

Master Record Number: FS4941

Title/Pay Plan/Series/Grade: Forestry Technician, GS-0462-06

FLSA Code: Non-Exempt

INTRODUCTION

This position is located on a Forest Service unit. The position performs a variety of technical duties individually, or as a crew member or leader, in support of the unit's timber, silviculture, recreation, wildlife, and fire programs.

MAJOR DUTIES

This position performs a variety of routine and somewhat complex tasks requiring the application of techniques and practices as related to the unit's natural resource program. The tasks are performed to accomplish the unit's various field projects and program planning activities.

May participate in some or all of the following activities.

Timber: Executes timber cruises and sample surveys for resource information. Estimates quantity and quality of timber for the purpose of appraisal and logging plans. Assembles and summarizes data and prepares reports and maps of cruise areas. Assists with laying out sales in accordance with operational standards, guidelines, and other instructions and points out variables such as accessibility, steep slopes, stream protection, nesting tree protection, wildlife and heritage impacts, fuels management, and regeneration requirements. Assists in marking trees using and adapting complex marking rules in areas complicated by variations in type, species composition, defect, site, age, class, etc.

Recreation: Plans projects based on priority and other requirements such as number of personnel required, length of time, etc. Conducts assigned portions of surveys and studies of recreation trail areas, facilities, and activities on the unit. Reviews current unit recreation plans and conducts research to suggest changes and improvements to the plan. Maintains existing recreation sites and assists with developing or improving existing sites to achieve Forest goals and objectives.

Assists with putting together project proposals and with conducting studies for providing input in National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) project analysis. Collects, compiles, and summarizes recreation data as required for data systems. Reviews land management proposals and operational programming needs and prescriptions for recreation work and conducts research to suggest improvements.

Monitors and maintains existing trails, facilities, etc. to ensure they are in operable condition. Assists with the selection and recommendation of new trail and facility locations or with the

closing of old sites.

Wildlife: Assists with performing a variety of field studies of sensitive wildlife species to determine numbers, environmental conditions, and the condition of the species and its habitats. Observes and reports on factors affecting the health and welfare of species and their habitat, location, and nesting status. Collects data in field locations and prepares the data for extrapolation. Works with a senior employee to develop work plans to determine data collection, recording requirements, and which factors to use for complete habitat and species condition analyses.

Fire and Fuels: Executes fuel treatment plans, slash hazard appraisals, and hazard reduction plans. Maintains fuel treatment activity records for required reports and final project completion. Performs as a crew leader for prescribed burning and slash disposal crews. Serves in overhead capacity in accordance with “red card” rating,

Operates motor vehicles (that do not require a commercial driver’s license) and equipment in support of fire suppression activities.

FACTOR STATEMENTS

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

Knowledge of established forestry practices, methods, and techniques for planting, site preparation, and timber land improvement in order to accomplish assigned duties in timber and related resources.

Knowledge of the characteristics of tree species common to the area to identify tree species.

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

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

Knowledge of the basic techniques and methods of wildlife biology to perform wildlife technical assignments.

Knowledge of computer programs to collect and process field data.

Knowledge of techniques for safe operation of motor vehicles sufficient to obtain a valid state driver’s license, government operator’s permit, and drive vehicles to travel in a forest setting.

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

Knowledge of the use of hand and power tools such as a crosscut saw, adze, axe, shovel, pulaski, fire rake, and chainsaw in order to effectively perform duties in fire, timber, recreation, and other related forestry areas.

Knowledge of developed recreation sites, maintenance standards, and operational techniques to implement approved recreation area plans.

Knowledge of communication techniques to communicate effectively with co-workers.

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls

Factor Level 2-3

275 Points

The supervisor provides instruction on priorities, objectives, and deadlines to be achieved without explicit instructions in work situations which involve concepts and methods typically familiar to the incumbent. New or unusual assignments may be accompanied with a general background discussion, including advice on the location of reference material to use.

The incumbent identifies work to be done to successfully complete assignments, plans and carries out the required phases of assignments, requests assistance when needed, independently coordinates work efforts, and characteristically submits only completed work. The incumbent develops solutions to common technical and procedural issues such as changing priorities, need for longer field time, or short-term needs for more equipment and personnel. Significant technical problems, such as when objectives seem to substantially exceed available equipment or personnel capacities, are decided by higher technical authorities. The incumbent may propose solutions with supporting justification.

Review of work is to assess the incumbent's problem-solving skills such as success in meeting deadlines, developing solutions to problems encountered, following agency policy and accepted scientific practices while performing the work, and producing technically sound assignments which completely meet requirements. Review is also in other workers' and project participants' assessments of the quality of judgment used to resolve issues. Data accuracy, quality of observations reported, and sufficiency of steps employed in planning and executing the assignment are generally accepted without detailed review.

Factor 3. Guidelines

Factor Level 3-2

125 Points

Guidelines consist of numerous technical guidelines, handbooks, work plans, prescriptions, and non-written and written instructions.

The incumbent exercises some judgment in locating and selecting appropriate guidelines and adapting procedures to meet field conditions. Unusual conditions or circumstances are referred to the supervisor for instruction.

Factor 4. Complexity**Factor Level 4-3****150 Points**

Duties involve carrying out a variety of operations following established procedures and precedents to accomplish assignments in recreation, timber, fire, and wildlife. Duties for each program differ and have unrelated processes and methods, causing the incumbent to shift frequently from one type of responsible assignment to other types which are substantially different in terms of equipment, techniques, and methods used, data produced, and uses to which the data will be applied.

The incumbent exercises discretion in choosing a course of action for planning and executing the work. Issues with existing precedents are independently resolved, provided they have some commonality to other issues that have previously been encountered.

Judgment is required in applying a wide range of conventional, established approaches, methods, techniques, and solutions to new situations. The incumbent identifies and recommends how to resolve discrepancies, adjusts work to accommodate unusual conditions, and identifies and recommends data to use, record, or report.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect**Factor Level 5-2****75 Points**

The purpose of this position is to provide technical expertise to the unit's recreation timber, fire, fuels, and wildlife programs.

The 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**Factor Level 6-2**

Contacts are primarily face-to-face, by phone, or in writing with Forest Service employees within the immediate staffing area, specialists located on and off the Forest, and with visitors or other members of the public who may be encountered during the course of work.

Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts**Factor Level 6/7-2b****75 Points**

Contacts with the public are to give factual information regarding recreation opportunities and regulations. Contacts with other employees are to obtain and exchange information, receive or provide clarification, answer questions, and explain well-established procedures in order to coordinate work efforts or advise about minor technical deviations.

Factor 8. Physical Demands**Factor Level 8-2****20 Points**

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

Factor 9. Work Environment**Factor Level 9-2****20 Points**

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 as well as other personal protective equipment in certain situations, such as to protect from high noise levels, cut and trim trees, etc.

Total Points: 1290**Point Range: 1105-1350=GS-6****References Used:**

Classification Guide for Biological Science Technicians, Range Technicians, and Forestry Technicians in the Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Oct. 1992

Source Documents:

GS-0462-07 Forestry Technician, GS-0462-07; FS PD# N5076; Classified 7/18/86. Biological Technician (Wildlife), GS-0404-07; FS PD# S2201; Classified 5/26/95. Forestry Technician (Rec), GS-0462-07; FS PD# 09053211; Classified 6/13/00. Forestry Technician, GS-0462-05; FS PD# N5126; Classified 7/18/86. Forestry Technician, GS-0462-07; FS PD# 09221631; Classified 10/25/98.

Name of Classification Delegate: Monty Lahr**Date Classified: January 14, 2015**