OUTREACH

Kootenai National Forest
Supervisor's Office
Fire and Aviation Management
Forestry Technician (Helitack)
GS-0462-7/8

The Northern Region (R1), Kootenai National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Fire and Aviation Management may be filling a Forestry Technician (Helitack), GS-0462-7/8 position. Duty station is Libby, 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 working title of this position is Assistant Helitack Manager. This position is established on a Forest Service unit to function as an assistant to the supervisor of a Helitack program providing leadership and technical knowledge to employees on a daily basis. The primary responsibility for this position is fire suppression. The incumbent serves as first line supervisor of a crew of helitack personnel/firefighters that are established to provide fast initial attack, and large fire support. This position additionally utilizes helicopters in support of all types of incidents including emergency incidents and resource management functions.

The incumbent is highly experienced in helicopter operations, managing permanent and temporary helibases. As qualified, fills advanced Incident Command, and Operations roles

within the scope of the National Incident Command System (ICS). May serve as the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) on the helicopter service contract assigned to the base.

May serve as helicopter rappel spotter, responsible for the safe and efficient deployment of rappellers and cargo on incident and training missions from a variety of aircraft approved for rappel operations. Operates within the standardized guidelines stated in the Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide (IHRG). Prioritizes attack sequence in multiple fire situations based on fire needs and principles of efficient aircraft use. Coordinates and provides direction for aviation assets.

Assists Helitack Manager in contract administration responsibilities for the helicopter service contract for the base. Serves as alternate to primary COR. Enforces helicopter contract provisions, proposes contract language changes to the Helitack Manager, issues work orders and notices of non-compliance to the Contractor as necessary, and has full authority to suspend operations for violations of safety regulations or contract compliance. Is responsible for completing and maintaining reports and records for aircraft use. Signs for receipt of services and recommends payment approval to the Helitack Manager on a daily basis. Provides documentation to the Helitack Manager regarding any claim filed by the Contractor.

Position is covered by the provisions in the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Standard and Guide which requires qualifications of Helicopter Manager (HMGB), Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) and Helibase Manager Type 2-Trainee (HEB2-T). Previous Helitack and Helitack Squad Leader experience is also required.

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

Interested candidates must also be available during the process for interviews (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 Libby, MT as the preferred location/geographic choice.

Government housing is not available in Libby, Mt.

The Forest does not offer federal day care facilities.

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

For more information regarding this position, please contact Tom Rawlings at 406/291-4036 or email at trawlings@fs.fed.us

ABOUT THE FOREST

The Kootenai National Forest is located in the extreme northwest corner of Montana, a small portion of northeast Idaho and encompasses over 2.2 million acres of NFS lands, an area nearly three times the size of Rhode Island. 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. Of the total acres, 50,384 are within the State of Idaho. Access into the Forest is via U.S. Highways 2 and 93 and Montana State Highways 37, 56, 200 and 508.

Ranges of high craggy peaks mark the Forest with Snowshoe Peak in the Cabinet Mountains at 8,738 feet, the highest point. The Whitefish Range, Purcell Mountains, Salish Mountains, and Cabinet Mountains are all part of the rugged terrain radiating from the river valleys. In the north central part of the Forest, the land is more open with gently rolling timbered hills lying in the shadows of the Whitefish Range.

The Forest is dominated by two major rivers, the Kootenai and the Clark Fork, along with several smaller rivers and their tributaries. Two hydroelectric dams on the Clark Fork have created the Cabinet Gorge and Noxon reservoirs within the Forest boundary. State Highway 200 parallels these reservoirs as it crosses the Forest. The Kootenai River is spanned by another hydroelectric (and flood-control) project, Libby Dam. This structure located about 17 miles upstream from Libby, Montana, created Lake Koocanusa, a 90-mile-long reservoir reaching northward into the Canadian Rockies. Lake Koocanusa is almost totally surrounded by national forest lands, no private summer home or condominium developments here. State Highway 37 follows the east shore to Rexford and beyond to Eureka, Montana. The elevation of the Kootenai River as it leaves the Forest and the State is 1,862 feet, the lowest point in Montana.

