OUTREACH

Kootenai National Forest
KSANKA RANGER DISTRICT
(Formerly the Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts)
Lead Forestry Technician (Engine)
GS-0462-06

The Northern Region (R1), Kootenai National Forest, Ksanka Ranger District will be filling a Lead Forestry Technician, GS-0462-6, position. Duty station is Eureka, MT. This is a permanent seasonal 13/13 position.

The results of the outreach will help determine the area of consideration for the vacancy announcement.

Interested applicants are requested to respond utilizing the Employee Outreach Database.

For Forest Service applicants the database is located in ConnectHR.

For external applicants this may be accessed by an internet search for FS Outreach or the following link https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/Outreach.

Duties

The Assistant Fire Engine Operator (AFEO) serves as an assistant to the supervisor of a 3-5 person wildland fire engine module in suppressing wildland fires and performing project work. The selected individual helps direct the operation of the crew while considering crew safety, equipment use, and training. The individual needs to possess knowledge of standard fire program requirements, suppression tactics, methods and procedures, and skill in the use of wildland firefighting hand tools, radios, and chainsaws.

Other wildland fire related duties may involve fire prevention, patrol, detection, or prescribed burning.

The incumbent may be assigned for varying periods of time into one or more types of positions within the wildfire program where the specialized skills are required.

The incumbent will be expected to work in remote areas of the district and will sometimes be required to spike out for multiple days. Work schedule may also include working on the weekend with days off during the week.

Minimum qualifications must be FFT1 and have completed S-290. Taking and passing the Work Capacity Test 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 position is classified as a primary firefighter under the provision of 5 USC 8336 (c) and 5 USC 8412 (d). Prior wildland firefighting experience is required. This is a CDL required position (within 90 days of hire) and employee will be placed in the DOT random drug testing program.

This position will be filled through the R1 Fire Hiring process. To be considered, you must apply to the vacancy announcement when it opens on November 2, 2015.

Interested candidates must also be available during the process for interviews for (if applicable), job offers, acceptances, etc. Interested applicants should also reference the centralized outreach document for additional information on the fire hire process and other positions that may be available throughout the Region.

Northern Region Fire Hire

To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements, as listed in the announcement.

To ensure that you receive consideration, applications submitted through the online application process must be received prior to certificates being issued and list Eureka, MT as the preferred location/geographic choice.

Government housing may be available.

The Forest does not offer federal day care facilities.

Transfer of Station may be available for the position if filled through the internal announcements. TOS will not be paid for applicants selected through the announcements open to the public.

The recently consolidated Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts are proposed to be renamed the Ksanka Ranger District in the near future.

For more information regarding this position, please contact RJ McDole at 406/296-7176 or email at rmcdole@fs.fed.us

ABOUT THE DISTRICT and the surrounding communities

The Ksanka Ranger District is located in Northwest Montana. The duty station is Eureka, MT which is located just eight miles from the Canadian border. The District's entire northern boundary is contiguous with Canada, and it is one of the four districts on the Kootenai National Forest. The combined District encompasses 613,500 acres, of which 574,300 are National Forest lands. The district employs approximately 45 permanent employees, with an additional 60 seasonal employees during the summer months.

The town of Eureka has a population of approximately 1300 people and is the largest town in the Tobacco Valley. Residents in the Tobacco Valley number approximately 4200. The Valley runs from the Canadian Border on the north to just south of Murphy Lake. The major industry is timber, with recreation, in the form of hunting, fishing and winter sports, drawing in a number of tourists. Employees generally live in the Valley and some commute daily from the Whitefish area. Eureka offers a post office, four banks, three grocery stores, two medical clinics, one dentist, three chiropractors, a physical therapist, one drug store, 2 motels, a bed & breakfast, a number of masseuses, an optometrist, several second-hand stores, numerous small variety shops, restaurants, four golf courses, and businesses. Churches of various denominations are also available in the area.

In Eureka there is an elementary school, which includes K-4, a middle School (5-8), and the Lincoln County High School. A Head Start program is also available. The larger communities of Whitefish (50 miles) and Kalispell (65 miles) offer a wide variety of shopping and other service-oriented businesses. Eureka is approximately four hours from Spokane, Washington (population 342,000), and four hours from Missoula (population 70,000). Glacier Park International Airport near Kalispell provides daily departures and an AMTRAK station is available in Whitefish. Glacier National Park to the east and Banff National Park in Canada are also close enough to be enjoyed for the day or weekend.

Eureka has both mild winters and summers compared to other Montana cities. The District includes the popular Lake Koocanusa Reservoir, beautiful mountains and many surrounding fresh water lakes. There are many recreational opportunities, such as swimming, water skiing, camping, rock climbing, fishing and hiking for summertime fun; hunting in the fall and spring; ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing in the winter; and ATV and motorcycle riding on Lake Koocanusa reservoir draw down area in the spring. Eureka is just 60 miles north of the Whitefish Mountain Resort Ski Area in Whitefish and 35 miles south of the Fernie Ski Area in Canada. Average rainfall for the area is 14.6" and the average snowfall is 44.4".

Located 15 miles south of Eureka is the community of Fortine. The Fortine community has a school (Grades preschool-8), post office, grocery store, church, golf course and bar.

The community of Trego is located approximately 18 miles south of Eureka and offers a Civic Center, Post Office and school (Grades K-8).

Housing prices are moderate in the Tobacco Valley. A three-bedroom home sells for $100,000-$400,000. Rentals are scarce, but can be found. Government housing may be available.

Gardening opportunities vary depending on where you live in the Valley, those closer to Eureka usually have a bit longer season than those farther south.

ABOUT THE FOREST

The Kootenai National Forest (http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/kootenai) encompasses over 2.2 million acres of NFS lands. The forest is located in the extreme northwest corner of Montana, including a small portion of northeast Idaho. The forest consists of 4 Ranger Districts located in Eureka,Troy, Libby and Trout Creek; 3 Staff Units located in the Supervisor's Office and Engineering located throughout the units. The forest is bordered on the north by British Columbia, Canada and on the west by Idaho.

The Kootenai is truly a forest with multiple uses. The vegetation management program is aimed at restoring and maintaining Northern Rockies fire dependent habitats. The diversity of tree and other plant species is among the greatest in the Northwest. Management and recovery of threatened and endangered species, such as grizzly bear, lynx, and bull trout emphasize the forest wildlife and fisheries programs. Other wildlife on the forest include gray wolf, wolverine, cougar, elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, bald and golden eagles and other species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

INDIAN TRIBES

The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) encompasses lands that are part of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Aboriginal Territory. In the Hell Gate Treaty of 1855 the CSKT ceded over 22 million acres to the United States Government retaining 1.2 million acres for their own use that today is the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The Flathead Indian Reservation is approximately 85 miles southeast of the Kootenai National Forest. The Tribes retain Treaty rights under the Hell Gate Treaty on federal lands such as the KNF. These rights include hunting, gathering, digging plants and roots, fishing, and grazing on Kootenai National Forest lands.

The Kootenai National Forest holds many places in the natural environment that are important to the Kootenai people. These are known as cultural sites and traditional cultural properties. The relationship and bonds that Kootenai people have to these places were established before there was a Kootenai National Forest and the stories, place names and songs from these sites have been handed down from generation to generation. This is called a cultural landscape and is the basis for or essence of Kootenai identity and culture.