DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Water Resource Biologist – Lakes Emphasis
Classification: Water Resource Management Specialist
Location: District Headquarters or other DNR workstation

Position Summary: This position provides technical assistance and oversight of lake water quality, habitat, and watershed management projects, lake assessment and monitoring efforts, and lake planning and management grants. This position serves as a point of contact for lake planning, management, and partnership-building both within the Department as well as with citizens and community-based lake organizations. As part of the Water Quality Bureau, this position is also responsible for conducting chemical, biological, and physical monitoring activities to characterize and assess lakes in an assigned portion of the North District. The position manages, interprets data, and summarizes results for reports and plans. Results are shared with Department staff, counties, other units of government and the general public. This position is supervised by the District Water Quality Field Supervisor.

Geographic Scope and Travel Requirements: This position performs lake water quality monitoring and management activities in the North District. Travel within the assigned area of responsibility is frequent (1-3 days per week) with occasional statewide travel.

Goals and Activities:

50% **A. Provide lake technical assistance, public outreach and partnering, and incentives for lake and watershed management.**

- A.1 Provide technical assistance to other Department programs on issues related to lake water quality and management.
- A.2 Serve as a point of contact and provide water quality information and technical assistance to lake organizations, conservation groups, county Land and Water Conservation Department staff, local governments, and individuals. Partner with these groups on lake assessment, protection, and rehabilitation projects.
- A.3 Working with partners and other Department staff, administer the Surface Water Grant Program
- A.4 Review and approve community-based lake management plans and participate in watershed planning efforts.
- A.5 Provide Department coordination for community-based protection and rehabilitation projects.
- A.6 Focus on habitat and watershed protection projects and programs like Healthy Lakes & Rivers and Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters.

20% **B. Conduct lake resource condition monitoring, assess impacts, and evaluate management practices.**

- B.1 Working with the citizen lake monitoring network, monitor lakes for trends in water chemistry, biological, and physical parameters in

accordance with Water Division Monitoring Strategy and Water Quality Bureau direction.

B.2 Design, conduct, and report on special project lake water quality and habitat investigations as identified through work planning or supervisory direction.

B.3 Utilizing the Assessment Methodology and other guidance, evaluate the status and report lake condition for management actions including listing as impaired or high-quality waters.

B.4 Manage Lake monitoring data in support of Water Quality and Watershed Management Program activities utilizing the SWIMS database system.

B.5 Maintain a wide assortment of field monitoring equipment and supplies.

20% **C. Coordinate the Aquatic Plant Management Program in assigned area.**

C.1 Meet the 10-15 business day requirement as specified in NR 107.05(1) and NR 109.05(1) (except for Voigt Task Force projects).

C.2 Manage permitting and implementation of NR 107 and NR 109.

C.3 Consult with Natural Heritage Inventory and other programs to be consistent with sound ecosystem management.

C.4 Cooperate with Central Intake for herbicide permit review and permit number assignment.

C.5 Draft Voigt Task Force consultation letters for projects affecting wild rice waters in the ceded territories.

10% **D. Teamwork, Safety, Training, Organizational Responsiveness**

D.1 Participate in district and state-wide teams, meetings, and training for water resource biologists.

D.2 Follow all general and position-related safety requirements.

D.3 Complete administrative and financial reporting requirements in a timely manner.

D.4 Participate in job-related training and organizational meetings as assigned by supervisor.

D.5 Perform other duties as assigned by Supervisor.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Principles of water chemistry, limnology, plant taxonomy, hydrology, aquatic habitat, and quality assurance of data collection
- Map reading
- Basic personal computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Technical writing and other communication with technical and popular audiences
- Proficiency in aquatic organism taxonomy
- Operation of boats, trailers and a wide variety of grab and automated monitoring equipment, field GPS equipment, and DNR databases.
- Relevant administrative rules and DNR guidance on field operations and stream classification
- Developing monitoring strategies and conducting investigations with multidisciplinary teams
- Interpreting water resource monitoring data

Physical Requirements and Environmental Factors
Strength requirements for the position are on a continuum:

Sedentary work (exerting up to 10 pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently) about 55% of the time during the course of the year.

Light work (exerting up to 20 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently) about 25% of the time during the course of the year.

Medium Work (exerting up to 20-50 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 25-50 pounds of force frequently) about 10% of the time during the course of the year.

Heavy Work (exerting up to 50-100 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 25-50 pounds of force frequently) about 10% of the time during the course of the year.

Physically, the position requires bending at the waist, kneeling, crouching, climbing, balancing, lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, reaching, handling, fingering, sitting, standing, talking, hearing, seeing (clarity of vision at 20 feet or more, clarity of vision at 20 inches or less), walking on foot. Some field activities are strenuous and require stamina and endurance especially when carrying sampling equipment.

Environmentally, depending on the time of year, activities occur inside and outside in equal amounts, the employee may be exposed to extreme cold (temperatures below 32 degrees for periods of an hour or more), extreme heat (temperatures above 90 degrees for periods of more than one hour).
There may be exposure to hazards such as loud noise, swift flowing or deep water, proximity to mechanical parts, and electrical current.

Equipment Used in Performing in the Position
Car or truck; boats & trailers, cell phone; GPS (Geographic Positioning System) units; lake and stream water samplers; field water chemistry monitors (grab & recording); electrofishing equipment; velocity meters, ice augers; computer including word processing, spreadsheet, data base, GIS, weather and flow data access and multimedia presentations software; hand-held data recorders. Computer keyboarding will be common at times of the year.