



New Mexico State Personnel Office

2600 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-0127

Classification Description

ZOOLOGIST AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Class Title	Class Code	Pay Band	Alt Pay Band*
Zoologist and Wildlife Biologist-B	F1023B	55	
Zoologist and Wildlife Biologist-O	F1023O	60	
Zoologist and Wildlife Biologist-A	F1023A	65	

**In accordance with SPB Rule 1.7.4.10 NMAC, the assignment to alternative pay bands shall be reviewed annually to determine their appropriateness.*

Occupation Description

Study the origins, behavior, diseases, genetics and life processes of animals and wildlife. May specialize in wildlife research and management, including the collection and analysis of biological data to determine the environmental effects of present and potential use of land and water areas.

Nature of Work

Zoologists and wildlife biologists study animals, wildlife and their origin, behavior, diseases, and life processes. Some experiment with live animals in controlled or natural surroundings, while others dissect dead animals to study their structure. Zoologists and wildlife biologists also may collect and analyze biological data to determine the environmental effects of current and potential uses of land and water areas. Zoologists are usually identified by the animal group they study for example; ornithologists study birds, mammalogists study mammals, herpetologists study reptiles, and ichthyologists study fish.

Distinguishing Characteristics of Levels

Note: Examples of Work are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of the duties.

Basic

- Employees in this Role assist in maintaining buildings, grounds, and equipment of fish hatcheries, wildlife refuges, or wildlife zoos; participate in wildlife management; and assist in conducting scientific research in wildlife management or design; and conduct educational and public information programs in wildlife law enforcement, management, and research.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Associate's degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, forestry, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and four (4) years directly related experience.

Minimum Qualifications

High school diploma or GED and two (2) years directly related experience.

Operational

- Employees in this Role design and conduct scientific research in wildlife management.
- Employees develop work unit objectives and action plans; ensure compliance with wildlife regulations and laws; maintain and provide educational and public information on wildlife management; maintain information on fish hatcheries, wildlife refuges, or captive native wildlife zoo operations; perform special duties to ensure compliance with wildlife regulations and laws; conduct scientific research in wildlife management, and design; and conduct educational and public information programs in wildlife law enforcement, management and research.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Bachelor's degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, forestry, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and two (2) years directly related work experience.

Minimum Qualifications

Associates degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, forestry, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and two (2) years of directly related work experience.

Advanced

- Employees in this Role conduct experiments with live animals in controlled or natural surroundings.
- Employees define fiscal or physical resources needed to accomplish work; explore new areas of research or expand on specialized research; and maintain contact with public to provide simple information on fish hatcheries, wildlife refuge operations or captive native wildlife zoo operations.
- Employees provide training and technical assistance to less experienced staff.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Bachelor's degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, forestry, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and four (4) years directly related work experience.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, forestry, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and two (2) years directly related work experience.

Knowledge and Skills

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Knowledge

Biology — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

English Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

Mathematics — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.

Computers and Electronics — Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.

Administration and Management — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.

Clerical — Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology.

Customer and Personal Service — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Geography — Knowledge of principles and methods for describing the features of land, sea, and air masses, including their physical characteristics, locations, interrelationships, and distribution of plant, animal, and human life.

Skills

Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Science — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Writing — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Judgment and Decision Making — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

Active Learning — Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

Complex Problem Solving — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Statutory Requirements: N/A

Conditions of Employment: Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each *agency's utilization, essential functions*, and the *recruitment needs* at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Default FLSA Status: Non-Exempt. FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

Bargaining Unit: This position may be covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to.

Established: 07/07/2001 **Revised:** 9/20/2011

**Adapted from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and are intended to illustrate the typical education and experience required for this occupation.*

Note: Classification description subject to change. Please refer to the SPO website www.spo.state.nm.us to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.