



IDENTIFICATION

Department		Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change		Biologist (Ungulate Studies)	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region	
23-3364	Yellowknife	Wildlife Management	

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Biologist (Ungulate Studies) works with headquarters and regional staff to develop, conduct and interpret results from research and monitoring studies to support the management of ungulates in the NWT.

Administers the activities associated with these studies and provides information and advice on ungulates to headquarters and regional staff and other divisions, agencies, governments, wildlife co- management boards, regulatory boards and the public.

SCOPE

The Biologist (Ungulate Studies) is located in Headquarters and reports to the Ungulate Biologist. With direction from the Ungulate Biologist and in cooperation with other departmental staff, the incumbent is responsible for completing studies for the NWT ungulate program. The information is used by Environment and Natural Resources and wildlife co-management boards to develop management strategies and plans for the conservation and sustainable use of ungulates in the Northwest Territories. The incumbent also reviews and provides advice on ungulate studies developed by other departmental staff, co- management boards, Aboriginal governments, industry, academia and other agencies to ensure that to ensure the most current information and techniques are used.

The incumbent assists the Ungulate Biologist and the Manager with the administration of a program budget of \$250 K.

RESPONSIBILITIES



- 1. Provides assistance to the Ungulate Biologist to ensure ungulate use is ecologically sustainable, ungulate abundance and diversity is maintained and the Department's wildlife policies and strategies are professionally credible by:**
 - Preparing proposals for ungulate research and monitoring studies using the most current protocols as directed by the Ungulate Biologist.
 - Reviewing local, regional and other agency requests and proposals by evaluating and interpreting the results of studies by other agencies and determining the applicability of information, techniques and reviews.
 - Writing survey reports and contributing to peer-reviewed journal publications.
- 2. Develop partnerships with Departmental staff, other agencies, universities, industry, etc. to conduct ungulate and ungulate habitat research and monitoring activities to ensure ungulate management policies, advice and recommendations have a sound scientific basis by:**
 - Leading and conducting professionally credible surveys to define ungulate populations and determine their size trend, distribution, demographic parameters and health using humane techniques.
 - Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on ungulate data.
 - Coordinating analysis of laboratory samples.
 - Assisting with the capture and collaring of ungulates in accordance with the standards developed by the NWT Wildlife Care Committee.
 - Ensuring research and monitoring projects use the most current and effective techniques and equipment available.
- 3. Provides advice to the Department, outside agencies, co-management partners and users on ungulate studies by:**
 - Participating in meetings related to survey planning and logistics, technical and ungulate management.
 - Meeting or corresponding with Departmental staff, industry, other government agencies, academics, and consulting firms to discuss proposed studies.
 - Attending local, regional, territorial, national and international conferences, workshops and meetings as required.
 - Presenting information on ungulate studies and research and monitoring results at meetings, workshops, and conferences.
- 4. Assists the Ungulate Biologist with the administration of the activities associated with Ungulate Program by:**
 - Developing safety standards for ungulate field studies.
 - Interviewing and selecting permanent or term technician employees, casuals and contractors.
 - Developing work plans with subordinates and designating their responsibilities.



- Evaluating work performance and appraising subordinates.
- Preparing and administering service contracts, contribution agreements and requisitions in accordance with GNWT financial standards.
- Preparing and documenting annual estimates, variances and forecasts for program budget, equipment, and facilities.
- Coordinating transportation and logistical support for field studies
- Administering annual budget expenditures up to \$250K.
- Allocating equipment and facilities to projects within the studies.
- Maintaining equipment and inventories.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

Field trips average 3-6 weeks per year resulting in long and irregular hours. On occasion, field work may involve hiking in rough terrain, and packing gear up to 30 lbs. Field work may require sitting still for long periods of time to observe wildlife or driving snowmobiles or ATVs for extended periods. Aerial surveys (helicopter or aircraft) involve sitting in a small confined space for long hours. Work involves physical demands. Capture and re-location of wildlife may be required.

Environmental Conditions

While in the field, the incumbent may be in isolated field camps with no immediate medical aid available. The incumbent may also be exposed to extreme weather conditions. The incumbent may be exposed to health hazards while handling biological specimens during captures, necropsies or lab analyses (brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, rabies and parasites). Capture work may require handling powerful immobilizing drugs, and loaded firearms.

The incumbent may be exposed to physical danger when traveling in aircraft.

Sensory Demands

The incumbent may experience physical discomfort from wearing headsets for many hours when participating in aerial surveys and/or radio-tracking. Eye fatigue may occur while searching for wildlife and tracks while conducting aerial surveys.

Mental Demands

The incumbent will experience disruption of family life while in remote field locations for extended periods of time. The incumbent is subject to pressures to meet deadlines, conduct successful field surveys, and plan for surveys in remote locations.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES



- Knowledge of conservation biology, wildlife population and community dynamics, and habitat assessment techniques including laboratory, field and statistical techniques.
- Technical experience in conducting wildlife biology field studies in remote areas.
- Working in cross cultural environments.
- Understanding of wildlife management processes under land claims agreements.
- Proven ability to communicate in English to a variety of audiences through written and oral presentations.
- Good computer skills and ability to work with a variety of software including GIS applications and Microsoft systems.
- Ability to operate and maintain specialized scientific equipment.
- Experience with research and monitoring proposal preparation and development and administration of study budgets.
- Must have or be able to obtain a drivers license and firearms acquisition certificate.
- 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:

Typically, these knowledge, skills and abilities may be attained through the successful completion of a B.Sc. in one of the natural science disciplines - biology, wildlife biology, ecology, wildlife management, environmental studies, environmental science or resource management.

A minimum of three years of experience conducting relevant field studies on ungulates, analyzing data, and preparing reports/publications on the results of these studies.

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