

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS STANDARDS

GS-454

RANGE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

GS-5/above

Basic Requirements: **NOTE: At least 12 semester hours of the 42 must be in upper level courses (300 and 400 level)**

A. Degree: range management or a related discipline, which includes at least 42 semester hours in a combination of the plant, animal and soil sciences and natural resources management as follows:

- Range Management. At least **18** semester hours of course work in range management, including courses in such areas as basic principles of range management; range plants; range ecology; range inventories and studies; range improvement; and ranch or rangeland planning.
- Directly Related Plant, Animal and Soil Sciences. At least **15** semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal and soil sciences, including at least one course in each of these three scientific areas, i.e., plant, animal and soil sciences. Courses in such areas as plant taxonomy; plant physiology; plant ecology; animal nutrition; livestock production; and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable. *(NOTE: Of the 15 semester hours, we require at least 3 semester hours must be in each of the three scientific areas noted above)*
- Related Resource Management Studies. At least **9** semester hours of course work in related resource management subject, including courses in such areas as wildlife management; watershed management; natural resource or agricultural economics; forestry; agronomy; forages; and outdoor recreation management.

GS-457

SOIL CONSERVATION

GS-5/above

Basic Requirements: **NOTE: At least 12 semester hours of the 30 must be in upper level courses (300 and 400 level)**

Course work in the fields noted below should be in the Biological or Physical Sciences (not social sciences)

A. Degree: soil conservation or related agricultural or natural resource discipline such as agronomy, soil science, forestry, agricultural education or agricultural engineering.

- The study must have included **30** semester hours in natural resource or agricultural field, including at least 12 semester hours in a combination of soils and crops or plant science. Of the **12** semester hours, a minimum of **3** semester hours must be in soils and **3** semester hours in crops or plant science.

GS-470

SOIL SCIENCE

GS-5/above

Basic Requirements: **Note: At least 12 semester hours of the 30 must be in upper level courses (300 and 400 level)**

A. Degree: soil science or a related discipline which includes **30** semester hours, or equivalent in biological, physical, or earth science, with a minimum of **15** semester hours in such subjects as soil genesis, pedology, soil chemistry, soil physics and soil fertility.

GS-471

AGRONOMY

GS-5/above

Basic Requirements:

A. Degree: agronomy; or related discipline of science, which includes at least **30** semester hours of course work in the basic plant sciences, including at least **15** semester hours in agronomic subjects, such as those dealing with plant breeding, crop production, and soil and crop management.

I have read and understand the Basic Requirements that must be met to qualify for an entry level position with NRCS. In addition to meeting the educational requirements, a SCEP must have completed a minimum of 640 work hours prior to graduating with a degree and coursework notated to be eligible for conversion to a permanent position. (Please return a copy of this signed document to USDA-NRCS, ATTN: Sue Elliott, HRS, 101 South Main Street, Temple, TX 76501

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

GS-460**FORESTRY
GS-5/above**Basic Requirements:

A. Degree: forestry; or a related subject-matter field, which includes a total of at least 30 semester hours in any combination of biological, physical, or mathematical sciences or engineering of which at least 24 semester hours of course work were in forestry.

The curriculum must be sufficiently diversified to include courses in each of the following areas:

- **Management of Renewable Resources**—study of the science and art of managing renewable resources to attain desired results. Examples of creditable courses in this area include silviculture, forest management operations, timber management, wildland fire science or fire management, utilization of forest resources, forest regulation, recreational land management, watershed management, and wildlife or range habitat management.
- **Forest Biology**—study of the classification, distribution, characteristics and identification of forest vegetation and the interrelationships of living organisms to the forest environment. Examples of creditable courses in this area include dendrology, forest ecology, silvics, forest genetics, wood structure and properties, forest soils, forest entomology, and forest pathology.
- **Forest Resource Measurements and Inventory**—sampling, inventory, measurement and analysis techniques as applied to a variety of forest resources. Examples of creditable courses include forest biometrics, forest mensuration, forest evaluation, statistical analysis of forest resource data, renewable natural resources inventories and analysis, and photogrammetry or remote sensing.

GS-486**WILDLIFE BIOLOGY
GS-5/above**Basic Requirements: Nonresearch positions

A. Degree: biological science which includes:

- At least **9** semester hours in such wildlife subjects as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, wildlife management, or research courses in the field of wildlife biology; and
- At least **12** semester hours in zoology in such subjects as general zoology, invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, genetics, ecology, cellular biology, parasitology, entomology, or research courses in such subjects; and
- At least **9** semester hours in botany or the related plant sciences. (Excess courses in wildlife biology may be used to meet the zoology requirements where appropriate.)

GS-890/810**ENGINEERING
GS-5/above**Basic Requirements:

A. Degree: professional engineering. To be acceptable, the curriculum must: (1) be in a school of engineering with at least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; -OR- (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.

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