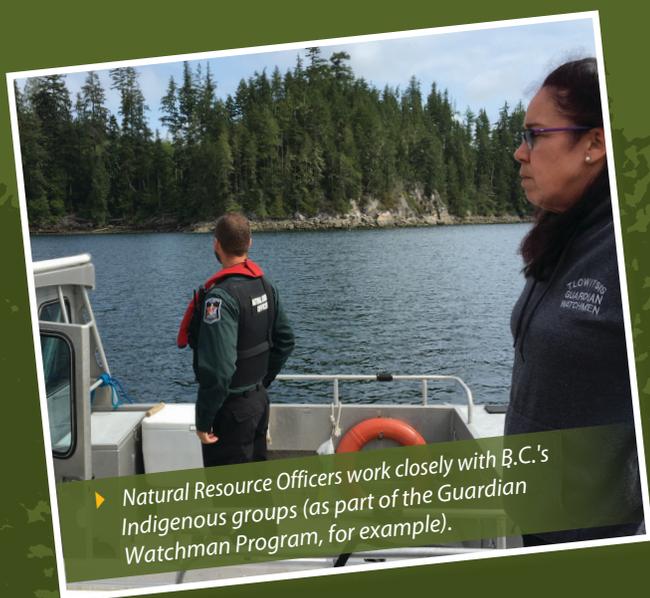


▶ Natural Resource Officers confirm that authorizations have been obtained for construction and changes below the high-water mark and on foreshore areas of Crown land.

BENEFITS OF WORKING IN THE B.C. PUBLIC SERVICE

- ▶ paid vacation days
- ▶ flexible schedule
- ▶ employer-contributed pension
- ▶ work clothing reimbursements
- ▶ rural employee compensation
- ▶ employer-paid health, dental and life insurance
- ▶ family and healthy living services
- ▶ financial, legal and career services
- ▶ training, courses and certificates
- ▶ B.C. student loan forgiveness



▶ Natural Resource Officers work closely with B.C.'s Indigenous groups (as part of the Guardian Watchman Program, for example).

HOW TO BECOME A NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICER

To be considered for a Natural Resource Officer position, your application must clearly demonstrate how you meet the education and experience requirements as outlined below:

- ▶ applied degree or diploma in a program of natural resource law enforcement OR
- ▶ university degree or technical diploma in natural resource management or environmental science OR
- ▶ an equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

Preference may be given to individuals with a professional designation in a natural resource discipline (e.g. registered forest technologist, registered professional biologist, or equivalent).

Applicants for a Natural Resource Officer position must:

- ▶ have a valid B.C. Class 5 driver's licence or equivalent, or be eligible to immediately obtain one
- ▶ hold an Occupational First Aid Level 1 certificate or equivalent (or be willing and able to obtain this certificate immediately if hired)
- ▶ be willing and able to travel frequently
- ▶ be willing and able to work weekends and non-standard work shifts
- ▶ be willing and able to work outdoors in all types of weather and in challenging terrain
- ▶ be willing and able to operate a variety of equipment, including but not limited to off-road vehicles and boats (If applicants are not currently certified to operate such equipment, they must be willing and able to get this certification.)
- ▶ be able to follow instructions
- ▶ be eligible to be designated as a Special Provincial Constable, in accordance with Compliance and Enforcement Branch policies

Preference may be given to applicants with any of the following attributes:

- ▶ experience in the last three years interpreting and enforcing natural resource law
- ▶ knowledge of natural resource law, regulations and/or policies governing British Columbia's regulatory program
- ▶ effective oral and written communication skills
- ▶ thoroughness and attention to detail

A criminal record check will be completed before an applicant is hired as a Natural Resource Officer.

