GS-0462-6/7 – Forestry Technician Fuels

*"Caring for the Land and Serving People"*

PRAIRIE CITY, OR

# **Prairie City Ranger District**

**MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST**

**OUTREACH NOTICE**

Permanent Position

***Prairie City Ranger District, Malheur National Forest***

***Prairie City, Oregon***

**Announcement number:** 22-FIRE-R146OCR-DFUEL-67DH

Reply By: 03/15/2022

The Malheur National Forest is at the center of a nationally recognized effort that is doubling the scale of restoration in Eastern Oregon.  If you are looking for an opportunity to do groundbreaking nationally recognized work, we are certain you will find a refreshing approach to natural resource management.

Government Housing is not available for this position.

To Apply for this vacancy please access USAJOBS.gov and apply to the following announcement

**Announcement number:** 22-FIRE-R146OCR-DFUEL-67DH

**Anyone interested in further information may contact Taylor Grysen, Fire Ecologist, (541) 820-3896** **taylor.grysen@usda.gov**

**THE POSITION:**

This is a standard wildland fire management position description intended for use in the USDA Forest Service. The incumbent serves in a key fire management position in a field fire management organization as a Prescribed Fire/Fuels Technician.

Primary responsibilities of the position are preparing and implementing prescribed fire plans, fire effects monitoring plans, manual and mechanical hazardous fuels treatments, and smoke and wildland fire use monitoring plans. The incumbent integrates prescribed fire/fuels management, smoke management, fuels modification principles and procedures, fire effects knowledge, and knowledge of scientific data collection and analysis principles into a comprehensive prescribed fire/fuels management program for a unit(s).

This position is categorized as a Sub-Unit Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist (DFPFM, DFAFM, DFTEC in IQCS) position that is subject to the Forest Service Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) Standard and Guide, as designated by the W.O. Fire and Aviation Management. The FS-FPM minimum qualification standards (MQS) for this position must be met prior to entrance into the position as a condition of hire. Refer to the Forest Service FS-FPM Standard Position Description Crosswalk for a full description of the MQS.

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for Wildland Firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT at the ARDUOUS level is a ''condition of employment.'' The Arduous fitness (Pack) Test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.

This is a covered secondary position description under the provisions of 5USC 8336 (c) and 8412 (d). Ninety (90) days of experience as a primary/rigorous wildland firefighter or equivalent experience outside federal employment as a basic qualification requirement for this position. Approved for Secondary Firefighter Retirement Coverage under CSRS and FERS by USDA on 6/28/05, C1.

Bargaining Unit Status: Eligible - Coverage is dependent upon unit location.

In accordance with USDA Department Regulation 4430-792-2, this position is a Testing Designated Position (TDP) under the USDA Drug Free Workplace Program and subject to pre-employment drug testing. All applicants selected for this position will be required to submit to a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Incumbents of this position will be required to submit to a urinalysis on an ongoing random basis, after appointment as directed.

**MAJOR DUTIES**

Serves on prescribed fire and fuels projects in positions for which qualified. Provides routine technical guidance on fire protection and prevention issues. Technically administers routine aspects of the prescribed fire/fuels plan, ensuring that preparation, ignition, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation are completed to the standards specified.

During the implementation of prescribed fire plans, fuels projects, and wildland fire use plans, assists in monitoring fire behavior, evaluating fire effects, identifying potential problems and making basic recommendations by reviewing fuel treatment alternatives and designing a prescribed fire to achieve the objective.

Assists in conducting field reconnaissance of prescribed fire/fuels treatment units, summarizes field findings and makes basic recommendations on appropriate prescriptive criteria for meeting program objectives.

Provides for training needs to support prescribed fire and fuels management programs.

Participates in wildland fire and safety training in the techniques, practices, and methods of fire suppression and in the safe, efficient operation and use of tools, equipment, and vehicles used in fire suppression activities, with emphasis on those used for the particular function assigned. Participates in preparedness reviews, proficiency checks and drills, safety sessions, and after-action reviews. Ensures own and other's welfare and safety in all aspects of the assignment.

