



DWFP-SPECIAL OPERATIONS AGENT I

Characteristics of Work

This is specialized entry level, covert law enforcement, natural resources protection work. Characteristic duties include responsibility for inspection, safety, enforcement, covert and overt investigation, and management of resources in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Incumbents possess enforcement powers conferred by statute and utilize these powers in the execution of their duties and responsibilities as well as in assisting other state, federal and local law enforcement and regulatory agencies. In addition to regular enforcement and conservation activities, incumbents are assigned specialized duties and responsibility for conducting covert and overt investigations of persons and/or parties who are suspected of offenses against the criminal laws of the State of Mississippi, specifically, the statutes, regulations, DWFP Public Notices, and general orders pertaining to the protection of game and non-game species of fish, reptiles, birds, and animals. Work involves extensive travel away from the incumbent's residence while participating in covert and/or overt assignments. Investigations require exercising sound, independent judgement and discretion in the performance of related job duties which are performed under close supervision of an administrative superior.

Examples of Work

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

(The following are examples of work performed by Special Operations Agents of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and are not intended to reflect the functions of any other local, state, or federal agency)

Plans and conducts covert and overt investigations and apprehension of persons suspected of offenses against the criminal laws of the State of Mississippi with regard to wildlife.

Conducts the full range of law enforcement activities; i.e., surveillance; participation in raids; interviewing witnesses; interrogating suspects; searching for physical evidence and clues; seizures of contraband equipment and wildlife; securing and serving warrants; making arrests; inspecting records and documents; developing evidence for orderly presentation to the District Attorney and other legal officers; testifying in court; preparing detailed written reports; and, carrying out extensive undercover operations.

Acting primarily in a covert capacity, incumbent must establish and maintain a covert identity for extended periods of time while gathering intelligence about commercial violations of fish and wildlife laws. Based upon this intelligence and information received from State personnel as well as other sources, the incumbent determines which violations warrant the use of covert investigative techniques.

Establishes personal contact with those engaged in the unlawful commercialization of wildlife and secures evidence of violations by purchase or other means in accordance with established practices governing such activity.

Assumes a role conducive to making observations or otherwise obtaining information regarding the specific violations and the suspect's modus operandi.

Performs duties of arresting officer including serving warrants, making arrests, and preparing and presenting evidence in court.

Maintains liaison with federal, state, and local enforcement authorities to exchange pertinent factual information and testimony.

Establishes and operates undercover business enterprises to obtain evidence about commercial violations.

Exercises initiative and resourcefulness in developing sufficient evidence in support of the legal charges involved.

Discerns the magnitude of an investigation and collects factual information from which potential prosecutions may result.

Participates in the development of long range investigations.

Cultivates confidential information sources as needed for investigations.

Protects and safeguards State property and equipment with which charged.

Operates and maintains a variety of equipment, including but not limited to: motorized vehicles, winches, boats, motors, audio-visual equipment, two-way radio and communication equipment.

Maintains firearms proficiency as required by DWFP policy and the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training.

Attends schools and seminars relevant to the basic investigation of covert law enforcement and commercial wildlife crimes.

Participates with other state agencies and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in joint agency task force investigations.

Related or similar duties are performed as required or assigned.

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. Enforces all state and federal laws and commission rulings on wildlife with emphasis on commercialization.
2. Performs covert and overt law enforcement duties including complex surveillance, serving warrants, making arrests, and preparing and presenting evidence in court.
3. Conducts covert criminal investigations with moderate guidance from supervisors and higher grade agents. Assignments are developed from information accumulated through self-initiative and/or from information supplied by other Special Operations Agents and uniformed district law enforcement personnel.
4. Provides information and assistance to other law enforcement agencies.

Minimum Qualifications

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.

Heavy Work: May frequently exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 50 pounds and/or occasionally exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 100 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.

Field of Vision: Ability to observe an area up or down, left or right while eyes are fixed on a given point.

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

Color Vision: Ability to identify colors.

Speaking/Hearing: Ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening skills.

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

Experience/Educational Requirements:

Education:

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university in criminal justice, law enforcement, police administration, wildlife or fisheries conservation/management, or wildlife or fisheries biology, zoology, agriculture, animal science, botany, forestry, environmental science, environmental or agricultural engineering, parks and recreation administration, public or business administration, education, public relations or a related field;

AND

Experience:

Five (5) years of satisfactory service of a sworn Wildlife Conservation Officer or equivalent law enforcement position, and possess a current Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Certification.

Required Document(s): A copy of a valid Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Certification.

Special Requirements

Applicant must provide employing agency evidence of completion of education requirements and a valid copy of his/her transcript to verify course work, when applicable.

Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of appointment; possess and maintain a valid Mississippi Driver's License; meet any and all minimum standards of employment as set forth by the Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training; have neither a conviction nor a plea of nolo contendere for a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; have not been discharged under conditions other than honorable from any branch of the U.S. armed forces; receive a favorable background investigation report; upon appointment and on a random-selection basis, pass an alcohol/drug test conducted by a certified laboratory.

Note: Employment is contingent upon successful completion of predefined Board of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training and agency prescribed re-qualification standards. Duty assignment may require that successful applicant be able to demonstrate swimming skills at a prescribed level equivalent to the American Red Cross Basic Swimming skills level.

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.