

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

HABITAT SPECIALIST PRINCIPAL

Spec No. 3134

BASIC FUNCTION

To assume lead responsibility for the development and administration of a county-wide fish habitat protection and restoration program.

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

1. Plans, organizes and leads inter-departmental, inter-jurisdictional efforts to protect and restore fish habitat throughout the county; supervises, coordinates, and participates in the preparation of the following county-wide fish habitat protection program elements; public involvement and education, habitat acquisition and restoration, incentives and voluntary programs, regulations implementing county comprehensive plan policies, inter-jurisdictional coordination, and monitoring program effectiveness.
2. Supervises and participates in the evaluation of freshwater and estuarine habitats and supporting ecosystems and presents structural and policy options for habitat protection and improvement to Executive's management team and Council.
3. Advises county officials on environmental issues related to habitat; interprets state and federal environmental laws; develops determinations of environmental significance; and initiates and reviews environmental impact statements.
4. Directs and participates in the preparation and analysis of data to monitor condition of priority fish species; directs and participates in drafting annual report on fish habitat conditions and population levels in the county.
5. Supervises, coordinates, or conducts habitat related special projects as assigned.
6. Serves as liaison to the Planning Commission, various technical advisory committees, and interest groups; acts as liaison to various state and local agencies; provides information and technical assistance to citizens, municipalities, special purpose districts, and grant applicants; testifies for the county at legislative hearings after consultation with Executive and Council.
7. Coordinates habitat protection and restoration activities with other divisions, departments, tribes, and government agencies; reviews the activities of other agencies and special service districts to ensure compliance and coordination with the county's plans and ordinances to protect sensitive areas; monitors the impact of new and existing federal, state and local government policies and standards.
8. Advises department managers and project managers on the need for public involvement and information efforts with respect to habitat issues.
9. Arranges for, sets up and/or participates in public meetings, hearings and council sessions; acts as departmental representative; supervises the preparation of graphic and data displays, brochures, leaflets and slide/tape shows; prepares oral and written presentations including findings and reports; responds to questions and solicits input as appropriate.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

HABITAT SPECIALIST PRINCIPAL

Spec No. 3134

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES (continued)

10. Assists engineers and planners in resolving conflicts or problems by consultation or on-site inspections; negotiates and mediates disputes with project proponents and their attorneys regarding staff recommended actions.
11. Assists engineers in design and construction management of fish habitat structures.
12. Supervises and participates in the development and drafting of various environmental standards and ordinances; interprets ordinances and policies as necessary; recommends the revision of ordinances as appropriate; gives presentations before the Planning Commission and the County Council.
13. Prepares the annual work plan, goals, and objectives for assigned functions; assists in the preparation of the annual budget; monitors and evaluates related work for compliance with budget constraints.

STATEMENT OF OTHER JOB DUTIES

14. May represent the county in court cases dealing with land use, aquatic resources, habitat damage, hydrology, or other issues.
15. May supervise professional level and technical staff.
16. Performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A masters degree in fisheries management, biological sciences, aquatic ecology, natural resources management, or related field; OR, any undergraduate degree in one of the above disciplines with a masters degree in public policy with an emphasis on natural resources management on environmental science; AND, three (3) years of experience in work related to the specific requirements of the position, including at least one (1) year of supervisory experience; OR, any equivalent combination of training and/or experience that provides the required knowledge and abilities. Work related experience may be substituted for the required education or training on a year for year basis. Must pass job related tests.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

A valid Washington State Driver's License is required.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Northwest fisheries management issues;

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

HABITAT SPECIALIST PRINCIPAL

Spec No. 3134

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES (continued)

Knowledge of:

- habitats and life-cycles of important salmonids;
- land use and watershed management issues affecting aquatic habitat;
- habitat restoration science and techniques; interest groups and agencies involved in fish habitat protection;
- public involvement and education techniques;
- federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding fish habitat protection;
- methods of monitoring fish stocks and habitat conditions.

Ability to:

- establish and maintain effective work relationships with the major interest groups and agencies involved in fish habitat issues;
- work effectively with individuals and groups from varied cultural backgrounds;
- mediate and resolve issues involving opposing interest groups;
- plan, organize and supervise the work of professional, technical, and clerical staff;
- present technical information clearly to the general public;
- direct research efforts and synthesize results to formulate policy recommendations;
- establish and maintain effective work relationships with all levels of county management and staff;
- interpret and apply federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations governing assigned duties;
- analyze and resolve a wide range of habitat management problems;
- evaluate engineering designs, construction methods and land use proposals for their effects on fish habitat and recommend appropriate revisions to protect habitat.

SUPERVISION

This position reports to a Group Supervisor III or administrative superior as assigned. The work is performed with a high degree of independence and is reviewed through conferences, periodic reports and results obtained.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The work is performed in the usual office environment with frequent field trips to locations throughout the county for the purpose of site visits and attending meetings. This position may be required to work evenings, weekends, and holidays as necessary.

Snohomish County is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities are provided upon request.

[EEO policy and ADA notice](#)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

HABITAT SPECIALIST PRINCIPAL

Spec No. 3134

Class Established: March 1994

Previous Spec No.440511

Revised: June 2000

EEO Category: 2 – Professionals

Pay Grade: 244 – Classified Pay Plan

Workers comp: 5306 Non-Hazardous