Supports wildland fire suppression activities.

Operates a variety of motor vehicles to transport equipment, supplies, crew members, etc. Must possess a valid state driver’s license.

Uses specialized firing equipment.

Assists in resolving problem situations encountered when performing a wide variety of nonstandard fire planning assignments. Conducts routine project assessments which determine the presence or absence of hazardous wildland fuels. Information on fuel conditions and predictions of fire behavior are collected through a variety of methods, including field surveys, computer modeling, and specific literature searches. Results are reported to the Prescribed Fire/Fuels Specialist and used in the determination and prioritization of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment projects.

Reviews project plans and makes recommendations on appropriate levels of monitoring. Applies the processes, methods, and procedures associated with forestry studies to resolve the full range of irregular or problems situations when performing a wide variety of nonstandard assignments. Provides basic assistance in establishing study plots to assess fire and fire suppression impacts on the ecosystem. Participates in the development and refinement of plot characteristics, frequency of visits, subjects to be measured, and data storage and analysis techniques.

Participates in drafting prescribed fire/fuels management plans following the interagency template. This involves reviewing fuel treatment alternatives and may include preparing segments of a plan to support objectives of the fire management program.

Updates and uses a database to model and analyze fire behavior and fire effects observation data. Ensures data quality. Ensures proper data storage and archival procedures are followed.

Performs other duties as assigned.

We are looking for an individual who:

* Has strong interpersonal and organizational skills
* Is a team player who enjoys working with a diverse group to accomplish a common goal
* Is a self-starter, enjoys a challenge and has excellent problem-solving skills
* Has the ability to cope well with changing direction, multiple priorities, and a fast-paced work environment

**THE DISTRICT:**

The Prairie City Ranger District consists of a Ranger and Ranger District Management Assistants (RDMA). The staff areas are Administration, Hydrology, Rangeland Management, Vegetation Management/Fuels, Planning, Fire, Fish, Recreation, Wildlife, and Heritage Resources. There are approximately 33 permanent employees.

**PRAIRIE CITY/JOHN DAY COMMUNITY:**

Prairie City sits the base of the beautiful Strawberry Mountain Range (est. Population 1100). It has elementary, junior high and high schools, restaurants, the Historic Hotel Prairie, an antique store, Bed and Breakfasts, and the historical Sumpter Valley Railroad Museum. The surrounding countryside is a combination of forested mountains, high desert plateaus, and rolling prairie. Both communities, Prairie City and John Day, lie at the head of the John Day River Valley, the last major undammed tributary of the Columbia River. The area offers unlimited outdoor recreational opportunities including hunting (elk, deer, upland birds), fishing, hiking, mountain biking/cycling, camping, beautiful scenery, winter sports such as cross country and back country skiing or snowmobiling. It offers wide open, uncrowded spaces for those seeking peace and solitude.

The upper John Day River Valley is home to the majority of the 8000 residents of Grant County. John Day/Canyon City constitutes the primary population "center" (est. Population 2500) and county seat. It is a full-service community with a hospital, medical and dental offices, elementary, junior high and high schools, restaurants, motels, Bed and Breakfasts, city swimming pool and historical museums. There is a county airport with a local flying club, fairgrounds, 4-H opportunities, soccer, baseball, and softball leagues.

The closest urban centers include Baker City, Oregon (1 ¼ hours northeast), La Grande, Oregon (2 hours northeast), Bend, Oregon (3 hours west), Boise, Idaho (3 hours east) and Pendleton, Oregon (3 hours north).

