



FORESTER I

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK:

This is professional forestry work at the supervisory level involved in directing or carrying out a county forestry program. Incumbents in this class are responsible for such activities as fire suppression and control, forest management, insect and disease control, and public relations work. Other duties include assigning, explaining, and reviewing the work of non-technical employees. General supervision is received from the Area Forester.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

These minimum qualifications have been agreed upon by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in this job class and are based upon a job analysis and the essential functions. However, if a candidate believes he/she is qualified for the job although he/she does not have the minimum qualifications set forth below, he/she may request special consideration through substitution of related education and experience, demonstrating the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. Any request to substitute related education or experience for minimum qualifications must be addressed to the State Personnel Board in writing, identifying the related education and experience which demonstrates the candidate's ability to perform all essential functions of the position.

EXPERIENCE/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

One (1) year of successful experience as a Forester Trainee.

OR

Education:

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in Forestry;

AND

Experience:

One (1) year of experience as a professional forester.

Licensure/Certification:

Must possess a valid driver's license, as verified by the hiring agency.

Must possess a current license as a Registered Forester by the Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters within one year of employment.

Note:

Incumbents who are required to fight wildfires or conduct field work on a routine basis must successfully complete a Moderate Pack Test within ninety (90) days of hire date and annually thereafter.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

These physical requirements are not exhaustive, and additional job related physical requirements may be added to these by individual agencies on an as needed basis. Corrective devices may be used to meet physical requirements. These are typical requirements; however, reasonable accommodations may be possible.

Moderate Work: May frequently exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 25 pounds and/or occasionally exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 50 pounds.

Vision: Requires the ability to perceive the nature of objects by the eye.

Near Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.

Midrange: Clarity of vision at distances of more than 20 inches and less than 20 feet.

Far Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 feet or more.

Peripheral: Ability to observe an area that can be seen up and down or left and right while eyes are fixed on a given point.

Depth Perception: Three-dimensional vision. Ability to judge distances and spatial relationships so as to see objects where and as they actually are.

Ability to adjust focus: Ability to adjust the eye to bring an object into sharp focus.

Color Vision: Ability to identify colors.

Speaking/Hearing: Possesses the ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening skills.

Taste/Smell: Possesses the ability to use the sense of smell to recognize and distinguish odors. Possesses the ability to use the sense of taste to recognize and distinguish flavors.

Motor Coordination: While performing the duties of this job, the incumbent is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls; reach with hands and arms. The incumbent is frequently required to stand; walk; and sit. The incumbent is occasionally required to climb or balance; and stoop, kneel, crouch, or bend.

COMPETENCIES:

The following competencies describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes that lead to a successful employee in this position. An applicant will be expected to exhibit these competencies or the ability to reach competency achievement within a specified time. These competencies are linked to the essential functions of the job. Employees in this position may be evaluated on these competencies as part of the performance appraisal system. Example behaviors are listed below each competency and are used for illustrative purposes only. Specific behaviors may be identified and included later by the hiring agency. It is understood that some of these behaviors might not be acquired until a reasonable time after hire. Failure of an employee to successfully demonstrate some or all of these competencies, as deemed important by his or her reporting official, may result in the employee being placed on a performance improvement plan. If after a reasonable period of time, usually three (3) months, the employee fails to demonstrate successful performance, the employee may be terminated. These competencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPETENCIES:

Integrity: Exhibits behaviors showing a strong internal personal commitment to fundamental principles of honesty and fairness dealing in all activities related to job performance.

Work Ethic: Is productive, diligent, conscientious, timely, and loyal.

Service Orientation: Demonstrates a commitment to quality public service through statements and actions.

Accountability: Accepts responsibility for actions and results.

Self Management Skills: Effectively manages emotions and impulses and maintains a positive attitude.

Interpersonal Skills: Shows understanding, courtesy, tact, empathy, and concern to develop and maintain relationships.

Communication Skills: Receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and expresses information to individuals or groups effectively.

Self-Development: Adapts behavior or work methods in response to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles.

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES:

Administration and Management: Plans, coordinates, and directs business functions, resource allocation, and production related to a district/multi-county forestry program.

Organizes and develops forest protection, forest management, or administrative services programs. Analyzes manpower, equipment, and facility requirements of the district/multi-county and makes recommendations. Provides direction and coordination of available resources to carry out management regimes to program areas. Processes resource allocation paperwork.

Planning and Evaluating: Determines resource requirements; determines goals and strategies to achieve them; monitors progress and evaluates outcomes.

