



IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Wildlife Technician (Bison)	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-17008	Fort Smith	Wildlife and Forest Management/HQ

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Wildlife Technician (Bison) assists the Wildlife Biologist, Bison to conduct research, monitoring and management activities for wood bison and their habitat, conduct laboratory analysis of specimens, collect data, and assist in both data analysis and writing internal reports and technical publications.

SCOPE

Located in Fort Smith and reporting to the Wildlife Biologist (Bison), the Wildlife Technician (Bison) is responsible for conducting or supporting projects for wood bison management programs in cooperation with departmental wildlife staff. The Technician assists with the administration of a program budget including both internal and external funding. Information provided by this program is supports the department, co-management boards, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, industry, academia, other agencies, and the public to develop management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of wood bison and their habitat.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Collects data on abundance, reproduction, behavior, mortality, human harvest, range inventory, habitat use, development impacts, and health of wood bison as a basis for management programs by:**
 - Conducting aerial and ground surveys to determine population size, structure, trends, distribution and movements, and to monitor for disease outbreaks.
 - Conducting habitat and range use studies to determine habitat use.
 - Collecting specimens which will provide information on food habits and forage quality.
 - Locating, immobilizing, tagging, radio collaring, and radio tracking wood bison.

- Interviewing hunters, trappers, and other resource users about wood bison populations and harvest.
- Recording observations of wood bison while travelling in the region or as reported by others in the region.
- Obtaining samples which provide morphological, historical and physiological information or information on the incidence of parasites or diseases.

2. Conducts laboratory analysis of samples and tabulates results for interpretation by:

- Receiving, cataloguing and preparing for examination, biological materials collected by technicians, wildlife officers, biologists, external collaborators and the public.
- Analyzing specimens collected, such as teeth sectioned for age determination, reproductive tracts for determining ovulation and pregnancy rates, feces and rumen contents of ruminants for food habits and forage quality data, as well as scats and stomachs of carnivores for food habits.
- Identification of plant species and weighing plant specimens for range inventory studies.
- Maintaining familiarity with current development and improvements in laboratory procedures and techniques pertinent to study programs.
- Writing technical reports on laboratory findings.
- Supervision of persons assigned to assist in laboratory procedures.

3. Assists in writing wildlife research, monitoring and management reports and publications by:

- Compiling, tabulating, and summarizing raw data using appropriate statistical procedures.
- Creating, maintaining, and updating computer database files on specific wood bison management programs and providing the Wildlife Biologist (Bison) with current files and summaries.
- Preparing and presenting research information to a variety of audiences including Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, schools, public groups and departmental staff.

4. Assists in implementing wood bison management research and monitoring projects to provide information for management programs by:

- Ordering equipment and supplies.
- Maintaining inventories of field and laboratory equipment.
- Establishing and maintaining contacts with staff and communities to facilitate expedition of management objectives and field studies.
- Requesting information, reports and publications from other management groups, researchers and libraries.
- Maintaining a library of management related reports and publications which is easily accessible by a subject/author cross reference index.

5. Attends wildlife conferences, short courses, and scientific meetings to upgrade skills, abilities, and professional capabilities required while conducting assigned duties.

6. Performs miscellaneous duties such as writing letters, preparing wildlife research permits, making public information posters, and attending and participating in meetings intended to advise the public of management and research programs.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

Field and camp activities include loading/unloading aircraft, rolling drums, setting up field camps, hauling equipment, relocating, capturing and collaring wildlife (some individuals over 1000 kilograms).

While in the field, incumbent will experience frequent hiking in boreal forest, packing gear up to 30lbs and sitting for long periods of time to observe wildlife. Incumbent will be responsible for camp preparation and maintenance equipment repairs may be involved.

Environmental Conditions

Exposure to and risk of infection with serious or potentially fatal zoonotic diseases when handling wildlife, conducting field necropsies, and processing laboratory samples. Travel to remote field sites using small aircraft or alternative motor vehicle transport may be required.

Exposure to repeated, long-term high decibel noise from firearms, aircrafts, snowmobiles, ATVs, and working around heavy equipment. Exposure to extreme temperatures while doing active outdoor fieldwork. Flying in small aircraft for extended periods during surveys.

Position requires loaded firearms at the ready. Capture work may require handling powerful immobilizing drugs.

Sensory Demands

Activities that require active, concentrated levels of attention with more than one of the senses include: wearing flight headsets for many hours at a stretch listening for signals from radio collars while performing aerial surveys/radio tracking from an aircraft for many hours at a time.

Mental Demands

The incumbent is responsible for the safety and welfare of others and will ensure Departmental Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are followed pertaining to handling, storage and discharge of firearms.

Field trips occur approximately 15 times per year for an average of 3-4 days per trip, which can disrupt home life and routine.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- General knowledge of biology, wildlife ecology, population dynamics, and wildlife habitat studies.

- Knowledge of and ability to apply experimental design, range inventory methods and wildlife laboratory techniques including diet analysis, histology, necropsy procedures.
- Knowledge of and experience with data manipulation and statistical analyses, including spreadsheets, data tabulation and analysis, word processing, and graphics presentation.
- Ability to communicate knowledge in an understandable manner through written and oral presentations to a wide variety of audiences.
- Broad experience with survival skills and abilities in living on the land activities including outdoor camping, navigation and survival, mechanical repair, and proven ability to work under harsh field conditions.
- Understanding of traditional knowledge and culture, as well as western scientific principles, conservation and resource development issues.
- Ability to interact and work with wildlife users and hunters and trappers associations in a positive fashion. Ability to communicate research information through written and oral presentations to community groups, Hunters and Trappers organizations, co-management boards, staff and the general public on a regular basis.
- Ability to commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.

Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:

A combination of a Technical Diploma in Natural Resources with two to three years of related northern experience or a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology with one northern experience.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Position Security (check one)

No criminal records check required
 Position of Trust – criminal records check required
 Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check

French language (check one if applicable)

French required (must identify required level below)
 Level required for this Designated Position is:
 ORAL EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION
 Basic (B) Intermediate (I) Advanced (A)
 READING COMPREHENSION:
 Basic (B) Intermediate (I) Advanced (A)
 WRITING SKILLS:
 Basic (B) Intermediate (I) Advanced (A)
 French preferred

Indigenous language: Select language

- Required
- Preferred