

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management and use of control techniques aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly that of predatory animals, when they conflict with man's economic interest, health or safety. The work is primarily concerned with WS operations relating to the cessation, alleviation or mitigation of problems created by carnivores, rodents, birds and other animals in urban or rural environments.

MAJOR DUTIES

Incumbent is responsible for organizing, conducting, and implementing direct control operations within a large geographical area assigned by the District Supervisor or State Director to control damage caused by avian or mammalian species.

Inspects and surveys areas and, as necessary, will prepare or revise existing programs. Assigned areas are ranches, farms, and urban communities within the county which are covered by agreements relating to the conduct of approved control methods.

Prepares and assists others in preparing and submitting routine and special reports regarding daily, weekly or monthly activities, observations, events and other relevant data.

Meets with private landowners, lessees, citizen groups or associations which seek predator control and negotiates local cooperative agreements.

Incumbent serves as an expert instructor and conducts demonstrations and training for others, including other cooperators or interested groups, on damage control methods, procedures, and program objectives. This includes preliminary instructions and training of new personnel on WS equipment, devices, chemicals, firearms, etc., reporting procedures, field responsibilities and other technical aspects of the program.

Responsible for reporting accomplishments, problems encountered, work locations, etc. to supervisor. Is entrusted with Government-owned control equipment for which an inventory must be maintained and reported, including locations, acquisitions, returns, losses, and reason therefore.

Must demonstrate a respect for the need for safety in all operations including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices, and equipment.

May participate in aerial hunting of predators as a gunner or ground crew member in areas where it is authorized by State law.

Must have a valid State motor vehicle operator license. Operation of a Government-owned or leased vehicle is required. Must be able to operate various types of small boats and canoes and be able to swim.

FACTORS

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

Knowledge of the principles, policies and objectives of the WS program together with an understanding of contradictory views or attitudes of opposing groups or agencies.

Knowledge of the habits, characteristics and habitats occupied by a wide variety of avian and mammalian species that are, or that may become, a threat in terms of agricultural production, public health or human property or safety or natural resources.

Knowledge of the various WS control methods and procedures, including the use of firearms, safety live traps and chemicals approved for WS operations. Control devices include the use of amplified distress calls, pyrotechnics, spray cannons, mechanical repellents and barriers, drop nets, rocket nets and various launchers.

Ability to interpret and apply local, State and Federal policies, regulations, laws and ordinances that affect not only WS procedures but also wildlife species.

Knowledge of endangered species concepts, and familiarity with the ranges of the various endangered or threatened species that might come in conflict with any phase of the WS program.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

Incumbent works under the general supervision of the District Supervisor or higher graded technician. Incumbent is given considerable latitude in carrying out delegated responsibilities and is expected to exercise individual initiative and independent judgment in determining courses of action, work priorities, or operational needs. The supervisor may be located a considerable distance and time away from work location and may not always immediately be available for consultation, review of area accomplishments, reports and records. Controversial items, highly sensitive issues, or critical problems which may have a detrimental impact on WS operations will be responded to and discussed with supervisor. Is expected to independently resolve operational problems and/or propose solutions outlining recommended procedures, necessary equipment/material and duration of effort needed to effect solutions.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines include a variety of local, State and Federal laws, regulations or ordinances regarding animal damage control activities. Judgment is required in the selection and adaptation of appropriate guideline for each situation encountered by the incumbent.

COMPLEXITY

The work involves the performance of a broad range of duties relating to the use of control techniques, including the handling of toxic materials, aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly damage caused by predatory animals.

SCOPE AND EFFECT

The purpose of the work is to provide assistance in maintaining proper control strategies in wildlife management. The incumbent's work is critical to the overall effectiveness of the Wildlife Services Program.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

Contacts are with members of the general public, including citizen groups and associations, farmers, ranchers, public lands managers and various local, State and Federal agencies. Contacts may also include individuals who do not understand or support the Wildlife Services program.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS

The purpose of contacts are to negotiate agreements, provide technical assistance in operational control and to promote the WS program and its accomplishments.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requires physical exertion such as walking over rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, bending, crouching, stooping and stretching. Agility and dexterity are required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Incumbent spends a considerable amount of time outdoors. The terrain may be uneven, rocky or in vegetation. There may be exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. The incumbent is also exposed to toxic chemicals.