

THE INDUSTRY AND THE JOB

Natural Resource/Environmental Technology in the State of Washington

The state of Washington is blessed with abundant natural resources including old growth forests, prime soils, pristine waters (both fresh and salt), mountains, beaches, and a diversity of fish and wildlife. Both aquaculture and agriculture are thriving businesses, providing products to not only the USA but also the world. The diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities (like hiking, fishing & hunting, water sports, mountain climbing and bicycling to name a few), provides a playground for both residents and many annual visitors; the resident population is growing at a phenomenal rate.

The price we pay for these 'environmental privileges' is the potential degradation of our resources in quantity and/or quality. The presence of these resources brings with it the obligations of sustainability and protection, alleviation of pollution, preservation and conservation. No matter who we are, where we work, or what our personal philosophy is, we all benefit from living in and among such natural beauty and opportunity.

Those who work within the natural resource/environmental industry are charged with finding solutions to difficult and complex problems, balancing the needs of people and the need for economic prosperity with maintenance and protection of the natural environment for the benefit of all. Careful planning is needed; fair laws with enforced compliance are necessary; and thorough and reliable data must be collected to determine courses of action. This is where technical expertise becomes a mandate. This is where highly skilled trained technicians find a role.

This Manual...

Describes the Function and tasks performed by resource semi-professionals in four broad technical categories or job clusters: forestry, fisheries, environmental and natural resources. These categories carry somewhat region-specific job descriptions and titles, although they may well apply to other regions of the country as well. Three scenarios describe routine, crisis, and long-term situations relating to each job cluster.

Safety, always of primary importance, is described specifically in some job tasks but assumed to be present and utilized in every task and function.