



## **MATRIX WETLAND SPECIALIST, FISHERIES BIOLOGIST, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST**

Pierce County Code Title 18 Development Regulations – General Provisions requires that all wetland delineation reports and mitigation plans be prepared by a wetland specialist, and all habitat assessment letters, studies, and reports be prepared by a fisheries or wildlife biologist who meets the qualifications outlined in Section 18.25.030 which states:

### **WETLAND SPECIALIST:**

A person with experience and training in wetlands issues and with experience in performing delineations, analyzing wetland functions and values, analyzing wetland impacts, and recommending wetland mitigation and restoration.

Qualifications include:

1. B.S. or B.A., or equivalent degree in biology, botany, environmental studies, fisheries, soil science, wildlife, agriculture or related field; and
2. Two years of related work experience; and
3. Minimum of one-year experience delineating wetlands using *the Unified Federal Manual* and preparing wetland reports and mitigation plans; **OR**
4. Four years of related work experience and training; and
5. Minimum of two years experience delineating wetlands using the *Unified Federal Manual* and preparing wetland reports, and mitigation plans.

Additional education may substitute for one year of related work experience. The individual should be familiar with the *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetland, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual 1987 edition, Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), dated May 2010, Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington 2014 Update, Department of Ecology*, and the requirements of Title 18E.

### **FISHERIES BIOLOGIST:**

A professional with a degree in fisheries or certification by the American Fisheries Society, or with five years professional experience as a fisheries biologist.

### **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST:**

A professional with a degree in wildlife biology, or certification by The Wildlife Society, or with five years professional experience as a wildlife biologist.

The Pierce County Code Title 18 Development Regulations – General Provisions, Section 18.25.030, is the authority for Wetland Specialist, Fisheries, and Wildlife Biologist Qualifications. This matrix is only a guide. If qualified, an individual is allowed to be placed on the roster.

Please provide an outline that states:

1. The name(s) of the individuals requesting to be placed on the roster;

2. The specialist list(s) the individual is qualified (applying) for; and
  
3. The type of documentation being provided to support this. For example, if qualifying as a wetland specialist, specify qualifying type 1 or 2 (see below) and then state what documentation is being provided to support this. If applying for Fisheries or Wildlife Biologist lists, specify whether the applicant has the specified degree, the professional certificate or the work experience. If qualifying is based on a degree or certificate, then include a copy of the document. You may provide an uncertified copy of the diploma for your degrees (*or transcripts, if the diploma does not indicate the degrees conferred, or if the degree is not one listed in the definition*). If the qualifications depend on your work experience, be sure to provide the work history formatted like the example included, and include the calculation you used to arrive at the number of years experience in the given specialty.

**WETLAND SPECIALIST:**

An individual with experience and training in wetlands issues and with experience in performing delineations, analyzing wetland functions and values, analyzing wetland impacts, and recommending wetland mitigation and restoration. The individual should be familiar with the *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetland, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual 1987 edition, Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), dated May 2010, Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington 2014 Update, Department of Ecology*, and the requirements of Title 18E.

**Wetland Specialist Qualifying Type 1**

REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENTATION
B.S. or B.A. or equivalent degree in biology, botany, environmental studies, fisheries, soil science, wildlife, agriculture or related field; and	Diploma (copy if degree is stated) Unofficial Transcript(s); or Certificate(s) of Completion
Two years of related work experience; and minimum of one-year experience delineating wetlands using the <i>Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetland, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual 1987 edition, Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), dated May 2010, Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington 2014 Update, Department of Ecology</i> , and preparing wetland reports and mitigation plans.	Employment description, phone number and address.
Additional education may substitute for one year of related work experience.	Unofficial Transcript (24 graduate semester hours equal one year)

**OR**

## Wetland Specialist Qualifying Type 2

REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENTATION
Four years of related work experience and training.	Employment description, phone number and address.
Minimum of two years experience delineating wetlands using the <i>Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetland, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual 1987 edition, Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region (Version 2.0), dated May 2010, Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington 2014 Update, Department of Ecology</i> , and preparing wetland reports and mitigation plans.	Employment description, phone number and address.

