

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.



Ecology Senior Technical Specialist

Environmental Division – Technical Studies Section, Ecology
Nashville, TN
\$75,204 annually

Job Overview

The Ecology Senior Technical Specialist will work independently and in a team setting, providing support and expertise to the Ecology Unit, Technical Studies Section, Project Teams, and the Department. This position will assist the Ecology Team Lead by providing the Project Teams with technically sound and timely ecology information and deliverables, while ensuring compliance with Federal and State requirements pertaining to identification, classification, assessment, documentation, and interagency consultation of natural resources for TDOT projects. This position will apply Quality Assurance/Quality Control processes for ecology-related products, implement best practices, and mentor and train the team's Ecology Technical Specialist. This position will provide the Permits, Mitigation, and Compliance Units with the required ecology information needed to include in permit applications and to assist in document compliance. This position will assist the Ecology Team Lead and Statewide Technical Specialist with the planning and implementation of the Technical Studies Section performance metrics/plans, schedules and budgets, development of various technical reports, and assurance of continuity and consistency.

The Ecology Senior Technical Specialist role requires collaboration with TDOT Divisions, Project Teams, consultants, contractors, and external stakeholders. This position must effectively articulate technical concepts as part of a matrix organization and through training and mentoring. The Ecology Senior Technical Specialist will assist with ensuring all Technical Studies Section deliverables are applicable and readily accessible to assist with timely, accurate, and efficient decision-making. This position requires critical thinking with a focus on problem-solving to make well-informed decisions that increase the safety, performance, sustainability, and efficient delivery of TDOT's transportation system.

Essential Job Responsibilities

Identify, classify, document, assess, and complete interagency consultations for natural resource features associated with all phases of applicable projects. Field studies, desktop reviews, and meetings with internal and external partners may be required to complete these activities.

Utilize available GIS data sets and online data sources provided by, but not limited to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), US Geological Survey (USGS), and National Park Service (NPS) in the review of TDOT projects.

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, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) meeting. Assist the Project Teams by providing expertise for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of adverse effects measures to identified ecology resources.

Provide the Permits, Mitigation, and Compliance Units with the required ecology information needed to include in permit applications and to assist in documenting compliance.

Assist the Ecology Team Lead in the management of external partners, including the negotiation of contracts, review of consultant invoicing, development of scopes, management of contract tasks, and completion of consultant grading.

Coordinate with the Ecology Team Lead to assist in the development and delivery of Ecology training and technical guidance that addresses acquired knowledge, risk management, technical design elements, and emerging technologies related to improving team performance and developing skills.

Provide workload information to assist with the development of Consultant Acquisition Plans (CAP) and in the oversight of external partners, including assisting with scope of work development, attending project-specific marketing meetings, serving on selection committees, assisting with determining scoring criteria, assisting with project information sessions, serving as a scorer as part of the consultant acquisition process, and attending de-briefs for consultants where usable feedback must be provided.

Provide exceptional customer service to both internal and external customers by exercising effective listening skills, providing prompt responses, maintaining complete and accurate documentation, and communicating effectively. Ensure successful strategic partnerships with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and local agencies to effectively implement TDOT's vision statewide. Provide mentoring to TDOT staff, consultants, and local agencies with respect to the Ecology Unit.

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. Remain current with applicable State and Federal Regulations that impact the deliverables developed by the Ecology Unit.

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.
- 3 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.
- 2 years of demonstrated competency in an environmental field.

Ideal Candidate

The Ecology Senior Technical Specialist is a skilled professional with strong critical thinking abilities. They are experienced in assessing and addressing complex issues related to natural resources, contributing invaluable insights in developing effective strategies to manage risks and mitigate potential hazards. The Ecology Senior Technical

Specialist is committed to collaborative teamwork and understands the significance of coordination with their team members and stakeholders. They are detail-oriented, carefully analyzing data and information, ensuring that all aspects of the ecology study process are addressed. They excel in problem-solving, swiftly identifying and resolving issues with efficiency.