



At the DNR, we are committed to the conservation and management of the state's natural resources for outdoor recreation, economic development, and a sustainable quality of life. Apply with us and find your path.

**Working Title: Mississippi River Biologist**  
**Job Class: Natural Resources Specialist Ecological Services**  
**Agency: MN Department of Natural Resources**

- **Job ID:** 71568
- **Location:** Lake City
- **Full/Part Time:** Full-Time
- **Regular/Temporary:** Unlimited
- **Who May Apply:** Open to all qualified job seekers
- **Date Posted:** 12/05/2023
- **Closing Date:** 12/26/2023
- **Hiring Agency/Seniority Unit:** Department of Natural Resources
- **Division/Unit:** Division of Ecological and Water Resources
- **Work Shift/Work Hours:** Day Shift
- **Days of Work:** Monday - Friday
- **Travel Required:** Yes; Occasional travel required for meetings
- **Salary Range:** \$23.37 - \$33.90 / hourly; \$48,796 - \$70,783 / annually
- **Classified Status:** Classified
- **Bargaining Unit/Union:** 214 - MN Assoc of Professional Empl/MAPE
- **Telework Eligible:** Yes
- [Designated in Connect 700 Program for Applicants with Disabilities:](#) Yes

**Make a difference in the lives of Minnesotans.**

The work you'll do is more than just a job. Join the talented, engaged and inclusive workforce dedicated to creating a better Minnesota.

**Job Summary**

The Division of Ecological and Water Resources is seeking to hire a Full-Time Mississippi River Biologist in Lake City. This position exists to perform aquatic biology and large river monitoring and research, including aquatic vegetation and water quality sampling following strict protocols, efficient aquatic plant identification, and scientific analysis and communication. This position contributes to safe, efficient, and rigorous collection of aquatic data in Pool 4 of the Mississippi River for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program's Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM), which is the largest ecological restoration program in the country. The position contributes to data analysis, visualization, and written and verbal scientific communication. The work occasionally includes assisting with the collection of macroinvertebrate and fish LTRM data, assistance to area Fisheries staff, or other River Ecology Unit staff following methods and techniques in water resources science and management.

**Responsibilities:**

- Assist the LTRM Aquatic Vegetation Specialist and Water Quality Specialist with all aspects of year-round field sampling of aquatic vegetation and water quality, including following stringent sampling protocols. The position requires accurate identification of the aquatic plants found in Pool 4 of the Mississippi River and proper preparation of voucher specimens. Assist the LTRM Water Quality Specialist with preparation for field sampling and laboratory processing samples. Safely tow, launch, and operate watercraft on the Mississippi River.
- Under general supervision, analyze and communicate scientific data to specialist and lay audiences. Responsibilities include assisting in report writing and data analysis for professional scientific publications and presentations, written and oral communication with natural resources managers and the general public.
- Independently prepare, maintain and/or repair field and lab equipment to ensure efficient field sampling. Responsibilities include identifying when equipment needs repair, collaborating with team members to ensure monitoring objectives are carried out effectively and efficiently, and implementing the pre-field checklist to efficiently organize and prep for field work each day.
- Support other DNR program staff, as needs arise, and time is available.

This position requires the ability to safely conduct work onboard a small watercraft on a large river and or large lake for up to 10 hours per day in hot, humid summer conditions AND cold, windy winter conditions. Additionally, the incumbent must be able to haul a canoe over difficult terrain and be able to move items up to 50 pounds.

This position requires year-round field work, however, on non-field work days a flexible work arrangement may be arranged and the employee may be eligible to telework on an occasional basis which is subject to change. If approved, the employee would be required to complete a telework agreement.

## Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelors degree in Biology, Natural Resources, Fisheries, Ecology, Limnology, Wildlife Management, Environmental Science, Zoology, or related degree.
- Experience in collecting ecological data and recording observations in a field setting.
- Experience identifying plants and collecting water quality samples.
- Knowledge of the principles of botany and limnology, and principles and practices of sound conservation and natural resources management in at least one of the following natural resources disciplines: biology, fisheries and wildlife, ecology, environmental science, or forestry.
- Knowledge of basic water quality and aquatic plant sampling methods.
- Skills in identifying the common aquatic plant species found in Pool 4 of the Mississippi River.
- Skills in leading crews sufficient to plan, coordinate, and direct field work.
- Ability to use instruments and equipment commonly used in aquatic vegetation and water quality sampling and accurately record data on a field laptop.
- Ability to confidently retrieve and sift through mucky samples taken from the river bottom, including handling silty and smelly decomposing plant and animal material containing algae, snails, spiders, and other wetland organisms.
- Ability to clearly communicate with lead worker and work cooperatively as a team member sufficient to accomplish agency goals, while also being able to work independently. take initiative to complete necessary tasks and occasionally lead field crews.
- Ability to safely operate trucks (4WD) and tow trailers.

