

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under Wis. Admin. Code ER 2.04 for making classification decisions relative to present and future natural resource research technician positions within the Department of Natural Resources. This classification specification is not intended to identify every duty which may be assigned to positions, but is intended to serve as a framework for classification decision making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the “best fit” of the duties within the existing classification structure. The “best fit” is determined by the majority (more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

The positions in this classification are technical paraprofessional positions located within the Department of Natural Resources’ Integrated Science Services program which perform a full range of technical paraprofessional research activities throughout the state.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions, which meet the statutory definition(s) of supervisor and/or management as defined in Wis. Stats. 111.81(19) and (13) as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Technical paraprofessional positions whose primary emphasis is in Fisheries, Forestry or Wildlife and are more appropriately classified within a program specific technician series.
3. All other positions which are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance into This Classification

Employees enter positions within this classification by competitive examination.

E. Definition of terms used in this Specification

Paraprofessional – A type of work closely relating to and resembling professional level work, with a more limited scope of functions, decision-making and overall accountability. A paraprofessional position may have responsibility for segments of professional level functions but is not responsible for the full range and scope of functions expected of a professional position.

II. DEFINITIONS

NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Positions within this classification perform technical paraprofessional research work within the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Integrated Science Services, assigned to a specific natural resources research sub-program (wildlife, fisheries, forestry, or water). The work involves a full range of complex paraprofessional technical research activities to include responsibility for significant portions of planning, designing and interpreting research studies. The work may include the acquisition of field and laboratory data through technological methodologies to fulfill objectives of approved studies assigned to research biologists; independently performing field and laboratory analysis to collect chemical and biological data; and preparing or assisting in the preparation of technical publications and reports. The work is performed with significant delegation and under general supervision.

Representative Positions :

Aquatic Lakes – Conduct statewide lake and stream surveys designed to collect and analyze fish and related biological, physical, chemical, and ecological data in relation to approved statewide fisheries research projects. Ensure the proper operation and maintenance of a wide variety of field equipment. Assemble and manage complex database files.

Inventory and Monitoring Technician/Streams – Coordinate portions of a statewide research program to evaluate the effectiveness of Wisconsin's Priority Watershed Program. Provide input in all facets including study design and site selection, sampling methods development and implementation, training, data collection, statistical data analysis and interpretation, management recommendation development, and communication of conclusions and recommendations within and outside the agency.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This classification was created effective May 21, 2000 and announced in Bulletin CLR/SC-112 to describe positions which perform paraprofessional technical natural resources research technician work within the Department of Natural Resources.