

IDENTIFICATION

<i>Position Number</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>NOC/Dept. Code</i>
52-0623	Wildlife Technician II	2221/523523
<i>Department</i>	<i>Division/Region</i>	<i>Location</i>
Environment and Natural Resources	Inuvik	Inuvik

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

(The main reason as to why the position exists, in what context, and the overall end result.)

This position assists the Regional Wildlife Biologist, Senior Researcher, Mackenzie Valley Development, and other regional and Headquarters staff conduct studies on assigned species and their habitats, conduct laboratory analysis of specimens, collect data and assist in both data analysis and writing internal reports and technical publications.

SCOPE

(Describe in what way the position contributes to and impacts on the organization)

The incumbent is located in Inuvik and works with direction from the Manager, Wildlife Management and in cooperation with departmental wildlife biologists and management staff to conduct projects for wildlife management programs throughout the Inuvik Region. The incumbent assists with the administration of a program budget comprised of both internal and external funding. Information provided by this program is required by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, co-management boards, aboriginal organizations, Hunters and Trappers organizations, industry, universities, other agencies and the public to develop management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and their habitats.

RESPONSIBILITIES

(Describe major responsibilities and target accomplishments expected of the position. For management positions, indicate the subordinate position(s) through which responsibilities are accomplished)

Collects data on abundance, reproduction, behaviour, mortality, human harvest, range inventory, habitat use, development impacts, and health of wildlife as a basis for management programs by;

- Locating, immobilising, tagging, radio collaring and collecting wildlife species;
- Conducting aerial and ground surveys to determine population size, structure, trends, distribution and movements;
- Conducting range inventory and range use studies to determine stocking rates and to determine habitat use;
- Collecting specimens which will provide information on food habits and forage quality;
- Interviewing hunters, trappers, and other resource users about wildlife populations and harvest;
- Recording observations of wildlife while travelling in the region or as reported by others in the region;
- Obtaining specimens which provide morphological, histological and physiological information or information on the incidence of parasites or diseases.

Conducts laboratory analysis of specimens and tabulates results for interpretation by;

- Receiving, cataloguing and preparing for examination, biological materials collected by technicians, wildlife officers, biologists, and contracted or cooperative agencies;
- Analysing specimens collected, such as teeth, sectioned for age determination, reproductive tracts for determining ovulation and pregnancy rates, faeces and rumen contents of ruminants for food habits and forage quality data, as well as scats and stomachs of carnivores for food habits;
- Identification of plant species and weighing plant specimens for range inventory studies;
- Maintaining familiarity with current development and improvements in laboratory procedures and techniques pertinent to study programs;
- Writing technical reports on laboratory findings;
- Supervision of persons assigned to assist in laboratory procedures.

Assists in writing wildlife management study reports and publications for technical reports and journals by;

- Compiling, tabulating, and summarising raw data using appropriate statistical procedures;

- Creating, maintaining, and updating computer database files on specific wildlife management programs and providing the Regional Biologist with current files and summaries in hard copy form.
- Preparing and presenting research information to a variety of audiences including aboriginal government committees, schools, public groups and departmental staff.

Assists in designing and implementing wildlife management studies to provide information for management programs by;

- Ordering equipment and supplies;
- Maintaining inventories of field and laboratory equipment;
- Establishing and maintaining contacts with field staff, and clients to facilitate expedition of management objectives and field studies;
- Requesting information, reports and publications from other management groups, researchers and libraries;
- Maintaining a library of management related reports and publications.

Attends wildlife conferences, short courses, and scientific meetings that will upgrade the skills, abilities, and professional capabilities while conducting assigned duties.

Responsible to maintain the laboratory including inventory of supplies, control of sample entering and leaving, purchasing and maintaining supplies, and keeping it clean,

Performs miscellaneous duties such as writing letters, preparing wildlife research permits, making public information posters, and attending and participating in meetings intended to advise the public of management and research programs.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

(Describe the level of knowledge, experience and abilities that are required for satisfactory job performance)

Specialized knowledge of biology, wildlife ecology, population dynamics, and wildlife habitat studies.

Solid knowledge of and ability to apply experimental design and statistical analysis, wildlife laboratory technique, diet analysis, histology, necropsy techniques, and range inventory methods.

Knowledge of and experience with computers including spreadsheet, data tabulation and analysis, word processing, and graphics presentation.

Ability to write illustrated reports.

Broad experience with survival skills and abilities in living on the land activities including outdoor camping, navigation and survival, mechanical repair, and proven ability to work under harsh field conditions.

Understanding of traditional knowledge and culture, as well as western scientific principles, conservation and resource development issues.

Ability to interact and work with wildlife users and hunters and trappers associations in a positive fashion. Ability to communicate research information through written and oral presentations to community groups, Hunters and Trappers organizations, co-management boards, staff and the general public on a regular basis.

Technical diploma in a college accredited renewable resource program with two to three years related northern field experience, or equivalent.

B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology with one to two years northern experience is an option.

Firearms Acquisition and Possession Licence.

Valid Driver's Licence (Class 5 or higher in NWT).

WORKING CONDITIONS

(List the unavoidable, externally imposed conditions under which the work must be performed and which create hardship for the incumbent. Express frequency and duration of occurrence of physical demands, environmental conditions, and demands on one's senses and mental demands)

Physical Demands

<i>Description</i>	<i>Combined Frequency & Duration</i>	<i>Intensity</i>
Field trips average 10 weeks per year. In addition to job duties, camp duties include cooking, hauling water, burning garbage, general upkeep of camp resulting in long and irregular hours. Hiking on barren grounds, boreal forest, mountains in rough terrain, packing gear up to 30 lbs. Sitting still for long periods of time to observe wildlife. Loading/unloading aircraft, rolling drums, setting up field camp, setting up bear fencing, digging pits, hauling equipment. Capturing, collaring, relocating wildlife.	25-50%	Moderate 8 points

Environmental Demands

Description	Combined Frequency & Duration	Intensity
Exposure to extreme temperatures. Health hazard in handling biological specimens during necropsies or lab analysis or live animals which may be diseased or contain parasites (brucellosis, toxiplasmosis, rabies and parasites). Some can be life threatening. Capture work requires handling powerful immobilizing drugs. Loaded firearms at the ready. Physical danger in low-level flying in helicopter and small, single engine aircraft. Very loud noises by aircraft. Exposure to formaldehyde, foul or rancid smells while conducting necropsies or collecting specimens.	25-50%	Moderate 8 points.

Sensory Demands

Description	Combined Frequency & Duration	Intensity
On aerial surveys/radio tracking long survey flights headsets are often worn for many hours at a stretch listening for signals from radio collars. Visually searching for wildlife or tracks from an aircraft, for many hours at a time. Heightened awareness of changes in weather conditions possible dangers in helicopter flying.	25-50%	Moderate 8 points.

Mental Demands

Description	Combined Frequency & Duration	Intensity
Disruption of family life. Isolated camps, lack of privacy. Lack of control over work pace due to weather. Responsible for others in camp. Danger of people becoming "bushed" or unstable with loaded firearms close at hand. Subject to public scrutiny when community representatives are at camps.	25-50%	Moderate 8 points.