

Job Description:

The Department Bighorn Sheep Biologist position is classified as a "Zoologist and Wildlife Biologist-Advanced" with a salary ranging from \$31,785 to \$55,300.

The Basics:

Biologists have earned at least a Bachelor's Degree in biology, fisheries science/management, wildlife science/management, animal science, ecology or similar related natural resource degree and have two years directly related work experience.

What they do:

The position coordinates the Department's statewide bighorn sheep management program. This job requires working with Department staff to collect, analyze, and report population, harvest, disease, and trend information. This person helps develop management goals, transplant projects, and harvest regulation recommendations. The biologist collects scientific data on bighorn sheep and their habitat and writes technical and management reports for the public and for scientific journals. There is also a fair amount of important 'paperwork' such as coordinating federal grants and the work of outside contractors.

Working Conditions

Bighorn sheep biologists have both time in the office and out in the field-often in remote, rugged conditions. They spend extended periods traveling to various locations around the state. This job requires physical strength and stamina to hike and work at high elevations (for Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep this can be mean over 11,000 feet) and safely drive 4-wheel drive vehicles over highways and narrow mountainous roads. When working on desert bighorn sheep they are often in remote, dry, dusty, hot areas.

Biologists operate $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4 wheel drive vehicles, and may include 'goose-neck' and bumper-hitch trailers. Travel may include horseback, helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft, ATV's, or snowmobiles. Specific tools they have to know how to use may include; GPS, GIS, radio telemetry, cameras, spotting scopes, binoculars, capture equipment such as net-guns, dart guns, drop nets, drive nets, clover traps, corral traps and laboratory items such as syringes, scalpels, microscopes, stethoscopes, thermometers, and standard construction tools such as drills, saws, shovels, wrenches, axes, and chainsaws.

Biologists have to maintain a valid New Mexico Driver's License and pass a pre-employment background investigation.