

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION**

RANGER

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under Wis. Admin. Code ER 2.04 for making classification decisions relative to credentialed law enforcement Ranger positions within the Department of Natural Resources. Positions are primarily responsible for assuring the public's safety by providing law enforcement, recreation management, resource protection, public safety, education, preventative enforcement, facility management, security and administrative activities within the assigned area. Positions in this classification have arrest powers, may conduct search and seizures, issue citations and warnings, conduct investigations, and perform other functions that can only be carried out by individuals that hold and maintain law enforcement credentials. This classification specification is not intended to identify every duty, which may be assigned to positions, but is intended to serve as a framework for classification decision making in this occupational area. Classification decisions must be based on the "best fit" of the duties within the existing classification structure. The "best fit" is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following definition statements: listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

Positions allocated to this classification have full police authority on DNR owned or managed property and expanded authority elsewhere in the state to maintain public safety in a recreational setting or defined geographic area; enforce all Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Codes on Department-owned or managed properties and function as (1) a Park Ranger, responsible for performing the full range of law enforcement activities, a wide range and variety of maintenance, program development, visitor services/interpretative activities and public contact duties on the property within the State Park, (2) a Forest Ranger, responsible for performing the full range of law enforcement activities, both on the State Forest and the assigned geographic area, a wide range and variety of maintenance, program development, visitor services/interpretative activities and public contact duties on the property within the State Forest, or (3) an Assistant Property Manager, responsible for assisting in the overall management of the State Forest/Park/Recreational Area in addition to performing law enforcement, maintenance, development, and public contact duties within the property.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions which do not meet the statutory definitions of professional employee as defined in s. 111.81(15), Wis. Stats., as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Positions within the Department of Natural Resources that function as Conservation Wardens performing the full range of resource and environmental law enforcement activities and have the law enforcement authority outside of DNR lands for a majority (over 50%) of the time, and are more appropriately classified as Conservation Warden.
3. Positions which are stationed at a specific DNR property and are more appropriately classified as Park Manager.
4. All positions better identified by other classification titles or series.

D. Entrance Into This Classification

Employees enter positions within this classification by competition.

II. DEFINITIONS

RANGER

Positions allocated to this classification are primarily responsible for performing the following law enforcement activities within the assigned State Park, Forest, or Recreational Area a majority (over 50%) of the position's time. Positions meet one of the following two allocations: (1) the Division of Forestry, Bureau of Forest Protection, acting as the primary state forest law enforcement officer within the designated geographic area, which includes authority beyond state properties; or (2) the Division of Lands, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, stationed on designated properties owned or under the management, control, lease, and/or supervision of the DNR.

Positions are responsible for conducting random patrols on state land and water; enforcing laws, rules and regulations; issuing verbal and written warnings and/or citations to visitors to achieve compliance with laws and regulations; responding to law enforcement-related complaints; directing the activities of permanent and limited-term law enforcement personnel; seizing, holding and disposing of evidence for court; testifying in court; checking licenses, tags, permits and registrations; reviewing citations for completeness and accuracy; developing reports related to law enforcement activities within the park/forest; conducting investigations of accidents, fires and incidents on state lands; acting as Court Officer; monitoring chain of evidence for all items seized and conducting proper disposition of items; attending and presenting law enforcement training; serving as the region's armorer; providing law enforcement assistance to law enforcement officers outside of normal park/forest law enforcement duties; and working with Conservation Wardens. Additional responsibilities include a wide variety of public contact, visitor information, maintenance, program development, property budget and related administrative duties. Positions function under general supervision.

Representative Positions:

Park Ranger: Under general supervision, this position provides law enforcement duties within assigned State Park or Recreational Area which include enforcing laws, rules and regulations; responding to law enforcement-related complaints, issuing verbal and written warnings and/or citations to visitors to

achieve compliance. This position also performs a wide range and variety of maintenance and program development and visitor services/interpretative activities within the State Park or Recreational Area. This includes grounds and building maintenance, operating a wide variety of equipment and performing/overseeing repairs and maintenance to the equipment and buildings. Work is performed under general supervision.

Forest Ranger: Under general supervision, this position serves as the primary state forest law enforcement officer within the designated geographic area. This position enforces statutes related to burning violations, managed forest law (MFL), theft of timber, and outdoor recreation and has the lead role in the investigation and enforcement of Wisconsin's forest management and forest fire laws. Involvement in enforcement varies according to location within the state: cooperative zones are less demanding than either the extensive or intensive zones. This position has ancillary work responsibilities related to facilities management and operations within the state forest program. Exercises full police authority on DNR-owned or managed property and expanded authority elsewhere in the state to maintain public safety in a recreational setting or defined geographic area. Enforces all Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Codes on Department-owned or managed properties. Positions function under general supervision.

Ranger Assistant Property Manager: Under general supervision, these positions are responsible for all phases of the state forest, park or recreation area property's operation including law enforcement. They are also responsible for the direction of permanent, limited-term and/or volunteer staff in the absence of the manager, including directing and administering the overall development and maintenance. Specific activities include developing and coordinating projects/operations, ordering equipment and supplies, performing/assisting with maintenance, public contact, community relations (partnerships and media contacts), and interpretation, accessibility and visitor protection activities within the property. Also provides guidance to team members assigned to the property (limited-term employees, volunteers, and Friends groups). These positions prepare administrative and financial reports; and assist with the preparation of property budgets and development plans.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed, and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

Special Requirement: Positions in this classification perform functions that can only be carried out by individuals that hold and maintain law enforcement credentials.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This classification was created effective June 30, 2013 and announced in Bulletin OSER-0327-MRS/SC to combine the former Ranger-Law Enforcement, Ranger-Operations and Ranger-Assistant Property Manager into one classification that requires law enforcement credentials. The other Ranger classifications were abolished at the same time.