

**Master Record Number: FS5217 337817 90843825**

**Title/Pay Plan/Series/Grade: Biological Science Technician (Fish and Wildlife), GS-0404-07**

**FLSA Code: Nonexempt**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This position is located on a Forest Service unit. The incumbent is responsible for performing a variety of complex and recurring duties in support of wildlife habitat on the unit.

### **MAJOR DUTIES**

Independently plans and conducts a variety of field studies of sensitive wildlife species to determine numbers, environmental conditions, and the condition of the species and its habitat, and factors affecting the health and welfare of the species and its habitat. Data elements collected include such things as habitat conditions, age of habitat, location of species, nesting status, and the condition of the species being studied. Evaluates data and recommends improvements of habitat or species protections.

Develops work plans to collect required data, determines recording requirements, and determines factors to use for complete habitat and species condition analyses. Participates with biologists in planning work and contributes ideas about uses of materials and methods. Improves, adapts, and develops techniques, procedures, and equipment. Changes study procedures and data collection in accordance with conditions found in order to provide clear, concise recommendations, which will improve habitat and condition of the species.

Provides detailed reports on work methods, data collected, and project evaluation. Determines need and recommends equipment requirements for projects and assures equipment is operational and available when needed.

Uses personal computer systems and associated software for recording, storing, and analyzing data.

Schedules, organizes, and executes project habitat improvement work based on the approved district wildlife program of work. This involves placement of wildlife nesting structures and planning, inventory, maintenance and documentation of the wildlife opening program. Implementation of the wildlife opening program can include preparing contracts and serving as contracting officer's representative (COR) on heavy equipment projects, discing, mowing, and brushing.

Independently or as a team lead, plans a wide variety of types of limited operational fishery projects that require diverse technical knowledge where dissimilar specialized methods, procedures, and techniques are required. Projects may occur in single or multiple phases and deal with regular as well as irregular issues. Extensive planning and coordination is required along with working with others, drawing up schedules, and selecting appropriate methods and procedures.

Installs and maintains the Forest hydrologic instrumentation; repairs, calibrates, and services gages and recorders; performs all maintenance necessary to ensure optimal operation of all equipment.

Serves as contracting officer's representative (COR) or inspector on specific contracts as assigned and supervises force account projects. Ensures all provisions are enforced and proper measures are taken to protect or enhance values in accordance with contract objectives. Prepares and submits related inspection reports, checks for compliance on needed corrective actions, and recommends final acceptance of the contract upon completion

Serves on prescribed fire and fuels projects in positions for which qualified. Technically administers all aspects of the prescribed fire and fuels plan, ensuring that preparation, ignition, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified.

Coordinates with timber management to determine opportunities for funding availability for areas within timber sale boundaries, checks compartment prescriptions for resource coordination, recommends revision of Sale Area Improvement Plans to include watershed improvement needs.

Performs other duties as assigned.

**NOTE:** State license to operate motor vehicles, ability to operate other motorized equipment, and ability to use hand tools and forestry instruments are required.

### **FACTOR STATEMENTS**

#### **Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position      Factor Level 1-5      750 Points**

Practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of a biological science sufficient to analyze findings and make recommendations for changes concerning the Forest resources of fisheries and wildlife.

Knowledge of the technical processes, procedures, and techniques related to biological science and watershed samples, measurements, and analysis to collect and analyze data and to modify or adapt procedures to improve efficiency of such work projects.

Knowledge of computer functions related to data input, retrieval, and routine analysis of data to retrieve and analyze data.

Knowledge of safety and health procedures to work safely in the Forest environment.

Ability to operate all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs), vehicles towing trailers, and in cases of inclement weather, snowmobiles.

Knowledge of Forest Service policy, manuals, handbooks, and other technical direction needed to refer to applicable quality and quantity standards, gain insight to policy, procedures and direction, and for planning and execution of assigned duties.

**Factor 2. Supervisory Controls** **Factor Level 2-3** **275 Points**

The supervisor provides information about the objectives of the assignment and any unusual procedures for accomplishment. The incumbent is assigned to projects and teams to carry out the work.

The incumbent keeps the supervisor informed of progress and advises when problems develop during the course of the work which might affect results.

Work is assessed to determine how the incumbent resolved technical and administrative problems encountered, met deadlines, and produced projects which are technically sound and complete in terms of the objectives and requirements of the agency. Accuracy of data and sufficiency of steps employed are customarily accepted.

**Factor 3. Guidelines** **Factor Level 3-2** **125 Points**

Procedures and instructions are available for most of the work. Supervisor provides guidance on unusually complex aspects of the project or new procedures to be followed.

Incumbent uses judgment in applying or adapting guidelines to meet the current situation.

**Factor 4. Complexity** **Factor Level 4-3** **150 Points**

Performs a wide variety of procedures and steps involving sample collection, preparation, and analysis.

Judgment is required in selecting methods for a particular survey to gain the desired results. Incumbent maintains records of tests and results and observes, recognizes, and records variants in procedures.

Incumbent draws tentative conclusions and makes suggestions for improvements in methodology.

**Factor 5. Scope and Effect** **Factor Level 5-3** **150 points**

The work involves applying both standard and unique, state-of-the-art practices and techniques to complete the wildlife project assigned.

The results of the work directly affect the accuracy, reliability, and acceptability of the investigations, which are the basis for long-range plans.

**Factor 6. Personal Contacts** **Factor Level 6-2**

Contacts are generally with forest users, workers within the unit, or cooperators in field assignments.

**Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts** **Factor Level 7-b** **75 points**

Contacts are necessary to obtain, clarify, and exchange information related to the work, to assist in planning and coordinating work efforts, and to resolve problems.

**Factor 8. Physical Demands** **Factor Level 8-2** **20 points**

The work requires some physical exertion, such as long periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, recurring bending, stooping, reaching, or similar activities.

**Factor 9. Work Environment** **Factor Level 9-2** **20 points**

Work is performed in a forest environment where terrain is often uneven, rocky, and covered with thick vegetation; where there is exposure to extremes of weather and temperature; and in aircraft, office, and laboratory environments. The incumbent may be required to use protective clothing and equipment.

**Total Points: 1565**

**Point range: 1355-1600=GS-07**

**References Used:**

Biological Science Technician Series Flysheet; Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technician Work in the Biological Sciences Standard December 1991.

**Source Documents:**

For Tech, GS-0462-06; FS PD# FS1156; Classified 9/27/04. For Tech (TSI), GS-0462-07; FS PD# FS2283; Classified 5/3/12. Hydr Tech, GS-1316-07; FS PD# R8RD261440; Classified 5/20/13. For Tech (TSI), GS-0462-07; FS PD# FS3578; Classified 9/11/13. Bio Sci Tech (Wldlf), GS-0404-07; FS PD# FS2266; Classified 5/11/12. Hydr Tech, GS-1316-07; FS PD# FS2706; Classified 11/19/12. Bio Sci Tech (Fish), GS-0404-07; FS PD# FS2301; Classified 10/3/12. Bio Sci Tech, GS-0404-8; FS PD# 09022102; 4/2/99.

**Name of Classification Delegate: Monty Lahr**

**Date Classified: November 16, 2015**