

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

AGRICULTURE LAND AND WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST III

POSITION CODE: 00833

Effective: 9-1-98

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general direction, provides leadership, direction, and technical assistance to department staff, elected public officials, governmental agencies, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), and the public on land and water resource issues; develops and implements programs to protect and conserve the State's land and water resources; develops and implements long-range management and strategy plans for the protection and conservation of land and water resources; assists in the administration of land and water resources laws and policies, including the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act, the Farmland Preservation Act, the Surface Coal Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act, and other related Acts; reviews and analyzes the potential impact various state agency policies, programs and activities may have on land and water resources; develops and implements programs which will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and conserve land and water resources; testifies on department policies and positions; develops agency position papers, speeches, etc.; verifies collected data which will support the activities relating to land and water resource conservation and protection programs; confers with managers across organizational lines on policy and program development practices concerning areas of land and water resource conservation, protection and preservation.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Collects data, develops and prepares the State's land and water protection and conservation plan; reviews and analyzes land and water protection and conservation projects submitted by SWCDs and federal, state and local agencies; provides advice and guidance on project selection and monitors progress of selected projects; serves as a representative of the Department of Agriculture on various committees; prepares position papers, policy statements and working agreements, prepares rough drafts of documents for review and comment by bureau managers.

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2. Implements the goals and objectives of the Farmland Preservation Act, Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act, Agriculture Areas Conservation and Protection Act, Surface Coal Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act, and other related Acts; reviews farmland conversion projects and mining permit applications to determine compliance with pertinent laws, agreements, and agency policy statements on the protection of Illinois farmland; meets with SWCDs and other interested groups to explain, assist and coordinate the development of watershed projects, flood control programs and SWCD programs; educates, consults and advises on matters pertaining to land and water resource conservation and protection laws, regulations and programs.
3. Coordinates and assists in the administration of grants and special funding of federal, state and local projects; drafts agency position papers or prepares speeches on land and water protection and conservation issues for management; testifies in hearings and in courts of law on land and water issues related to the bureau's responsibilities; ensures that the Department of Agriculture's perspectives are included in projects, proposals, proposed rules, regulations, laws, etc.; promotes the conservation of Illinois land and water resources through meetings, conferences, training seminars, etc.
4. Directs personnel engaged in research studies conducted within the state's university system on agricultural issues; verifies collected data and evaluates the validity and reliability of data which is used in management decisions governing the bureau's policies and programs; analyzes policies and programs of related land and water issues of federal, state and local government agencies; provides training and educational programs to agencies, elected officials and the public.
5. Reviews and evaluates laws and regulations governing the development and management of land and water resources; recommends necessary legislation and administrative controls for guiding overall resource development, water quality improvement and the protection and conservation of land and water resources.

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6. Participates in the formulation of rules and regulations, and amendments to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act, Water Use Act, Farmland Preservation Act, Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act and updating of the Statewide Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System.
7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires knowledge, skill and mental development equivalent to completion of four years of college with course work in agriculture, natural resources management, conservation, rural sociology, agricultural economics, land use planning, geography and public/business administration.

Requires four years of progressively responsible professional experience in land and water conservation program development, conducting research in land and water resource issues or in mined land reclamation.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Requires extensive knowledge of watershed management issues as they relate to agriculture, conservation and land and water resource conservation.

Requires extensive knowledge of the mining industry as it relates to the reclamation of agricultural soils.

Requires thorough knowledge of the organizational structure and functions of SWCDs and state, federal and local agencies responsible for administering land and water conservation and protection laws and programs as well as mined land reclamation programs.

Requires thorough knowledge of state and federal land and water resource conservation laws, state and federal mined land reclamation laws, rules and programs.

Requires thorough knowledge of the methods and procedures and techniques utilized in determining the impact of various project proposals on the State's resources.

Requires thorough knowledge of the effects of water pollution caused by silt damage.

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Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (Continued)

Requires ability to independently plan and develop projects by gathering, compiling and drawing logical conclusions from a variety of agricultural data and other related information.

Requires ability to express self effectively, orally and in writing.

Requires ability to prepare recommendations regarding agricultural policy.

Requires ability to establish and maintain satisfactory working relationships with fellow workers.

Requires ability to analyze and evaluate agency policy and programs concerning land and water resources and mined land reclamation.

Requires ability to conduct primary and secondary research to validate submitted data.

Requires ability to give technical advice to parties interested in mined land reclamation as well as land and water conservation and watershed development programs.

Requires ability to investigate and assess reclamation and land and water resource problems.