written instructions; testify in court; keep records; write clear and concise patrol reports; perform arduous duty under trying conditions; conduct investigations; deal with hostile subjects in potentially dangerous and hostile conditions; use firearms skillfully.

Minimum Qualifications

Four years as a Fish and Wildlife Officer 1 and completion of the agency's Enforcement Program Career Development Plan.

Additional prior paid, full-time commissioned law enforcement experience beyond the two years which can qualify an individual to meet the minimum qualifications for a 1-level may substitute for up to two years of the required Fish and Wildlife Officer 1 experience on a two for one ratio (e.g., two years of prior law enforcement experience would be the equivalent of one year of Fish and Wildlife Officer 1 experience).

New class: Effective 7/1/97

Revised minimum qualifications: 9-21-00

Revised minimum qualifications: 5-9-03