Assists in developing district/multi-county work plans, goals, and objectives in the assigned program area(s). Reviews program accomplishments and makes recommendations concerning corrective action. Determines needs of the district/multi-county in forest protection, forest management, or information and education and implements appropriate programs. Assists in determining training needs of personnel and conducts training in assigned area.

Forestry: The art, science, and practice of studying and managing forests and related natural resources.

Possesses and maintains a working knowledge of information regarding proper forestry management practices. Assists in carrying out forest management practices, giving advice on proper forestry management practices and on methods to improve and protect their forest investment. Prepares detailed forest management plans for landowners and recommends forest management plans to the Boards of Education and other public lands.

Fire Suppression and Control: Supervises or participates in fire detection, suppression, and control activities.

Supervises and conducts forest fire detection and suppression activities. Scouts to identify the resources needed to successfully extinguish fires. Supervises prescribed burning activities.

Safety: Ensures safety regulations are enforced.
Ensures safety at all fires and other assigned duties. Administers safety programs. Follows all safety regulations. Operates all equipment using proper safety guidelines.

Technology Application: Operates and maintains tools and equipment effectively, following proper safety guidelines.

Inspects and maintains fire-fighting and management equipment. Operates a variety of equipment in working to extinguish forest fires and manage timberland, including but not limited to, motorized vehicles, tractors with accessory grounds maintenance equipment, all terrain vehicles, heavy equipment, winches, boats, traps, motors, etc. Possesses the mechanical ability to work on equipment.

Technical writing: Writes news articles and prepares reports related to forestry program activities.

Prepares reports on seed available in counties. Prepares or supervises the preparation of reports and answers correspondence relative to forestry program activities in the area. Writes news articles. Submits reports on time. Uses correct spelling and grammar.

MANAGEMENT COMPETENCIES:

Emotional Maturity: Conducts oneself in a professional, consistent manner when representing the organization.

Has the ability to work through adversity and hold self and others accountable for work actions.

Macro Oriented: Exercises good judgment; makes sound, well-informed decisions.

Understands and appropriately applies procedures, requirements, and regulations related to specialized areas of expertise.

Working Through Others: Supports, motivates, and is an advocate for staff.

Reinforces and rewards team efforts and positive behaviors. Is fair, yet firm with others. Monitors workloads and provides feedback.

Results Oriented: Plans effectively to achieve or exceed goals; sets and meets deadlines.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Additional essential functions may be identified and included by the hiring agency. The essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Prepares county/multi-county fire plan; trains county crews in fire suppression, timber management, and safety work; plans and administers safety programs.

2. Inspects and directs maintenance of fire-fighting equipment; supervises forest fire detection system and directs suppression action.
3. Prepares county/multi-county work unit plan and estimates the number of man-hours to be spent on each job; evaluates employees' performance.
4. Prepares detailed forest management plan for landowners; marks timber; assists in locating timber markets; and supervises prescribed burning activities.
5. Furnishes public forestry information through written articles, radio and television broadcasts, and by conducting special programs at schools, libraries, civic clubs, etc.
6. Prepares reports and answers correspondence relative to forestry program activities.
7. Informs landowners of available Forestry Incentive Programs and assists them in implementing needed forest management practices.
8. Evaluates sixteenth section school lands; writes and recommends forest management plan.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

Examples of work performed in this classification include, but are not limited to, the following:

Prepares county/multi-county fire plan; trains county crews in fire suppression, timber management, and safety work; plans and administers safety program.

Inspects and directs maintenance of fire-fighting equipment; performs and/or supervises forest fire detection system and performs and/or directs suppression action.

Prepares county/multi-county work plan and estimates the number of man-hours to be spent on each job.

Evaluates county employees' performance.

Prepares detailed forest management plans for landowners; marks timber; assists in locating timber markets; and supervises prescribed burning activities.

Writes news articles; participates in radio and television programs and speaks to various groups on forest management, fire control, insect and disease control, and forest appreciation and conservation.

Takes seedling orders and issues seedlings to landowners.

Prepares or supervises the preparation of reports and answers correspondence relative to forestry program activities in the area.

Assists private landowners in construction of fire lanes.

Informs landowners of available Forestry Incentive Programs and assists them in implementing needed forest management practices.

Evaluates sixteenth section school lands; writes and recommends forest management plans to the Boards of Education.

Performs related or similar duties as required or assigned.

INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

Any candidate who is called to an agency for an interview must notify the interviewing agency in writing of any reasonable accommodation needed prior to the date of the interview.