

WYOMING GAME WARDEN

This job is as an entry level position that is a career track to a senior game warden. The position performs and assists with various required duties including law enforcement with an emphasis on watercraft, wildlife management data collection/management decisions, wildlife conflict/damage resolution including injured and nuisance wildlife calls, daily contacts with wide variety of external constituent groups and internal Department employees, participates in training, and other miscellaneous jobs as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS - % OF TIME

Law Enforcement/Watercraft Safety – 35%

Work independently or with other officers to enforce/check compliance with hunting, fishing, trapping and watercraft statutes and regulations as well as littering and state land camping, open fires and off/closed road travel restrictions. Write enforcement reports, attend court, work with other enforcement agencies, conduct investigations, and collect intelligence. Conduct courtesy watercraft safety and registration inspections along with HIN, VIN and AIS inspections. Carry and maintain law enforcement weapons and gear

Wildlife Management – 20%

Collect/summarize wildlife data, from both ground and air, to determine distribution, abundance, recruitment, hunter harvest and mortality causes of wildlife. Work with senior wildlife biologists and senior game wardens on hunting season strategies and recommendations. Assist with trapping/collecting/sampling wildlife for research projects and disease surveillance. Assist with the trapping and transplanting of wildlife.

Wildlife Damage, Conflicts and Injured/Nuisance Wildlife – 20%

Assist senior game wardens and senior wildlife biologists with wildlife damage issues to include investigations, data collection and delivering damage materials to mitigate conflict. Respond to and appropriately handle injured and nuisance wildlife calls which may require euthanization of wildlife. Use chemical and mechanical immobilization equipment and techniques when necessary and appropriate. Use firearms to euthanize wildlife

Public and Agency Contacts and Communication – 15%

On a daily basis, develops and maintains effective working relationships and communicates/coordinates with Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees. Makes regular public contacts, both in the field and office setting, with landowners, sportsmen, boaters, public-at-large, conservation groups, government agencies and non-government organizations. Provide information and education on various wildlife topics and boating safety as well as the wide variety of other Department issues. Develop and present structured education and information programs related to watercraft safety and hunter education

Training – 10%

Participate in law enforcement (including firearms and intermediate weapons), wildlife management, wildlife conflict resolution/damage, injured wildlife, immobilization of wildlife, equipment (motorized and non-motorized), dealing with the public and other training as assigned or deemed necessary. Required to attend and successfully complete/pass the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy Peace Officer Basic.

TYPICAL CHALLENGES

- Learning and becoming competent/comfortable with all the duties and requirements of a game warden.
- Constraints on time and the ability to balance and prioritize time to be the most efficient and effective to get the work completed.
- Balancing the demands and workload of the game warden position with those demands outside of the work environment.
- The game warden position is an entry-level position. Promotions to a senior game warden district are based on application/interviews to fill vacated senior game warden districts based on transfers or retirements. An employee could be at the game warden level for many years if there are not available senior game warden position vacancies.
- The position is on call to respond to job requirements.

MOST COMPLEX CHALLENGES

- Watercraft accident investigations where injuries or death occurs.
- Becoming knowledgeable in the various Wyoming statutes, Commission regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to law enforcement and Department operations.
- At times working alone conducting law enforcement duties in remote areas, without direct contact or supervision, and having to handle the situation based on your skills, knowledge and training.
- Use of force decisions in situations that are tense, uncertain and evolving rapidly.

EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION/LICENSING

- A Bachelor's degree in wildlife management, range management, biology, zoology, ichthyology or closely related field are required. Other bachelor's degrees may be considered with at least 20 hours of wildlife-related coursework as evidenced on transcripts.
- Must have passed the Wyoming Game Warden Examination,
- Must become and maintain a Wyoming peace officer certification as per the Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements.
- Wildlife immobilization training and certification.
- Pass Commission Policy requirement on use of firearms, intermediate weapons, custody/control, and use of force.
- Custody/Control and Firearms Instructors must be certified by the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

- Good physical condition.
- Be able to work in various weather conditions and environments.
- Must be able to work all days of the week and varied work hours, including weekends and early mornings, evenings/late nights.
- Excellent inter-personal communications skills, both oral and written.
- Knowledge of wildlife life history and habitat requirements to support wildlife.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to analyze information and make appropriate decisions.
- Ability to work without direct supervision or to work alone or as a team.
- Ability to safely operate motorized equipment including 4x4 pickup truck, boats/personal watercraft, ATVs, and snowmobiles.
- Ability to safely and appropriately handle live wildlife in a variety of sensitive and hazardous conditions.
- Ability to collect data as an observer in a small aircraft (fixed wing and helicopter).
- Ability to utilize and handle firearms (enforcement and hunting) and pass Department firearms qualification requirements and testing.
- Ability to perform and pass Department custody/control and intermediate weapons requirements and use of force testing.
- Knowledge of Wyoming Statutes Title 23 and Title 41 Chapter 13, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulations and various other Wyoming Statutes
- Working knowledge of computer software and hardware
- The position is on call to respond to job requirements.
- The position requires lifting of heavy objects and strenuous physical exertion at times.