

SOSCP Land Use Biologist Contract Description

Reporting to the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) Manager, and working closely with senior municipal/regional planning staff, this unique advisory and technical contract position is responsible for environmental review, policy, and technical land use assistance, ensuring that plans, policies and projects reflect an integrated approach for biodiversity and improved environmental conservation practices on behalf of the municipalities/regional district.

This position involves a variety of planning and technical activities and/or projects including; developing and/or interpreting mapping, assisting with the development and implementation of environmental bylaws and other regulatory or policy processes, undertaking a biological review of development applications and environmental assessments, field work and high-level environmental assessments where required, assisting with strategic responses and approaches, implementation plans, policies and procedures relating to environmental issues, as well as technical, regulatory and administrative advice and assistance, as required.

Duties Include:

Development of Environmental Policies:

- Provides leadership in the development of bylaws, policies and procedures that allow for environmentally sensitive development within the regional district or municipality.
- Provides biological and environmental conservation expertise in the development or amendment of Official Community Plans and related environmental policies and implementation bylaws.
- Provides ongoing assessment of existing environmental procedures and future needs and assists in the development of short, medium and long range plans for environmental management.
- Develops and implements community stewardship practices in partnership with local community groups, not-for-profits agencies, other levels of government and other community stakeholders.
- Coordinates any environmental studies including field reviews requested by local governments.
- Provides technical and regulatory input and advice from an environmental perspective related to local government planning projects.

Liaise on Environmental Issues with Other Levels of Government and the General Public:

- Assist SOSCP with outreach and extension to elected officials, stakeholder groups and public for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Provides SOSCP Manager with assistance re: administration aspects of this contract including reporting and grant writing.
- Provides information to Municipal Council/Regional Board, staff, developers, business and industry representatives and the general public on policies, regulations, procedures, and matters relating to the environment.
- Attends, as required, meetings of Board, Council, Environmental Advisory Committees, regional governance committees, as well as public hearings and other public meetings as a contracted resource to local governments.
- Liaises with provincial ministries, consultants, and other government agencies to ensure compliance with environmental legislation.
- Assists as a liaison between local governments and senior government ministries and agencies, other local governments, and industry on environmental issues.
- Develops and presents public education/communication sessions on environmental issues to various community groups.

Ensure Compliance with Environmental Policies:

- Reviews provincial and federal legislation regarding environmental issues and recommends appropriate policy and practice to ensure compliance.
- Participates in the development of comprehensive, sector, and/or neighbourhood plans to ensure best management practices and compliance with municipal environmental policies and standards, as well as provincial and federal environmental regulations.
- Provides input on parks and recreation, including parkland dedication, acceptance of donations, potential siting, design and management related to parkland and trails.
- Provides environmental screening, field environmental assessments for small lots, review of environmental assessments submitted, plans, and monitoring of development permit provisions.
- Provides expertise and advice on issues pertaining to the review of major capital and maintenance projects to ensure compliance with municipal environmental policies and standards and provincial and federal environmental regulations; the review of other environmental permits and approvals as required by either municipal regulations or legislation of senior levels of government; and the review

of development permits, subdivision, building permit and development variance permit applications.

- Develops an annual achievement plan in conjunction with local government senior staff.
- Ensures risk management and liability exposures are addressed and monitored.
- Ensures awareness and compliance with corporate policies and procedures.

Required Education and Experience:

- Post-Secondary degree in biological sciences (including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, conservation biology, fish and wildlife management and biodiversity) Natural Resources Management, Environmental Planning, or equivalent combination of education, experience and training.
- Thorough knowledge of South Okanagan Similkameen terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems.
- 3 to 5 years of increasingly responsible professional environmental management experience.
- Valid BC Driver's Licence – Class 5.
- Registered as Professional Biologist (RPBio) in B.C. with the College of Applied Biology, or eligible to become a Professional Biologist within 6 months.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience in a professional biological capacity including: development or review of development proposals, subdivisions, development permits, and environmental assessments.
- Experience with geospatial analysis and environmental data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and thorough working knowledge of species and ecosystems databases.
- Detailed knowledge of municipal, provincial and federal environmental regulations, reporting requirements, standards and codes of practice.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the planning and land use legislation applicable to Municipal and other local governments in British Columbia.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a commitment to teamwork and customer service.
- Strong presentation and public speaking abilities, with experience and/or training in facilitation methods.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.

- MS Office and related software, general office equipment.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to analyze data, prepare written correspondence and reports, prepare and make presentations to staff, the public, and elected officials.

Preferred Education and Experience:

- Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, conservation biology, biodiversity and natural resources management, Environmental Planning, Natural Resources Management and 6 years related experience; or
- Master Degree in biological sciences, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, conservation biology, biodiversity and natural resources management, Environmental Planning, Natural Resources Management or and 3- 4 years related experience;
- Other relevant equivalent combination of education, experience and training maybe considered.
- Experience in working with local, regional, and/or senior levels of government on implementation of environmental legislation, policies and procedures.
- Experience in a local government planning environment.
- Thorough and demonstrated knowledge of the principles, practices and trends in urban and regional planning, including methodology related to environmental issues.