- Ability to learn new job tasks efficiently and safely.

## Preferred Qualifications

- Biology, Natural Resources, Fisheries, Ecology, Limnology, Wildlife Management, Environmental Science, or zoology.
- Experience maintaining rigorous ecological data collection with attention to detail through highly repetitive tasks in a field or laboratory setting.
- Experience with laboratory water quality procedures.
- Experience preparing for safe field work in adverse summer and winter conditions.
- Experience trailering, launching and operating motorboats.
- Knowledge of statistics and computers sufficient to properly analyze ecological data.
- Skills in scientific data analysis, data visualization, and scientific communication.
- Writing skills sufficient to develop project proposals, completion reports, effectively communicate survey results and other correspondences.
- Experience compiling, writing and editing clear and accurate reports sufficient to communicate technical information with professionals and the general public.
- Experience navigating to field sites using aerial photographs, field maps, and onboard GPS.

## Additional Requirements

This position requires an unrestricted Class D Driver's license with a clear driving record.

Applicants must have the ability to meet the physical requirements and work in the environmental conditions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodations.

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire.

It is policy of the Department of Natural Resources that all candidates submit to a background check prior to employment. The background check may consist of the following components:

- Conflict of Interest Review
- Criminal History Check
- Education Verification
- Employment Reference / Records Check
- License / Certification Verification

## How to Apply

Select "Apply for Job" at the top of this page. If you have questions about applying for jobs, contact the job information line at [651-259-3637](tel:651-259-3637) or email [careers@state.mn.us](mailto:careers@state.mn.us). For additional information about the application process, go to <http://www.mn.gov/careers>.

If you have questions about the position, contact Nicole Ward at [nicole.ward@state.mn.us](mailto:nicole.ward@state.mn.us) or [651-299-4021](tel:651-299-4021).

If you are an individual with a disability and need reasonable accommodation to assist with the application process, please contact the ADA Coordinator at [ADA.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:ADA.DNR@state.mn.us). To receive consideration as a Connect 700 Program applicant, apply online, email the Job ID#, the Working Title and your valid Proof of Eligibility Certificate by the closing date to Victoria Hansen at [tori.hansen@state.mn.us](mailto:tori.hansen@state.mn.us).

## Why Work for Us

### Diverse Workforce

We are committed to continually developing a workforce that reflects the diversity of our state and the populations we serve. The varied experiences and perspectives of employees strengthen the work we do together and our ability to best serve the people of Minnesota.

#### **A recent engagement survey of State of Minnesota employees found:**

- 95% of employees understand how their work helps achieve their agency's mission
- 91% of employees feel trusted to do their jobs
- 88% of employees feel equipped to look at situations from other cultural perspectives when doing their job
- 87% of employees report flexibility in their work schedule

### Comprehensive Benefits

Our benefits aim to balance four key elements that make life and work meaningful: health and wellness, financial well-being, professional development, and work/life harmony. As an employee, your benefits may include:

- Public pension plan
- Training and professional development
- Paid vacation and sick leave
- 11 paid holidays each year
- Paid parental leave
- Low-cost medical and dental coverage
- Prescription drug coverage
- Vision coverage
- Wellness programs and resources
- Employer paid life insurance
- Short-term and long-term disability
- Health care spending and savings accounts
- Dependent care spending account
- Tax-deferred compensation
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Tuition reimbursement
- [Federal Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

**Programs, resources and benefits eligibility varies** based on type of employment, agency, funding availability, union/collective bargaining agreement, location, and length of service with the State of Minnesota.

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### AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Minnesota state agencies are equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly employers. The State of Minnesota recognizes that a diverse workforce is essential and strongly encourages qualified women, minorities, individuals with disabilities,

and veterans to apply.

We will make reasonable accommodations to all qualified applicants with disabilities. If you are an individual with a disability who needs assistance or cannot access the online job application system, please contact the job information line at [651-259-3637](tel:651-259-3637) or email [careers@state.mn.us](mailto:careers@state.mn.us) and indicate what assistance is needed.