### **FISHERIES BIOLOGIST:**

A professional with a degree in fisheries or certification by the American Fisheries Society, or with five years professional experience as a fisheries biologist. Please specify how the applicant qualifies; i.e., the specified degree, the professional certification or the work experience. You may provide an uncertified copy of the diploma for your degrees (*or transcripts, if the diploma does not indicate the degree conferred, or if the degree is not one listed in the definition*). If the individual qualifies based on certification by the American Fisheries Society, please include a copy of the certificate with the application. If qualification is based on five years work experience, provide the work history in the format provided in the enclosed Example of Job Description and Format.

### **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST:**

A professional with a degree in wildlife biology, or certification by The Wildlife Society, or with five years professional experience as a wildlife biologist. Please specify how the applicant qualifies; i.e., the specified degree, the professional certification or the work experience. You may provide an uncertified copy of the diploma for your degrees (*or transcripts, if the diploma does not indicate the degree conferred, or if the degree is not one listed in the definition*). If the individual qualifies based on certification by the Wildlife Society, please include a copy of the certificate with the application. If qualification is based on five years work experience, provide the work history in the format provided in the enclosed Example of Job Description and Format.

Send your qualifications to:\*

Pierce County Planning & Public Works  
 Attn: Scott Sissons at [scott.sissons@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:scott.sissons@piercecountywa.gov)  
 Land Use & Environmental Review – Biologist Section  
 2401 South 35th Street, Room 175  
 Tacoma, WA 98409

\*Please note that per 18E Pierce County Code Title 2 Chapter 2.05 there is a \$100 fee for qualification review.

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### Example of Job Description and Format

If qualifying for Fisheries or Wildlife specialist, please specify "Percentage of time conducting wildlife-related work", or "Percentage of time conducting fisheries-related work".

Calculate the amount of work experience you have in the format provided at the bottom of this page.

**Job Title:** Biologist **Dates:** 2014/2 - 2016/8 **Total Time:** 30 months

**Supervisor:** Carol I. Smith, Wetlands Inc., 1414 Clean Stream, Seattle, 99991

**Telephone:** 206-882-1122

**Year 1:** 2014/2 - 2015/2

**Percentage of time conducting wildlife-related work:** 25%

Conducted wildlife studies, including general wildlife surveys and habitat evaluation procedures. Work included both data collection in the field and report writing. Projects included a vegetation analysis for a deer browse study for the Burnt Ridge Development.

**Percentage of time delineating wetlands:** 30%; **Percentage of time writing wetland reports and mitigation plans:** 40%

I delineated 25 wetlands, most of which were located on 1- to 5-acre sites, working under the direction of a senior biologist. I prepared 20 wetland reports, and 5 mitigation plans; all of these were team projects. Projects included a 5-acre wetland near South Hill, Pierce County, Project # 558-90.

*(Note: Remaining 5% is non-related work experience.)*

**Year 2:** 2015/2 - 2016/2

**Percentage of time conducting Wildlife-related work:** 25%

Conducted wildlife studies, including general wildlife surveys and habitat evaluation procedures. Did field work and wrote wildlife sections for 2 EIS projects. Work included both data collection in the field and report writing. Projects included a bald eagle survey near Summit Ridge.

**Percentage of time delineating wetlands:** 30%; **Percentage of time writing wetland reports and mitigation plans:** 40%

I delineated 20 wetlands of varying size, working under the direction of a senior biologist. I prepared 20 wetland reports, and 2 mitigation plans; about 70% of these were team projects. Projects included a 40-acre wetland near North Hill, King County Project # 4428-91.

*(Note: Remaining 5% is non-related work experience.)*

**Year 3:** 2016/2 - 2017/2

**Percentage of time delineating wetlands:** 40%; **Percentage of time writing wetland reports and mitigation plans:** 55%

I delineated 20 wetlands including delineating wetlands on 5 large 150- to 500-acre sites. Each large site had at least 7 wetlands. I prepared 20 wetland reports, and 5 mitigation plans on these complex projects.

*(Note: Remaining 5% of time is administrative-related work experience.)*

Duties include the review and administration of other wetland biologists' work.

**Duration of Wetland Experience Calculation:** *Number of years delineating wetlands and preparing wetland reports and mitigation plans:  $(1 \times 0.70) + (1 \times 0.70) + (1 \times 0.95) = 28.20$  months or ~2 years and 4 months.*