The Yaak, Fisher, Tobacco, and Vermillion Rivers are smaller rivers within the confines of the Forest. There are over 100 lakes inside the boundaries of the Kootenai ranging from small alpine lakes to 1,240 acre McGregor Lake.

The climate of the Kootenai has been described as "modified Pacific maritime" in character, meaning that compared to the remainder of Montana, this area's climate resembles that found along the Pacific coast. The character becomes "modified" by occasional intrusions of the arctic air masses, more commonly found in the remainder of the State, which can bring winter temperatures down to -30° F with heavy snowfalls in the mountains. Average annual temperatures of 45° F reflect the moderating influence of the Pacific air masses. Summer temperatures are moderate with few days reaching over the 100° mark. The wet season in the Forest usually occurs in the fall and early winter.

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.

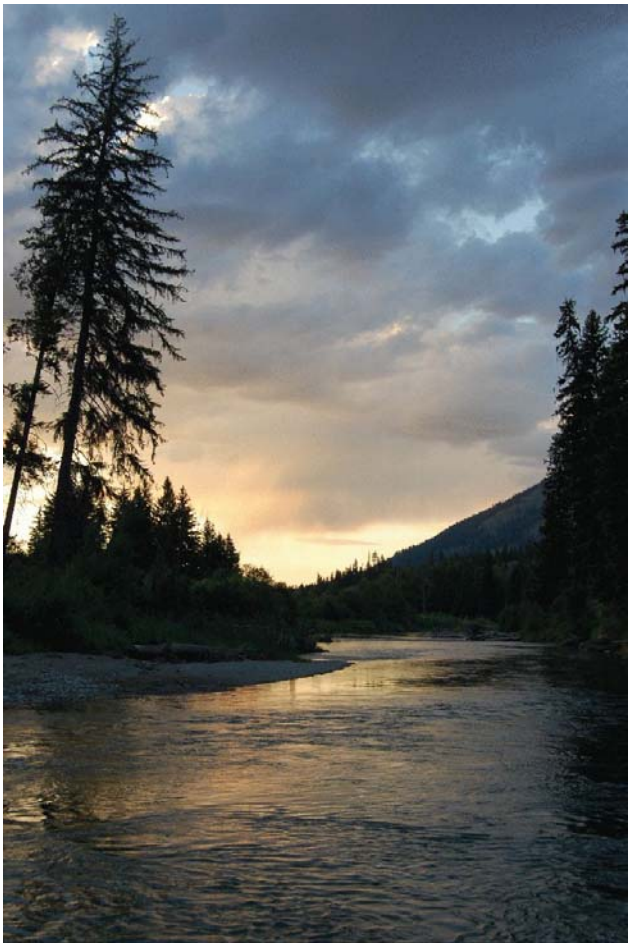
ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Libby lies in the northwest corner of Montana and is nestled in a valley carved by the Kootenai River on the flank of the majestic Cabinet Mountain Range and Wilderness Area. Today, about 2,800 people live within Libby proper. The main industries are lumber and wood products, mining, tourism, and recreation. The movies "The

River Wild" and "Always" were filmed here. Contact the Libby Chamber of Commerce for brochures, information on lodging and events, general area information, and contact information for local businesses and services.

Libby, Montana is basically a full service community providing education from K through 12th grade, a medical clinic, several stores, bank and credit union and a bowling alley. Libby also has an excellent city park.

Glacier National Park is 115 miles to the east and Spokane, Washington is 150 miles to the west. For more information on Libby go to www.cityoflibby.com



The Libby valley has documented presence of *Libby Amphibole* as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. Interested applicants are urged to be aware of and research the possible hazards of amphibole to human health. Cleanup and hazard mitigation operations are being conducted by the EPA. Please contact the EPA (http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/libby/), the CARD (Center for Asbestos Related Disease: http://www.libbyasbestos.org/), or District Rangers for more information.

