Advanced Natural Resources Specialist

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK
Under general supervision, this position conducts environmental studies of designated ecological resources, including wetlands, forests, streams, soils, plants, and wildlife, in order to identify and evaluate any potential impacts to these resources in and near Department project sites, and monitors compliance with local, state, and federal regulations during all phases of Department work.

EXAMPLES OF WORK
The following examples are intended only as illustrations of various types of work performed. No attempt is made to be exhaustive. Related, similar, or other logical duties are performed as assigned. The Department may require employees to perform functions beyond those contained in job descriptions. The Department may modify job descriptions based on Department needs. The Arkansas Department of Transportation is an "at will" employer.

- Conduct site investigations, data collection, and plan reviews to determine potential project impacts.
- Apply procedures, laws, standards, and regulations pertaining to compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and/or Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Coordinate with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies to secure any necessary concurrence/permits; and develop and maintain records to document and track compliance with permits and regulations.
- Prepare project documents such as biological assessments, constraints statements, coordination letters, Section 404 permit applications, special provisions, wetland and stream assessments, etc.
- Direct project coordination meetings at Division, Department, State, and Federal levels, as applicable.
- Assist with public meetings to present and interpret environmental impacts and related project information.
- Complete routine records and reports; assist in the development of National Environmental Policy Act documents.
- Monitor environmental compliance with federal, state, and local laws through the life of the project and coordinate on-site project monitoring as needed.
- Determine compensatory mitigation on a project if necessary.
- Assist in the training of other Section staff members.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
The educational equivalent to a master’s degree from an accredited college or university in an environmental, biological, natural science, natural resources, or related field OR the educational equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in an environmental, biological, natural science, natural resources, or related field plus two years’ experience in an environmental science related field. Experience working with the CWA permitting and/or ESA consultation processes and knowledge of related regulations, including NEPA (experience must be at the Natural Resources Specialist level or equivalent). Strong organizational skills, ability to manage diverse project assignments, attention to detail, and demonstrated proficient oral and written communication skills. Ability to collect, analyze, and interpret scientific data, technical procedures, and governmental regulations. Ability to write reports and business correspondence. Proficiency in basic computer skills, including Microsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook. Working knowledge of Microsoft Access and PowerPoint desired. Valid driver’s license. Ability to traverse rugged terrain including, but not limited to, steep hills, creeks and streams, swamps, brush and timber covered property, fences, etc. Statewide travel including overnight travel as necessary.

("Accredited" means the educational institution or program is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized either by the United States Department of Education or by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.)