

Who we are:

Transportation is so basic that many of us overlook its overwhelming importance in our daily lives. Practically everything used in our homes, offices, or schools across Tennessee – from furniture to food items to clothing – requires a large and complex transportation network. The Tennessee Department of Transportation provides citizens of Tennessee and travelers with one of the best transportation systems in the country. TDOT is a multimodal agency with responsibilities in building and maintaining roads, aviation, public transit, waterways, railroads, cycling and walking. Our involvement ranges from airport improvements to funding transit buses to planning for river ports. The Department of Transportation has approximately 3,500 employees with four statewide region facilities in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and Jackson. TDOT Aeronautics is located near the John C. Tune Airport in Nashville, TN.



Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist
Environmental Division – Ecology Section
Nashville, TN
\$99,864 annually

Job Overview

The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist supports the implementation of innovative concepts that improve performance and increase the sustainability of TDOT's transportation system related to the identification, classification, and documentation of natural resources associated with TDOT transportation projects. This position administers the program consistent with Federal and State statutes, regulations, policies, and guidance. The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist role requires collaboration with both internal and external partners to develop environmental policies, procedures, standards, manuals, and related training for TDOT.

The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist ensures Department policies, technical guidance, procedures, software, and systems related to natural resources are current and accurate for incorporation into the project delivery process. This position assists in implementing the Quality Assurance Program as part of the Environmental Division activities. This position provides statewide guidance and oversight of the identification, classification, assessment, documentation, and interagency consultation of natural resources for TDOT transportation projects. The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist assists with monitoring and managing the scope, schedule, and budgets of all ecology-related projects and works with the Project Management Division as necessary to ensure that the work completed is in alignment with the Environmental Division's goals.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Effectively coordinate with NEPA; Cultural Resources; Air Quality, Noise and HazMat; and Mitigation in developing ecology studies documents.

Develop, implement, and maintain statewide procedures and guidance that promote uniformity and consistency of ecology study documents.

Assist ecology staff in providing the Permits/Mitigation/Compliance Unit with the required ecology project information needed to include in permit applications.

Participate in the Project Teams as part of a matrix organization consistent with the Project Delivery Network (PDN), delivering all products and services as required and

providing input at all applicable project milestones including Project Kick Off, Risk Workshops, Project Scoping Meetings, Field Reviews and Plans, Specs and Estimate meeting.

Identify, classify, document, assess, and complete interagency consultations for natural resource features associated with applicable projects.

Conduct and/or coordinate ecology studies for TDOT Alternative Delivery Contracting projects.

Serve on selection committees for professional engineering services as part of the Brooks Act, including assistance with RFP development, attendance at project-specific marketing meetings, assistance with determining scoring criteria, assistance with project information sessions, when applicable, serving as a scorer as part of the consultant acquisition process, and attendance at de-briefs for consultants where usable feedback must be provided.

Manage and direct consultants performing ecology studies.

Routinely collaborate with HQ and Asset Management to identify and document knowledge on industry best practices to avoid past errors and ensure TDOT project successes. Assist with modifications to all applicable policies, procedures, design standards, specifications, and special provisions. Develop, implement, and maintain statewide policies that promote uniformity and consistency of ecology studies' documents.

Provide exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers, including mentoring and technical guidance, coordinating with other disciplines as part of a matrix organization, exercising effective listening skills, providing prompt responses, maintaining complete and accurate documentation, and communicating effectively.

Assist in the development of training related to ecology requirements, analysis, and documentation that addresses acquired knowledge, asset management objectives, risk management, technical design elements, and emerging technologies related to transportation for the purpose of improving team performance, creating a stronger understanding of the transportation industry, inspiring new ideas, and developing skills.

Assist in ensuring ecology deliverables are consistent, predictable, and repeatable to provide for high levels of achievement, mitigation of risk, and an established track record of success.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Natural or Environmental Sciences (e.g., Ecology, Biology, Fisheries, Wildlife, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science with a Biology focus) or a related field.
- 8 years of demonstrated competency in an environmental field.

OR

- Master's Degree in Natural or Environmental Sciences (e.g., Ecology, Biology, Fisheries, Wildlife, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science with a Biology focus) or a related field.
- 7 years of demonstrated competency in an environmental field.

Ideal Candidate

The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist is a highly skilled professional who possesses exceptional critical thinking abilities. They are experts in assessing and addressing complex issues related to natural resources, and their expertise is invaluable in developing effective strategies to manage risks and mitigate potential hazards. The Statewide Ecology Technical Specialist is dedicated to working as part of a team and understands the importance of cooperation and coordination with their team members and stakeholders. They are detail-oriented and meticulous in their work. They analyze data and information with a keen eye for detail, ensuring that all aspects of the ecology study process are addressed and accounted for. They are also excellent problem solvers and are able to identify and resolve issues quickly and efficiently.