

NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN**DEFINITION**

The Natural Resource Technician will function within a team environment of Environmental Services Department staff. Under general supervision of the Director or Deputy Director, and working closely with the Resource Specialist, this position will conduct field observations and testing, literature searches and studies to analyze and assess the status of natural resources; write detailed technical summaries and reports for the Department; perform GPS mapping of natural features in the field; conduct interpretive tours for docents and interested groups; and assist in the development and implementation of resource management projects.

Works will include the ongoing implementation of the following adopted plans: Creeks Management Plan, Community Forest Management Plan, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan; Stormwater Pollution Reduction Plan; Source Reduction, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Plan; Arcata General Plan.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Conducts scientific inventory; monitoring; revegetation; habitat enhancement; and watershed restoration work in forest, marsh and creek areas.
- Assists in record keeping, grant writing, administration and final reporting. Maintains photo library and project databases.
- Assists with forest and wetland monitoring for permit compliance.
- Collects water quality samples for parameters such as PH, temperature and turbidity.
- Assists with waste stream audits to assist local businesses with solid waste reduction efforts.
- Uses computers for word processing, data management and analysis, mapping, and reporting.
- Assists with educational brochure development, news releases, educational advertisements and informational tabling at events.
- Participates in various interdepartmental and local environmental committees, project groups, and task forces involving strategies relating to environmental compliance issues.
- Assists with interpretation activities at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center.
- Assists with maintenance activities on City open space lands including: trail maintenance, fence maintenance, tree planting, and invasive plant control.
- Collects, maintains and updates information for energy educational website and energy inventory, Analyzes and provides advice on the potential impact of proposed legislation regarding energy issues.
- Prepares and disseminates a wide variety of public education materials on energy conservation and renewable energy; organizes and conducts workshops and surveys to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources.
- Trains and directs the work of part-time employees and volunteers. Coordinates volunteer workdays.
- Performs all other related duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge of: The principles of ecology, watershed, wildland recreation, wildlife, fisheries, environmental engineering, forestry and natural resource or agricultural sciences and management. Principles and practices of environmental protection, land stewardship, land uses administration, resource management and restoration, permitting, and watershed and natural resources education and interpretation, pertinent laws, regulations and policies governing environmental protection, including but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act, federal and state Endangered Species Act, Health and Safety Code, Public Resources Code, Fish and Game Code, City Ordinances and Codes, etc. Safe work practices when working in the field or office.

Knowledge of native tree and plants by species, and working knowledge of inventory and monitoring techniques and procedures used in plot establishment, assessment and description. Public relations skills to provide information to the public and media. Ability to use, interpret and prepare maps and other graphic information. Word processing and computer skills in MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Power Point and Arcview GIS.

Skill in: Operating standard equipment such as compass, GPS, turbidity meter, increment bore, clinometer, prism, diameter tape, tape measure and simple and complex stereoscopes, to transfer map points to aerial photos, locate field plots, and measure sample trees and plants. Reading, understanding, interpreting and applying a wide variety of technical information, including laws and regulations, funding requirements, technical reports and journals, and both proposed and existing legislation; operating standard office equipment, such as computers, scanners, printers, calculators, copy and fax machines; using standard math, including the ability to add, subtract, divide, multiply, and calculate percentages; following standardized instructions and procedures; and establishing and maintaining cooperative and effective working relationships with co-workers and the general public.

Ability to work independently, without close supervision, in the office and the field, including irregular and changing work schedules based on projects and seasonal fluctuations. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Prepare clear and concise written reports and correspondence. Speak effectively to public groups. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid California Drivers License; Must be able and willing to handle the physical aspects of the job, including standing, walking long distances, bending, and swimming; lifting or carrying 50 lbs, performing physical labor, and working in adverse weather conditions in wetland and forested upland environments as well as sitting at a desk for long periods of time.

DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Applicants should have the experience and training, which would demonstrate possession of the required knowledge and skills outlined above. An example would be:

Possession of a Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in environmental, natural resources, watershed, environmental engineering, wildlife, forestry, or related biological sciences.

Two (2) years of experience in natural resource management with emphasis on wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, water quality, energy efficiency, and/ or preparing environmental documents, conducting environmental mitigation studies, and evaluating, biological impacts and ecological restoration; or the administration of wildland recreation and public interpretive and education programs.