

**BENCHMARK POSITION DESCRIPTION – BM #29
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE**

1. POSITION TITLE Research Ecologist	2. CLASSIFICATION LEVEL LSO 3
3. DIVISION Operations	4. BRANCH Northern Interior Region
5. IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR Team Leader/ Hydrologist	6. LOCATION Smithers

Program Function	Describe the purpose of the program and organization in which the position operates.
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The section is responsible for improving forest stewardship programs conducted in the Region by planning and implementing research programs and working with operations personnel to apply technical information to solve problems and to pursue opportunities for improvement of forest stewardship

Purpose of Position and Summary of its Functions	This may be used for POSTING purposes.
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The primary function of this position is to direct and conduct the regional research program in forest ecology. The position provides technical expertise on ecological interpretations and their applications and plans and conducts research in forest ecology. The position is also responsible for developing and implementing a proactive extension program.

Organizational Structure and Working Environment

The position functions as a research ecologist within the research group in the area of ecologically based forest management and collaborative research with stakeholders. This is one of eight specialist positions reporting to the Team Leader/Hydrologist who in turn reports to the Regional Staff Manager, Stewardship.

Position's Specific Functions and How They Are Performed

- 1. 35% Directs and conducts the regional research program in forest ecology by:**
 - Consulting with a variety of ministry staff and others on priority issues, interpretation and application of concepts and definitions
 - Preparing research proposals and project plans for approval by the Forest Science Officer, Regional Manager and the Forest Science Advisory Group
 - Leading project teams
 - Engaging and providing technical direction to private consultant licensed professionals for research projects to augment in-house capabilities
 - Designing and developing frameworks for information management and analysis of regional data
 - Consulting with Regional, District, and industry staff to help resolve forest stewardship problems/conflicts
 - Contributing to the setting of provincial standards for sampling, data collection and application
 - Organizing and conducting meetings
 - Developing strategies to resolve inter-agency and licensee differences
 - Providing input into the analysis of regional and provincial data
 - Preparing establishment, progress and final reports of findings and results
 - Overseeing the management of the Regional Service Centre Herbarium

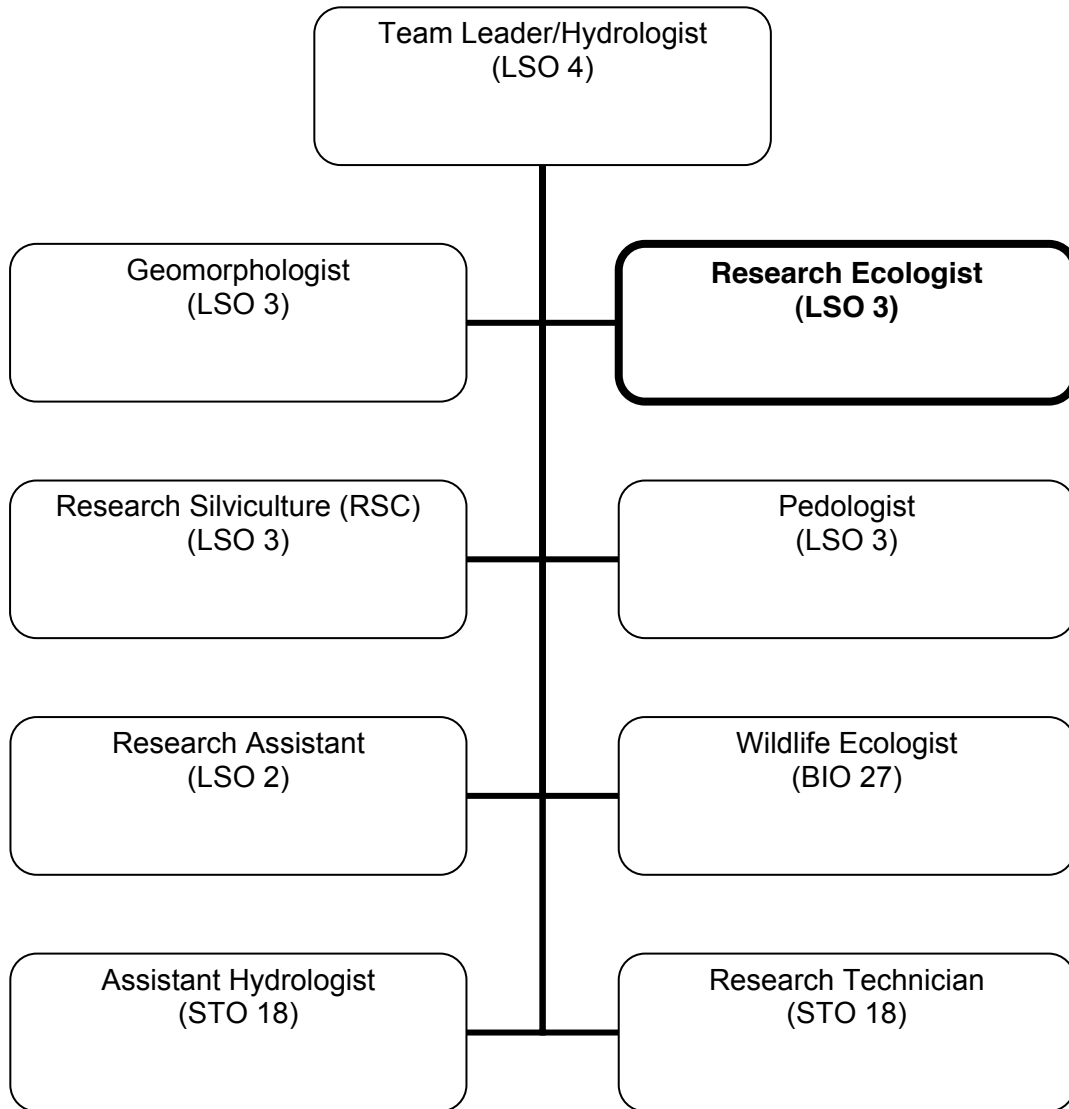
- 2. 30% Plans and conducts research in forest ecology by:**
 - Assessing available information and current research underway
 - Carrying out exploratory research to clarify problems and issues and developing solutions
 - Determining where new ministry research initiatives will have the most value and impact
 - Preparing problem analyses
 - Preparing research proposals and working plans
 - Supervising and collecting data

