

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

**CLASS SPECIFICATION****03/27/2008****WATERSHED RESOURCES SPECIALIST, 7862**

**Summary of Duties:** Performs environmental analyses, research, surveys, investigations and studies to manage natural resources within the Owens Valley and Mono Basin watersheds, recommends management actions to improve water quality and avoid resource conflicts that may threaten the City's water supply; analyzes grazing systems and recreational uses on city lands; makes recommendations to insure that land and water resources are used in a manner consistent with sound ecological and range management practices; conducts forage inventories and vegetation monitoring programs related to management of water resources to avoid vegetation impacts while maintaining a reliable water supply for the City of Los Angeles; studies the distribution, habits and classification of wildlife; provides technical guidance and assistance in the preparation of environmental impact reports and other environmental reports regarding water resource related projects; cooperates with federal, state and local agencies in the improvement, management and protection of the City's watershed; develops and implements habitat restoration plans including several major stream restoration efforts; makes public presentations on related resource issues; assists in providing technical support for legal hearings regarding water resources issues; may supervise and/or lead a group of employees engaged in all types of work listed above; and does related work.

**Distinguishing Features:** A Watershed Resources Specialist performs professional research related to natural resources within the Eastern Sierra watershed and makes recommendations on land and water resource management that could directly affect the City's water supply or quality.

Assignments are normally received in the form of broad objectives with the choice of methods, techniques and interpretation of results left to the discretion of the Watershed Resources section and multidisciplinary staff.

Employees of this class are distinguished from the environmental series in that the latter performs research and studies, and makes recommendations on a variety of environmental matters for an urban environment with no involvement in the flora, fauna or management of an undeveloped watershed. A Watershed Resources Specialist is distinguished from an Agricultural Land Developer in that the latter is limited to directing the development of city agricultural land and advising tenants on agricultural and stock grazing matters with no involvement in the study and management of watershed resources within their related ecosystems.

**Examples Of Duties:** A Watershed Resources Specialist:

- Conducts technical studies and determines forage densities and health of vegetation communities to better manage water resources for water quality and supply needs;
- Delineates soil and vegetation condition/classifications and uses hydrologic data to identify areas suitable for ground water pumping that will contribute to the City's water supply while avoiding undesirable environmental impacts;
- Analyzes grazing systems and makes recommendations to insure that range land is utilized in a manner consistent with sound watershed management principles;
- Performs research to discover principles underlying sound watershed management practices;
- Develops equipment necessary to implement new and improved practices;
- Analyzes and makes recommendations regarding the determination and application of the principles, methods and procedures necessary for the preservation and management of wildlife and other natural resources on City-owned lands;
- Studies the distribution, habits and classification of wildlife, fish, vegetation and other resources on City-owned lands to avoid any regulatory conflicts that may threaten the City's water supply;
- Formulates specific habitat management plans, including threatened or endangered species to insure the health of the City's Eastern Sierra watershed;
- Works with federal and state agencies to promote sound land management practices where the resource issue is shared by adjacent landowners and may affect the City's watershed;
- Conducts stream surveys to determine the condition of stream and fish habitat and works with other agencies on projects to maintain those habitats in a healthy state;
- Assists in formulating long-range grazing management goals that are consistent with water quality needs;
- Provides technical guidance and assistance in the preparation of environmental impact reports related to projects that may affect water resources;
- Works with land owners, outdoor sports enthusiasts, grazing lessees, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game and the Division of Forestry, soil conservation service and other federal, state and local agencies in the improvement, management, and protection of wildlife, fisheries, and other natural resources existing within the City's Eastern Sierra watershed;
- May supervise or act as a lead worker over a staff performing this work;
- Attends meetings and provides technical environmental information to civic, educational and special interest groups;
- Establishes and surveys vegetation monitoring plots to identify vegetation changes and how they relate to the management of water resources;
- Prepares periodic reports on natural resource studies;
- Makes public presentations on related resources issues;
- Assists in providing technical support for legal hearings regarding water resources issues;
- May supervise and coordinate a group of professionals in studying the distribution and classification of vegetation, wildlife, and other watershed resources;
- May oversee and coordinate a workgroup in formulating long-range watershed management goals;

- May coordinate or serve as lead-person in compliance monitoring and reporting for various mandated environmental projects on City of Los Angeles lands throughout the Eastern Sierra; and
- May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

**Qualifications:** Incumbents must have the following knowledge and abilities:

**Knowledge of:**

- Plant species and individual plant grouping and associations common to the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin biomes;
- Stream ecology and riparian management;
- Wetland ecology and function and their role in maintaining water quality;
- Rare, threatened and endangered local plant and animal species;
- Accepted techniques of making biological investigations of wildlife and other natural resources;
- The classification, ecology, habits and geographic distribution of California flora and fauna;
- The principles and practices of watershed management on arid range lands of the Great Basin;
- The principles and practices of environmental ecology research and wildlife management;
- Forage plants and the operation of various restoration grazing systems;
- Soils and land uses as they pertain to managing water resources;
- The content requirements and format for preparation of habitat management plans and environmental impact reports;
- Methods of statistical analysis necessary to analyze data obtained from wildlife and vegetation studies;
- The range, wildlife and land use planning programs of the state and federal agencies;
- Federal, state and local laws, including the California Fish and Game Code, which apply to the management and use of water resources;
- The information resources available in the field of watershed management, range management, wildlife research, fisheries management, and vegetation ecology; and
- Plant and animal studies related to the environmental considerations of geothermal steam exploration activities.

**Ability to:**

- Analyze resource issues within the context of what is best for the City's water supply and quality needs;
- Present data to the public using audio-visual aids and printed material;
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
- Investigate and determine food habits and population estimates of various forms of wildlife;

- Work independently and analyze vegetation composition, density and plant vigor;
- Contribute to understanding groundwater and precipitation dynamics that effect vegetation communities to better manage water resources within the Eastern Sierra watershed;
- Establish proper grazing capacity of range land; and
- Develop and maintain an accurate record keeping system.

**Minimum Requirements:**

1. Graduation from a recognized four-year college or university with a degree in plant or animal ecology, biology, watershed management, soil science, fisheries biology, wetland ecology, range management, or natural resource management, and one year of professional experience or field coursework in any of the above fields.
2. Possession of a Master's degree from a recognized four-year college or university, in plant or animal ecology, biology, watershed management, soil science, fisheries biology, wetland ecology, range management, or natural resource management may be substituted for the required experience.

**License:** A valid California driver's license and a good driving record are required.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitation.

**As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties and responsibilities of any position shall be.**