# **ABOUT THE FOREST**

The Malheur National Forest encompasses 1.7 million acres of wilderness, rangeland, and general forest in the majestic Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. It sustains a diversity of vegetation ranging from juniper-sagebrush woodlands and bunchgrass grasslands to high elevation alpine forests of sub-alpine fir and white bark pine. Extensive tracts of ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and lodgepole forests occur between the juniper/grassland foothills and alpine peaks. Elevations range from 4,000 feet to 9,038 feet atop Strawberry Mountain. The majority of the Forest lies in Grant and Harney counties, with portions in Baker, Crook, and Malheur counties. U.S. Highway 395 bisects the Forest north-to-south, and U.S. Highway 26 bisects it from east-to-west. The Forest has three Ranger Districts: Blue Mountain and Prairie City to the north, and the Emigrant Creek Ranger District on the southern portion of the forest.

The Forest contains the headwaters of the Middle, Main, and South Forks of the John Day River system, which provide habitat for the largest remaining wild runs of salmon and steelhead. Threatened and endangered wildlife species include Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout. The Forest manages two wilderness areas and two Wild and Scenic Rivers as well as lands along a State Scenic Waterway. The Forest has the second largest grazing program in Region 6 and is the home of incredibly rich archaeological resources. This Forest has a high frequency of wildfires in a fire-dominated ecosystem, with a correspondingly large fire and aviation program that includes a rappel base and a single engine air tanker base.

Strategically, the Forest is a leader in the Region for collaborative partnerships. Through two partnerships, the size of planning areas has expanded and the timelines for completing NEPA documents has been reduced over the past 10 years. Additionally, working through these partnerships the Forest has been progressive in forest treatments using Healthy Forest Restoration Act authorities. The collaboratives formed a Coalition in 2010 and lead the development of a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project proposal that was one of ten in the nation to be chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture for multi-year funding. Over the next few years, the Forest has the opportunity to use this program to implement an “all lands” approach for restoration on almost 700,000 acres of the Forest.

The complexity of the natural resources is matched by complexity of relationships and interactions with other entities. The southern Ranger District of the Forest is engaged in a Service First project with the Burns District of the Bureau of Land Management, sharing an integrated fire suppression workforce and recreation program. Numerous individual positions are shared among the northeast Oregon Forests. The Forest is in the ceded area or area of aboriginal use of several tribal governments with the strongest ties to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. The Forest is also a partner in two shared BLM/FS Resource Advisory Councils; the John Day/Snake RAC to the north and the Southeast Oregon RAC to the south.

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**Outreach Response Form**

**MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST**

# **Prairie City Ranger District**

**Posted 3/5/2022**

**Please send outreach response form to Taylor Grysen (****taylor.grysen@usda.gov****) by 3/15/2022**

Name:Provide First and Last names

E-Mail Address: Enter a valid email address where we can contact you

Mailing Address:Enter your mailing address

Telephone #:Enter telephone number

Cell #:Enter cell phone number

Agency Currently Employed With:Enter agency, as applicable

Type of Appointment: Enter type of appointment

If Current USFS Employee, Provide Unit Information (Region, Forest, District):Enter type of appointment

Current Series and Grade: Enter type of appointment

Current Position Title: Enter type of appointment

How did you find out about this outreach notice? Describe method

If not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

[ ] Schedule A (Persons with Disabilities)

[ ] Veterans Readjustment (VRA)

[ ] Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability

[ ] Veterans Employment Opportunities Act Of 1998

[ ] Former Peace Corps Volunteer

[ ] Pathways Program (Students and Recent Graduates)

[ ] Public Land Corps

[ ] Land Management Workforce Act (Long-Term Temporary Employee)

If a veteran, please identify preference eligible group:

[ ] CPS - Disability Rating Of 30% or More (10 Points)

[ ] CP - Disability Rating Of At Least 10% but Less Than 30% (10 Points)

[ ] XP - Disability Rating Less Than 10% (10 Points)

[ ] TP - Preference Eligible with No Disability Rating (5 Points)

[ ] SSP – Sole Survivorship Preference (0 Points)

**Thank you for your interest in our Outreach!**