GS-7/9 Forester

Duty Location: McCloud, CA

Job Description and Duties

This permanent, full-time position would work for the Shasta McCloud Management Unit (SMMU) on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California, with a duty location of McCloud, CA. The SMMU timber department has a fast paced and active program of work. The unit routinely and reliably produces some of the highest timber outputs in Region 5, reaching upwards of 60-80ccf (30-40mbf) annually. Here on the SMMU, we support each other in recreation, forest stewardship, timber, and fuel management related projects throughout our communities. We strive to be a value-based, purpose-driven, and relationship-focused organization and family!

Typical job duties include the following:

* Works collaboratively on Landscape Scale Restoration projects between the Forest Service and state/private forestry programs to help promote collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. These projects are developed in partnership with diverse stakeholders and effectively leverage local knowledge, expertise, and resources which results in measurable on-the-ground treatment objectives.
* Works with silviculture, sale administration, fuels and other departments in order to gain a more well-rounded background within forestry.
* Performs the duties of a qualified cruiser with expectation of receiving advanced cruiser certification.
* Become skilled in the implementation of a variety of tree-based (3P, Sample Tree) and area-based (point-count and fixed count variable radius) cruising methods and plan and implement efficient cruise design plans.
* Determines stumpage prices and the requirements for brush disposal, erosion control, and stand improvement in accordance with agency directives.
* Prepares, collects, and produces quality documentation to support timber sale timber sale contracts, harvest activities, and stewardship agreements.
* Prepare a summary of all records acceptable for final appraisal, sale contract preparation, as part of subsequent timber management activities.
* Aids in the development of timber cruise designs.
* Interprets complex silvicultural prescriptions and marking guides to designate harvest timber.
* Provides field instruction to apprentice cruisers and forestry technicians in fundamental timber measuring practices, cruise methods and techniques.
* Lays out timber sale boundaries in accordance with environmental assessments and forest resource protection measures.
* Collects GPS data using Trimble/Android tablet devices. Digitally corrects this data using software such as Two Trails.
* Creates and edits maps using GIS software such as ArcGIS Pro and Field Maps.
* Records logging systems information related to topography, fuels management, resource protection and other related resource considerations.
* Acts as an inspector for the Contracting Officer’s Representative on landscape scale restoration projects.
* Opportunities for additional trainings such as check cruiser, contracting officer’s representative, stewardship contracts, Designation by Prescription (DxP), Logging Systems and Roads Design Institute, leadership, chainsaw, fire trainings, etc.
* Performs supervisory duties 20% or less of the time.

Forest and Management Unit

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest, located in northern California, is the largest national forest in California and provides some of the highest quality fish and wildlife habitat in the Pacific Northwest. It is comprised of 2.1 million acres ranging in elevation from 1,000 feet to 14,162 feet. For further information on the forest, please see [www.fs.usda.gov/stnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf). The SMMU covers 390,840 acres across two combined ranger districts in the northeastern portion of the Shasta-Trinity NF.

Geographically, the SMMU spans the volcanic southern Cascades and the geologically diverse eastern Klamath Mountains. The unit manages two wilderness areas, a section of the Pacific Crest Trail, and the 14,162-ft Mount Shasta, which is the second highest summit and the largest stratovolcano by volume in the Cascade Range. There are very active programs in recreation, timber management, and fuels. The unit also contains the headwaters of the Sacramento River Basin, which is the largest watershed in California and carries 30% of the state’s total surface water and has the largest glaciers in California high on the northern and eastern slopes of Mt Shasta.

Community Information and Housing

The SMMU has two offices: one in the town of McCloud (duty location) and the other in the City of Mt. Shasta, which are about 12 miles apart. The major communities within south Siskiyou County include Mt. Shasta, Weed, McCloud, and Dunsmuir. These population centers are about 60 miles north of Redding, California and 60 miles south of the California-Oregon border and 3.5 hours from the Pacific coast.

The climate has four distinct seasons. Summers are dry, with temperatures between 75 and 90 degrees F. Most precipitation falls between mid-October and May, some in the form of snow. Average precipitation is 36 inches for Mt. Shasta and McCloud areas. Average temperature is 32 degrees in January and 85 degrees in August.

McCloud is a small community with a population of approximately 1,500 people and a few services, including a market, two gas stations, and small medical clinic. Additional services, including a hospital, numerous shops and restaurants, pharmacies, and grocery stores, can be found in the neighboring city of Mt Shasta (population 3,200). College of the Siskiyous, a two-year community college, is located in the town of Weed. Public transportation via bus is available (https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/generalservices/page/stage-schedule). Closest regional airports include Redding, California (1.5 hour drive south on I-5) and Medford, Oregon (1.5 hour drive north on I-5).

Communities are small and the area is rural, so housing availability can be limited. Most employees live in Mt Shasta, Dunsmuir, Weed, and McCloud, which are all within a 15-to-30 minute drive of each other. Monthly rent for a 3-bedroom house starts around $1500 up to $3000, with 1-to-2 bedroom houses and apartments in the area ranging from around $700-1500 per month. According to Realtor.com, recent median sold-home prices as of February 2022 are $345,000 for McCloud, $392,000 for Mt Shasta, $207,000 for Dunsmuir, and $268,000 for Weed.

Outdoor recreation opportunities in the area are unlimited. Major attractions nearby include the McCloud and Sacramento Rivers, Mount Shasta, Castle Crags, Lake Siskiyou, a downhill ski and snowboard park, a Nordic ski center, numerous alpine lakes, and hiking and biking trails. For those who want a more urban experience, the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the Britt Festival in Jacksonville, Oregon are less than 1.5 hours away.

 

 