

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Title: Water Resource Biologist – Lakes and Streams Emphasis

Classification: Water Resource Management Specialist - Senior

Location: Wisconsin Rapids

Position Summary: This position provides technical assistance and oversight of lake and stream water quality and habitat management projects, lake and stream 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 and streams in an assigned portion of the West 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 and stream water quality monitoring and management activities in the West District. Travel within the assigned area of responsibility is frequent (1-3 days per week) with occasional statewide travel.

Scope of Authority:

This position works under the general supervision of the regional Water Resource Field Supervisor in the Water Quality Program. This position is non-supervisory. This position provides assistance, as assigned, on statewide program priorities. This position does not have final approval authority for statewide policy or legal decisions related to the Water Resources program.

Goals and Activities:

30%

A. Conduct lake and stream resource condition monitoring, assess impacts, and evaluate management practices.

- A1. Work with the citizen lake monitoring network and water action volunteers to monitor lakes and streams for trends in water chemistry, biological, and physical parameters in accordance with Water Division Monitoring Strategy and Water Quality Bureau direction.
- A2. Design, conduct, and report on prescribed monitoring and special project lake and stream water quality investigations as identified through work planning or supervisory direction
- A3. Utilizing the Assessment Methodology guidance, evaluate the status and report lake and stream condition for management actions including listing as impaired or threatened waters.
- A4. Conduct Lake and stream monitoring in support of TMDL development and implementation in accordance with TMDL monitoring plans.
- A5. Manage Stream and Lake monitoring data in support of Water Quality and Watershed Management Program activities utilizing the SWIMS data base system.
- A6. Maintain a wide assortment of field monitoring equipment and supplies.

30%

B. Provide lake and stream technical assistance, public outreach and partnering, and incentives for lake, stream, and watershed management.

- B1. Provide technical assistance to other Department programs on issues related to lake/stream water quality and management.
- B2. 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.
- B3. Review and approve community-based lake management plans and participate in watershed planning efforts.
- B4. Provide Department coordination for community-based protection and rehabilitation projects.
- B5. Focus on habitat protection and watershed improvement projects.
- B6. Work with lake groups, county or other agencies or organizations on riparian management efforts.

15%

C. Implement the Aquatic Plant Management Program in assigned area.

- C1. Manage all aspects of permitting and implementation of NR 107 and NR 109 and make permit decisions within established timelines.
- C2. Consult with Natural Heritage Inventory and other programs to be consistent with sound ecosystem management.
- C3. Cooperate with Central Intake for herbicide and mechanical permit review, permit number assignment and treatment/harvesting records.
- C4. Stay current on all required trainings and certifications.
- C5. Provide technical assistance, review, and approve community based aquatic plant management plans

15%

D. Administer Surface Water Grants in assigned counties.

- D1. Working with partners and other Department staff, administer the Surface Water Grant Program
- D2. Provide education and technical assistance to lake, river, and conservation groups for development of grant application proposals
- D3. Participate in the statewide review and grant ranking process
- D4. Write project scopes, track, and manage approved grant projects to evaluate satisfactory completion of grant deliverables.

5%

E. Complaint Response and Spill Investigation

- E1. Conduct investigations of fish kills, spills, releases, and complaints to determine source and extent of impact. Prepare reports that interpret and summarize sample results.
- E2. Conduct sampling as needed following proper protocols and procedures. Enter data into SWIMS as appropriate,
- E3. Provide technical assistance to other Department programs (spills training).

5%

F. Teamwork, Safety, Training, Organizational Responsiveness

- F1. Participate in district and state-wide teams, meetings, and training for water resource biologists.
- F2. Follow all general and position-related safety requirements.
- F3. Perform other duties as assigned by Supervisor.
- F4. Participate in job-related training and organizational meetings as assigned by supervisor.
- F5. Participate in development of new scientific methods through membership on internal state-wide ad hoc teams, technical teams, meetings and individual investigations. Involvement on external watershed restoration and monitoring teams

Knowledge - Technical Competencies

- Principles of water chemistry, limnology, plant taxonomy, hydrology, aquatic habitat, and quality assurance of data collection
- Map reading for monitoring site navigation, site assessment and watershed influence
- 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 aquatic 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.

Remote Work: This position is suitable for remote work and will follow current department policy.