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- Analyzing and synthesizing data
 - Preparing publications of results in internal reports and refereed journals
- 3. 20% Provides technical expertise on ecological interpretations and their applications by:**
- Serving on technical working groups
 - Technically reviewing proposals, working plans and other documents
 - Maintaining communication within and between various specialties in the ministry and other agencies
 - Attending conferences and seminars to keep abreast of new research and current developments
 - Serving as an expert witness in litigation and special hearings
 - Contributing technical information and material to publications
- 4. 10% Develops and implements a proactive extension program by:**
- Designing and recommending an implementation strategy
 - Ensuring the communication of research results
 - Presenting findings to regional and district staff
 - Extending results through various media to ensure their use by licensees and ministry staff
 - Preparing scientific papers and reports for publication
- 5. 5% Performs other related duties**

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ORGANIZATION CHART – RESEARCH ECOLOGIST



**BENCHMARK CLASSIFICATION RATIONALE – BM #29
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE**

TITLE: Research Ecologist

LEVEL: LSO 3

DIVISION/BRANCH: Operations/Northern Interior Region

FACTOR	POINTS
<p><u>PURPOSE OF POSITION</u> The primary focus of this position is to direct and conduct the regional research program in forest ecology. The position will also provide technical expertise on ecological interpretations and their applications and develop and implement a proactive extension program.</p> <p><u>KNOWLEDGE</u> The work requires a considerable depth of knowledge in Forest Ecology in order to analyze forest management problems and undertake research studies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of regional forest and range management programs. The research projects undertaken are analytical and interpretive in nature requiring the position to make some judgements based on considerable experience in forest ecology.</p> <p>Requires registration as a Professional Forester.</p>	D(2) 113
<p><u>JUDGEMENT</u> <u>Originality and Complexity:</u> The work involves preparing research proposals and research project plans, designing and developing frameworks and other instructional material for data analysis and contributing to the development of provincial standards for sampling, data collection and application. The position assigns, reviews, and accepts or rejects the work of consultant licensed professionals.</p> <p><u>Technical Supervision Received:</u> The technical content of the work is reviewed upon completion by the Forest Science Officer to ensure that proposed research is consistent with regional and ministry plans.</p>	C2 86
<p><u>ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM ROLE</u> The primary role of the position is to direct research in forest ecology by exercising technical supervision over consultant licensed professionals.</p>	III(b) 50
<p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY</u> The position does not administratively supervise any staff.</p>	0

TOTAL POINTS 249

LEVEL	POINT RANGE
1	168 – 203
2	204 – 237
<u>3</u>	<u>238 – 267</u>
4	268 – 295
5	296 – 365