

Classification Description



Title: Principal Natural Resource Scientist
Department: Parks and Nature
Job Code: 6022
Pay Range: 22
FLSA Status: Exempt – Professional Learned

Bargaining Unit: AFSCME 3580
Established: 2007
Revised: June 2022
EEO Category: Professional

CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTION

Performs the most complex duties related to the protection, management, restoration and development for public access of Metro sites and regional natural resources. The classification leads or guides contracting, complex site planning and inter-agency communication as well as providing day to day leadership and mentoring of less experienced employees in the Metro and Parks and Nature Conservation Program.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This position is the highest non-supervisory level in the Natural Resource Scientist series. The Principal Natural Resource Scientist is the highest level of represented employee and may lead interdisciplinary/interdepartmental teams on projects that have significant effect on Metro, other professionals at Metro, and the region as a whole.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Supports the Science Program and the Science Manager by providing day to day leadership of other Natural Resources Scientists in restoration project planning and budgeting, project permitting and implementation and general site management.
2. Serves as Metro’s subject matter expert and principal representative for activity related to the protection, conservation, management, or restoration of natural resources.
3. Functions as a resource for Metro Council, senior Metro leadership, advisory committees and staff.
4. Leads teams in special or new programs or major projects. Leads development of strategy, goals, objectives and procedures, plans, scopes of work, budgets, schedules, and reviews final work products.
5. Leads development of on-call contracts and provides advisory role on complex contracts, including collaboration with other departments and integration of REDI Action Plan (Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) concepts and strategies.
6. Critiques in-house and contracted conservation plans, restoration plans and other studies for completeness and accuracy.
7. Represents the agency at meetings to give information about specific projects or natural resource concerns and as an expert witness. Works with the communication team to evaluate and respond to public or media questions, comments, and concerns. Answers correspondence from other agencies and the public.

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It is the responsibility of all Metro employees to:

1. Actively participate on committees and/or attend meetings as assigned.
2. Fulfill Metro's core values of public service, excellence, teamwork, respect, innovation and sustainability.
 - Build and maintains positive relationships and contributes to a positive team atmosphere; engages others in ways that foster respect and trust.
 - Encourage and appreciate diversity in people and ideas – seeks to understand the perspectives of others.
 - Provide excellent customer service – assist the public, public officials and agency partners, and other employees in a professional and courteous manner with the goal of meeting or exceeding expectations.
 - Practice continuous improvement - researches new possibilities, contributes ideas and stays current in field of work.
 - Demonstrate sustainable practices in applicable field and generally for resource use and protection.
 - Work assigned schedule (if applicable) and exhibits regular and predictable attendance.
 - Work in a safe manner and follows safety policies, practices and procedures.
 - Comply with Metro and Metro's visitor venues policies, procedures and applicable work rules; applicable law and collective bargaining agreements as appropriate.
3. Perform assigned duties during an emergency situation.
4. Perform other duties as assigned.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS

Education/Licensing and Experience:

- Master's degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Botany Zoology, or a related field and,
- Five years of directly related professional experience or,
- Any combination of experience, education and training which provides the equivalent scope of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the essential job duties.

Preferred:

- Five years in a directly related senior level position at Metro.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Extensive knowledge of the principals and practices of natural resource restoration and management, including substantial practical experience in multiple major habitat types of our region and with complex projects requiring permitting, cultural resources work and construction practices.
- Knowledge of the laws, procedures, principles, and regulations governing natural resource management and restoration, including permitting and contracting/labor laws.

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- Knowledge of Metro project or program administration methods, principles, and practices, especially those related to procurement, contracting and work tracking.
- Proven ability to integrate REDI concepts into professional work and create enthusiasm for leading future improvement.
- Knowledge of research methods used in natural resource program planning, or science.
- Knowledge of trends, technological changes and developments in a natural resource area.
- Skill in writing clear and concise status, summary, technical, or narrative reports, including grant proposals.
- Skill in reviewing, applying, and advising staff about any new or revised natural resource policies, regulation, and requirements.
- Skill in writing and presenting agency or program information at public hearings, meetings, or conferences to explain and gain cooperation.
- Ability to provide professional or technical staff with information, policy advice, training, and assistance.
- Ability to review the work of an assigned staff or team.
- Ability to represent the agency, or serve as a staff person, for project, advisory, or technical committees or multi-agency partnerships.
- Ability to serve as a research project leader or natural resource program or project leader, who identifies resources and schedules the steps of the project and monitors, inspects and reviews it.
- Ability to perform essential duties and responsibilities.
- Ability to perform (with or without a reasonable accommodation) the physical demands in the work environment and operate the tools and equipment.
- Ability to successfully pass the background check and screening requirements if required for the position.
- Ability to possess a current driver's license and driving record sufficient to be insured by Metro insurance carrier if required for the position.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Supervision is provided by a Department Director or Manager.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Leads other professional staff and manages contractors.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Duties are primarily performed in an office environment, but this position often requires walking on uneven or rough terrain in all weather conditions. This position requires talking (both in person and over the phone), sitting, repetitive motions of the hands/wrists and good general hearing ability. It may also require the ability to lift or carry up to 40 pounds. Incumbents in this position are required to attend off-site meetings during and after normal working hours.

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Metro

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Portland, OR 97232-2736

The classification description indicates the general nature and level of work of positions grouped within this classification; it is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of all duties and responsibilities, job specifications, work environment or other characteristics of a specific position. The classification description is not an employment agreement between the employee and Metro or Metro's visitor venues and is subject to change by Metro. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties.