

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Assistant Waterfowl Biologist

Class Code: 90208

Pay Grade: GI

A. Purpose:

Coordinates and carries out waterfowl management plans, goals, and activities by conducting research, managing a captive flock of geese, providing data, and making recommendations for use in long range planning.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Assistant Waterfowl Biologists assist in waterfowl management and research by planning for, conducting, and implementing central flyway programs to accomplish objectives of the flyway. Wildlife Biologists function primarily as research biologists and plan, implement, and coordinate research activities.

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. Plans for and collects data from field operations, surveys, and studies concerning health, productivity, rearing, stocking, distribution, harvest, and the recreational use and/or protection of Canada geese and other waterfowl to ensure the management goals of waterfowl for the state are completed.
2. Propagates a flock of captive geese and coordinates the capture and release of Canada geese for banding, sexing, and stocking purposes to expand and evaluate established breeding ranges for the species.
 - a. Maintains a captured flock of geese.
 - b. Maintains agreements with landowners to raise young geese.
 - c. Coordinates and performs banding, sexing, and stocking of Canada geese.
3. Documents research findings to meet funding reporting requirements.
 - a. Prepares surveys or research studies.
 - b. Compiles and summarizes data.
 - c. Collects specimens.
 - d. Prepares reports on species inventories.
4. Assists in developing long-range Canada goose management plans to increase species numbers.
 - a. Writes performance and progress reports.
 - b. Writes supporting papers for assigned projects.
 - c. Prepares and provides trend data.
 - d. Provides recommendations relative to results and findings.
 - e. Reviews and makes recommendations on other research projects or studies related to waterfowl.
5. Completes field studies to ensure management is provided with detailed and accurate data.
 - a. Operates and maintains scientific instruments, field equipment, and vehicles.

- b. Directs the activities of seasonal research assistants.
- 6. Carries out state waterfowl management goals to increase the successes of waterfowl nesting.
 - a. Designs, installs, and maintains nesting structures.
 - b. Monitors nesting activity.
- 7. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Reports to a Wildlife Program Administrator. Does not supervise.

E. Challenges:

Challenged to ensure that the analysis and interpretation of data is accurate. This is difficult because hunting seasons are adjusted to address problems and if the data is inaccurate an unjustified hardship could be placed on the species or hunters.

Problems encountered include determining the most reliable means to collect valid data, selecting and using the proper parameters to ensure maximum production from the captured flock, analyzing banding data, and making recommendations applicable to population management goals.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Determines the best procedures and methods for conducting field sampling; when to conduct field investigations and surveys; number of geese to be stocked in an area; what help is needed in banding operations; collection of field data; best methods to compile, analyze and report data and results; equipment needed to conduct studies; recommendations on hunting regulations and scheduling public information programs.

Decisions made by a superior include development and incorporation of management plans in central flyway plans, approval of closing counties to hunting during stocking years, final approval of banding schedules, final approval and submission of study and status reports for federal aid funding, final decisions on hunting regulations, final approval of equipment purchases, and what information to release to the public/press on controversial subjects.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with the public to give and receive information; weekly contact with division staff specialist (game) to exchange information and Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge staff to exchange information and to maintain cooperative agreement for the welfare and restoration of Canada geese; and monthly contact with region staff to give or receive project assistance.

H. Working Conditions:

Works out-of-doors in a variety of weather conditions. Many duties are performed on rough lakes and wetlands in boats or in waders and on the ice during winter. Physical injuries can occur handling Canada geese during sexing and banding activities. The incumbent is exposed to waterfowl diseases and chemical contamination in waters during sanitation clean-up efforts of waterfowl die-offs.

I. Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- principles used in the management of waterfowl populations;
- established research, laboratory, and field methods and procedures as they relate to waterfowl management;
- data collection and basic techniques of statistical analysis;
- basic sources of waterfowl research and biological literature;
- basic principles and terminology of data processing;
- technical report writing.

Ability to:

- read and comprehend technical material;
- organize and present information effectively and in a logical sequence; and
- establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, other agencies, and the public
- plan, outline, and make presentations;
- operate a computer and applicable software.