

Master Record Number: FS3054

Title/Pay Plan/Series/Grade: Forestry Technician, GS-0462-05

FLSA Code: Non-Exempt

INTRODUCTION

This position is located on a Forest Service unit and is assigned a variety of complex and recurring technical duties individually or as a crew member or leader, in support of the unit's various natural resource management program areas. May lead a small crew in some work, but for less than the leading responsibilities outlined in the Office of Personnel Management General Schedule Leader Grade Evaluation Guide (GSLGEG).

MAJOR DUTIES:

This position performs a variety of routine and frequently complex tasks involving techniques and practices relating to natural resources management programs, (i.e., timber and silviculture, recreation, wildlife, range, and fire and fuels management). Successful accomplishment of the following assignments supports field projects and program planning activities for the unit:

- **Timber:** Performs timber marking, cruising and scaling of forest products, planting, site preparation, and timber land improvement projects. Collects, summarizes and prepares requested timber reports and maps which provide information in planting units concerning topography, livestock trespass, invasive species and general conditions of the area.
- **Recreation:** Assures recreation areas are maintained in accordance with standards and reports on condition of area. Makes group and individual contacts in providing forest recreation information and answering questions about recreation management on the unit. Provides specific information concerning camping or swimming and other area regulations such as fire, safety and sanitation. Notifies visitors of violations and potential violations.
- **Wildlife:** Makes wildlife and fish habitat surveys and implements coordination measure such as marking key areas. Performs independently, or as leader of a small project crew in construction or completing wildlife habitat improvement projects such as water developments, fish attractors, or clearing and planting site preparation areas for establishment of more desirable food or cover and other similar tasks. Participates in plant control or type conversion by flagging boundaries, operating equipment, carrying out kill studies, or reseeding.
- **Range:** Makes range analysis to determine utilization and grazing impact, and maps out key use areas. Checks allotments for compliance with permit and management plan and

contacts permittee about maintenance and/or construction needs. Performs maintenance on range fences, lays out location for fence construction or cattle-guards and other range structural improvements, and locates areas suitable for the construction of range ponds or works on re-vegetation or plan control projects.

- **Vegetation:** Participates in noxious plant control, seeding, or similar projects by flagging boundaries, operating equipment, and carrying out kill studies. Identifies plant specimens in the field and collects and prepares specimens. Identifies plants and noxious weeds and determines how they grow. Applies the proper chemicals to control noxious weeds. Uses botanical key to identify plants encountered during field trips or surveys of forest and range areas. Compiles and summarizes the vegetation types obtained from ground surveys including forest health monitoring, biological evaluations, and range surveys. Layout of experimental plots by taking measurements and marking corners and boundaries.
- **Fire and Fuels:** Executes fuel treatment plans, slash hazard appraisals and hazard reduction plans. Records fuel treatment activity records for required reports and final project completion. Operates motor vehicles and equipment in support of fire suppression activities.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

FACTOR STATEMENTS:

Factor 1 – Knowledge Required by the Position Level 1-4 550 Points

Knowledge of established forestry practices for timber marking, cruising and scaling forest products, and for planting, site preparation, and timber land improvement in order to accomplish assigned duties in timber and related resources.

Knowledge of established fire policies, guidelines, and procedures, in order to serve as a member or crew leader of a prescribed burn or slash disposal crew.

Knowledge of established contract administration procedures and requirements in order to function as contract inspector on less complex contracts.

Knowledge of standard sampling methods, recording procedures, inspection techniques and surveys in order to collect, summarize, and present requested resource data in non-written or written form.

Knowledge of techniques for planning on a day-to-day basis to schedule, carry out, and accomplish assignments in an orderly and timely manner.

Knowledge of human relationship principles to obtain cooperation from contractors, permittees, and forest visitors.

Knowledge of computer programs to collect and process field data.

Knowledge of techniques for the safe operation of motor vehicles sufficient to obtain a valid State drivers license, government operators permit, and negotiate travel in a forest or range setting.

Knowledge of the use of two-way radios, telephones, and computers to receive and transmit data and maintain communications.

Skill in using hand and power tools such as ax, shovel, pulaski, fire rake, injector, and chainsaw in order to effectively perform duties in fire, timber, recreation, and other related forestry areas.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls

Level 2-2

125 Points

The supervisor assigns work in terms of the objectives to be achieved and without explicit instruction in work situations which involve concepts and methods typically familiar to the incumbent. Processes and procedures are discussed for new or complex assignments. Incumbent draws upon previous experience and training to independently resolve problems of the type previously encountered, making is unnecessary for constant technical supervision.

The supervisor provides technical assistance on new, unusual, or controversial problems, and approves technical deviations from established practices. Incumbent is responsible for completion of all work assignments. Completed work is reviewed for methods applied and technical adequacy.

Factor 3 – Guidelines

Level 3-2

125 Points

Guidelines consist of numerous technical guidelines, handbooks, work plans, prescriptions, and non-written and written instruction. Incumbent is expected to use judgment in selecting the proper guideline adapting procedures to meet field conditions. Unusual conditions or circumstances are referred to supervisor for instructions.

Factor 4 – Complexity

Level 4-2

75 Points

Duties involve carrying out a variety of operations following established procedures and precedents to accomplish assignments in recreation, timber, fire, wildlife, and range. The incumbent must make on-the-site decisions requiring the use of sound judgment to select and/ adapt established procedures and precedents to meet field conditions in the administration of operations, to carry out resource practices within accepted parameters, to estimate quantity and quality of resources, and to make group and individual contacts.

Most duties are regulated by precedents and established procedural guidelines, but the incumbent must use judgment in identifying situation where field conditions differ from the

norm or conflicts exist between resources. Unusual problems are referred to supervisor for resolution.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect

Level 5-2 75 Points

The purpose of this position is to provide technical expertise to the unit's recreation, timber, fire, wildlife, and range programs. The successful and accurate performance of these duties contributes to the timely accomplishment of unit programs and the management and protection of the resources on the unit.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts

Level 6-2 25 Points

Contacts are usually face-to-face, by phone, or in writing with coworkers, contractors, permittees, landowners, and Forest visitors.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts

Level 7-1 20 Points

The purpose of contacts are to receive or give work instructions, exchange information with coworkers, explain contract or permit provisions, and give facts and provide service to Forest users.

Factor 8 - Physical Demands

Level 8-2 20 Points

The work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, route, uneven surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, lifting, reaching, or similar activities. The work requires average agility and dexterity.

Factor 9 - Work Environment

Level 9-2 20 Points

The work is performed in a forest environment in which temperature and weather extremes may be encountered and where the terrain may be steep, uneven, rocky and covered with thick vegetation. The work requires the use of safety equipment such as boots, gloves, goggles, and hard hat.

Total Points: 1035

Point Range: 0855-1100=GS-05

References Used:

Forestry Technician Series Flysheet; Position Classification Guide for Biological Science Technicians, Range Technicians, and Forestry Technicians in the Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Oct. 1992

Source Document:

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