Natural Resource Officers

PROTECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
LAND, FORESTS, WATER AND CULTURAL
RESOURCE VALUES
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



MINISTRY OF FORESTS
Compliance and Enforcement Branch

REPORT A SUSPECTED VIOLATION ONLINE
www.gov.bc.ca/natural-resource-officers
OR CALL THE TOLL-FREE HOTLINE
1 877 952-7277



▶ Natural Resource Officers often inspect timber operations, foreshore developments and water authorizations by boat.



▶ Natural Resource Officers protect culturally sensitive resources.



▶ Irresponsible use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) can cause serious environmental damage.

WHAT DO NROS DO?

Natural Resource Officers help protect our land, water, forests and cultural resources for future generations. They are involved in public education, inspections, investigations and the enforcement of natural resource legislation, including the *Forest Act*, *Forest and Range Practices Act*, *Land Act*, *Water Sustainability Act*, *Wildfire Act*, *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* and *Heritage Conservation Act*.

The Compliance and Enforcement Branch's mandate is to protect the environment, prevent revenue loss, protect economic and social interests, and improve health and safety standards. An NRO's role is to maintain a public presence by raising awareness of natural resource legislation, educating people about their legal responsibilities, completing compliance inspections, investigating alleged instances of non-compliance, and taking enforcement actions when necessary.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ landslides
- ▶ streams and fish habitat
- ▶ community watersheds
- ▶ productive forests, biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems

PREVENTING REVENUE LOSS

- ▶ unauthorized harvesting and special forest products
- ▶ land use authorizations
- ▶ forest revenue and cost recovery related to human-caused wildfires

PROTECTING ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL INTERESTS

- ▶ fire use and land use prohibitions
- ▶ use and integrity of resource roads and bridges
- ▶ protection of water and streams
- ▶ economic values related to forestry

NROS DEAL WITH:

- ▶ damage to cultural heritage sites
- ▶ human-caused wildfires (*fire investigations*)
- ▶ alterations to foreshores or riparian areas of lakes and streams
- ▶ road maintenance and protection of fish habitat at resource road crossings
- ▶ water management and/or making changes within a stream
- ▶ damage to the environment, including irresponsible ATV or motorbike use
- ▶ unauthorized harvesting of trees and firewood
- ▶ industrial operations' compliance with fire prevention requirements
- ▶ unauthorized work on archeological sites
- ▶ unauthorized wells
- ▶ logging operations and transport of timber
- ▶ rangeland use and cattle management
- ▶ unauthorized cabins or structures, and the unauthorized occupation of Crown land

ENFORCEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE LAWS

Natural Resource Officers have an array of tools and discretion at their disposal to deal with alleged contraventions of B.C.'s natural resource laws. During a compliance inspection, Natural Resource Officers may initiate the following:

- ▶ written compliance action (*letter or inspection notice*) or a written warning
- ▶ violation ticket
- ▶ order to vacate a recreation facility
- ▶ trespass notice (*to vacate Crown land*)
- ▶ seizure of evidence
- ▶ Stop Work Orders
- ▶ further investigations

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES OPTIONS

If a contravention is found and the natural resource legislation allows it, the Natural Resource Officer can present the information to a designated decision-maker, who can then schedule an "Opportunity to be Heard" meeting. Once a decision is made, that decision can be appealed to an outside commission for a re-determination. A determination could result in a penalty and/or a requirement to remediate any damage that was done.

Possible outcomes of administrative options include:

- ▶ administrative remedy (*usually a penalty to address cost recovery for the Crown, plus a deterrence penalty*)
- ▶ remediation order (*to restore a damaged site*)
- ▶ suspension of the tenure or licence under which a licensee or client may be operating
- ▶ cancellation of a tenure (*the person or company may no longer operate on the site*)

PROSECUTION OPTIONS

- ▶ violation tickets
- ▶ provincial prosecution (*the charge is processed through provincial Crown counsel in the B.C. court system*)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE OPTIONS

Restorative justice is a process in which the offender, representatives of the affected community and enforcement staff collectively decide on appropriate restitution or repair of the harm caused by the contravention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.gov.bc.ca/natural-resource-officers