

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Forestry Technician

Class Code: 81027

A. Purpose:

Participates in forest management projects for public, private, and commercial sectors by completing field tasks in insect and disease control, prescribed burns, timber stand improvements, tree harvest, post production, and tree plantings to preserve and enhance the forest resources of the state.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Forestry Technicians assist in forest management activities and direct the activities of seasonal employees or temporary work crews in the completion of forestry-related tasks. Foresters provide assistance, recommend silviculture controls, and conduct professional forestry activities to provide long-term plans for forests under their care.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Participates in forest management activities to assist public, private, and commercial entities in managing natural resources.
 - a. Plants tree seedlings according to specifications and planting plans devised by superiors.
 - b. Participates in post production by selecting trees to be cut, hauling fallen trees to peeling areas, grading peeled posts according to size, coordinating the treatment process with area sawmills, and stockpiling posts for later use.
 - c. Conducts insect control by identifying, spraying, and eliminating insect-infested trees.
 - d. Conducts prescribed burns by establishing control lines, monitoring weather data, and functioning as a member of firing or holding crews.
 - e. Marks trees in timber sales area, and monitors commercial thinning contracts to ensure thinning and harvest activities are carried out properly.
2. Participates in firefighting activities to protect and conserve natural resources.
 - a. Directs and participates in fire suppression crews including deciding initial attack strategies, and ensuring the fire is completely extinguished.
 - b. Directs and participates in fire presuppression projects such as constructing firebreaks, disposing of brush, inspecting campground fireplaces, and issuing fire permits.
 - c. Gives fire prevention presentations at schools, youth organizations, volunteer fire departments, and to the new media.
3. Performs support functions to assist managers.
 - a. Keeps records of inventories, forest management plans, firefighting activities, and testing results.
 - b. Selects, trains, and evaluates seasonal employees for work crews.
 - c. Participates in maintenance of buildings, machinery, and equipment.
4. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Reports to a Division Staff Specialist. Does not supervise.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenged to implement forest management practices with a variety of landowners and commercial operators who have their own agendas that may not coincide with standard conservation practices.

Problems include rescheduling work projects because of weather conditions, operating machinery in mountainous terrain, and getting a lot of work done with limited resources.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions include what tasks to assign to work crews, which trees to remove when thinning trees, and identifying fire hazards and how to eliminate them.

Decisions referred to superiors include policy interpretation, equipment purchases, annual work planning, and project priority.

G. Contact with Others:

Weekly contact with forest land owners to discuss forest management plans, with federal agencies for technical assistance, with vendors to purchase supplies or repair equipment, and with loggers to discuss timber clearing and sale activities; and monthly contact with the public to give presentations on fire prevention and safety.

H. Working Conditions:

Works outdoors in all weather conditions; uses equipment such as chain saws or pesticide applicators and medium to heavy vehicles; fights fire which is physically strenuous and mentally stressful; and routinely performs repetitive and physically demanding tasks such as cutting down trees.

I. Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- forestry management and fire suppression practices;
- tree planting, care, and harvesting techniques;
- record keeping;
- insect control as it applies to forestry;
- basics of fire suppression and presuppression.

Ability to:

- do repetitive strenuous work outdoors in all kinds of weather and conditions;
- operate various equipment and machinery in off-road situations that may present risks;
- perform assignments with limited instruction;
- communicate sufficiently to provide work direction in stressful situations.