



## IDENTIFICATION

<b>Department</b>	<b>Position Title</b>	
Environment and Climate Change	Wildlife Technician II	
<b>Position Number</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Division/Region</b>
23-3971	Fort Smith	South Slave

## PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Wildlife Technician II (Technician II) assists the Regional Biologist (Biologist) to conduct studies on assigned species and their habitats, 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 Manager, Wildlife Research and Monitoring (Manager), the Wildlife Technician II cooperates with departmental wildlife biologists and management staff to conduct projects for wildlife management programs throughout the Fort Smith Region. The position assists with the administration of a program budget comprised of both internal and external funding. Information provided by this program is required by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), co-management boards, Indigenous organizations, Hunters and Trappers organizations, industry, universities, other agencies, and the public to develop management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and their habitats.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Collects data on abundance, reproduction, behaviour, mortality, human harvest, range inventory, habitat use, development impacts, and health of wildlife as a basis for management programs.**
  - Locating, immobilizing, tagging, radio collaring and collecting wildlife species.
  - Conducting aerial and ground surveys to determine population size, structure, trends, distribution, and movements.
  - Conducting range inventory and range use studies to determine stocking rates and to determine habitat use.



- Collecting specimens which will provide information on food habits and forage quality.
- Interviewing hunters, trappers, and other resource users about wildlife populations and harvest.
- Recording observations of wildlife while travelling in the region or as reported by others in the region.
- Obtaining specimens which provide morphological, histological, and physiological information or information on the incidence of parasites or diseases.

**2. Conducts laboratory analysis of specimens and tabulates results for interpretation.**

- Receiving, cataloguing, and preparing for examination, biological materials collected by technicians, wildlife officers, biologists, and contracted or cooperative agencies.
- 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 management study reports and publications for technical reports and journals.**

- Compiling, tabulating, and summarizing raw data using appropriate statistical procedures.
- Creating, maintaining, and updating computer database files on specific wildlife management programs and providing the Regional Biologist with current files and summaries in hard copy form.
- Preparing and presenting research information to a variety of audiences including Indigenous government committees, schools, public groups and departmental staff.

**4. Assists in designing and implementing wildlife management studies to provide information for management programs.**

- Ordering equipment and supplies.
- Maintaining inventories of field and laboratory equipment.
- Establishing and maintaining contacts with field staff, and clients 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 that will upgrade the skills, abilities, and professional capabilities while conducting assigned duties Supporting activities of the above responsibility.**

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 trips average 10 weeks per year. In addition to job duties, camp duties include cooking, hauling water, burning garbage, and general upkeep of camp resulting in long and irregular hours. Hiking on barren grounds, boreal forest, mountains in rough terrain, packing gear up to 30 lbs. Sitting still for extended periods of time to observe wildlife. Loading/unloading aircraft, rolling drums, setting up field camp, setting up bear fencing, digging pits, hauling equipment. Capturing, collaring, relocating wildlife.

### **Environmental Conditions**

Exposure to extreme temperatures. Health hazard in handling biological specimens during necropsies or lab analysis or live animals which may be diseased or contain parasites (brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, rabies, and parasites). Some can be life threatening. Capture work requires handling powerful immobilizing drugs. Loaded firearms at the ready. Physical danger in low-level flying in helicopter and small, single engine aircraft. Very loud noises by aircraft. Exposure to formaldehyde, foul or rancid smells while conducting necropsies or collecting specimens.

### **Sensory Demands**

On aerial surveys/radio tracking long survey flights headsets are required for many hours at a time listening for signals from radio collars. Visually searching for wildlife or tracks from an aircraft, for hours at a time. Heightened awareness of changes in weather conditions possible dangers in helicopter flying.

### **Mental Demands**

Disruption of family life. Isolated camps, lack of privacy. Lack of control over work pace due to



weather. Responsible for others in camp. Danger of people becoming "bushed" or unstable with loaded firearms close at hand. Subject to public scrutiny when community representatives are at camps.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

- Knowledge of biology, wildlife ecology, population dynamics, and wildlife habitat studies.
- Knowledge of and ability to apply experimental design and statistical analysis, wildlife laboratory technique, diet analysis, histology, necropsy techniques, and range inventory methods.
- Knowledge of and experience with computers including spread sheet, data tabulation and analysis, word processing, and graphics presentation.
- Ability to write illustrated reports.
- 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:**

Completion of a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology with a minimum of one (1) year experience.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

The position requires a Firearms Acquisition Certificate and a valid Driver's License.  
**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