Additionally, Libby Ranger District encompasses an area identified as Operable Unit 3 (OU3) as determined by the EPA. OU3 contains the old mine site and immediate surrounding area and is approximately 38,000 acres. This area presents special resource management concerns due to the established presence and concentration of asbestos fibers in the tree bark and duff. Management protocols have been established and continue to be developed for resource management and to provide for employee and public safety, specifically ground-disturbing activity and wildland firefighting. Work is ongoing for the nature and extent of contamination and hazard levels in conjunction with the EPA.

SUMMER

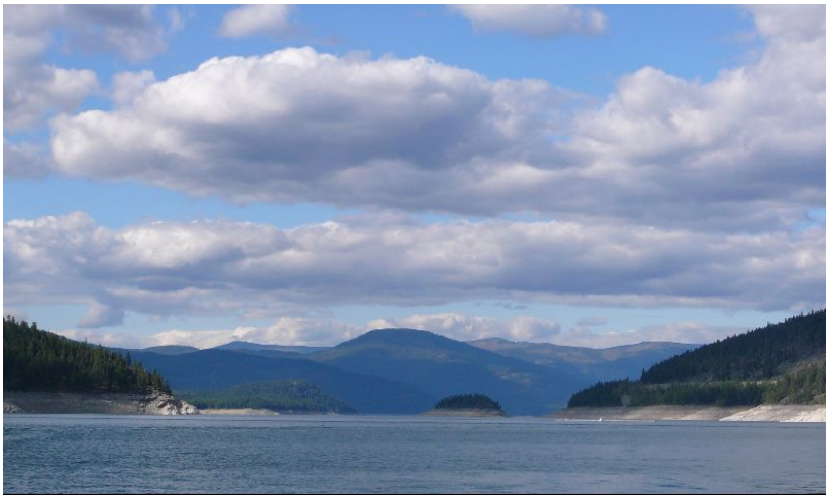
When the weather warms and the mountain snows melt away, the Kootenai National Forest comes alive with over 2.2 million acres of public land as a playground. Mountain trails and lakes open up, beautiful wildflowers come in bloom, and wildlife have their young. Libby is the base camp for the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, Lake Koocanusa, Northwest Peaks Scenic Area, and the Ten Lakes Scenic Area. There is good access to most of the Forest and plenty of room to get away from it all!

- Blue ribbon fishing in the Kootenai River
- Cabinet Wilderness Area hiking and exploring
- 90-mile long Lake Koocanusa Reservoir
- Camping in dispersed and developed campgrounds
- Miles of hiking, backpacking & mountain biking trails
- 2.2 million acres to play on the Kootenai National Forest
- Boating on the Kootenai, Lake Koocanusa, and numerous area lakes
- Golfing at Cabinet View Country Club Golf Course

FALL

Northwest Montana, the Kootenai National Forest, and adjacent State of Montana and private lands have abundant wildlife. In Montana, hunting is primarily a family sport. There are general seasons for elk, deer (white tail and mule deer), and bear. There are annual drawings for permits to hunt moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and mountain lion. For bird hunters there are turkey, grouse, and some ducks. For more information: Hunting - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

WINTER



Winter in Montana means snow, and lots of it! For those who love to play in the deep powder, the Libby area offers tremendous winter fun. Turner Mountain Ski Area, located just 22 miles from Libby, offers challenging downhill skiing with a beautiful view. Their slogan is "steep, deep and cheap", and Turner definitely lives up to that. It's still fairly undiscovered, so you can escape the crowds and get the cheapest lift tickets around. For those who love snowmobiling, there are hundreds of miles of backcountry roads to sled on in the Kootenai National Forest. Cross-country skiers and ice fishermen also can find solitude on a lake and miles of quiet forest trails to enjoy the outdoors. Those who are a bit on the wild and crazy side will love the antics of the Libby Polar Bear Club. Members take winter-time "swims" in frigid Libby Creek every Sunday from October to April. Plungers have ranged in age from 3 to 61. As long as the ice can be broken on the creek, if it has formed, the group will take their plunge, no matter the temperature. LibbyMT.com