



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

*"Great Escapes to Nature"*

## Outreach Announcement

### Forestry Technician (Fire) GS-0462-07 USDA Forest Service, Southern Region

National Forests in Alabama  
Conecuh Ranger District  
[National Forests in Alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama)  
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The National Forests in Alabama will soon advertise a Forestry Technician (Fire), GS-0462-07, position on the Conecuh Ranger District. The incumbent serves as member of the fire organization and is responsible for a variety of duties associated with fire management. The position will be located at the Conecuh Ranger District office in Andalusia, Alabama.

#### **THE POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

The Conecuh Ranger District has an active and growing prescribed fire program currently treating approximately 25,000 to 30,000 acres annually with opportunities for significant growth.

This position is permanent and fulltime. It is a standard wildland fire management position description intended for use in the USDA Forest Service. This position is located on a Ranger District and meets the definition of a Forest Service Fire Management Program (FS-FPM) position as designated by WO Fire Management. The incumbent serves in a key fire management position in a field fire management organization as a Fuels Technician. The FS-FPM minimum qualification standards (MQS) for this position must be met prior to entrance into the position as a condition of hire. Refer to the Forest Service FS-FPM Standard Position Description Crosswalk for a full description of the MQS. The position will be filled under a standard GS-462-07 Firefighter position description (FS0931) with the addition of heavy equipment operation duties (<20%). The incumbent must hold and maintain a Type B Commercial Driver's License.

This is an arduous position subject to medical screening. This position is subject to random drug testing. The position is covered by the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Bargaining Unit. It is not eligible for telework.

#### **DUTIES:**

Major duties will include preparing and implementing prescribed fire plans, fire effects monitoring plans, manual and mechanical hazardous fuels treatments, smoke and wildland fire use monitoring plans. The incumbent integrates prescribed fire/fuels management, smoke management, fuels modification principles and procedures, fire effects knowledge, and knowledge of scientific data collection and analysis principles into a comprehensive prescribed fire/fuels management program for a unit.

Also this position will perform a variety of fire and natural resource management tasks such as fire line construction with a Type III dozer, operation of a Type VI and Type VII wildland engines, fuels mitigation with hand and power tools and holding/patrol/mop-up operations. This work will be performed on flat to rolling terrain in daytime and nighttime conditions. Working independently or with others, the incumbent may be assigned to carry out specialized work such as flagging and rehabilitation of dozer line, scouting fires, felling trees and burning out. The incumbent will be responsible for transport of heavy equipment.

Prior wildland firefighting experience on the fire-line and experience with southern fuel types and conditions is highly recommended. The incumbent will support other resource areas (timber, wildlife, silviculture, recreation, roads, etc.) as needed and assigned.

**FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT COVERAGE:**

This is a primary/rigorous firefighter position under the provisions of 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412(d) (FERS). Applicants must be under age 37. Applicants who are age 37 or over may subtract prior federal service that is prior to 1987 and in approved primary/rigorous positions and that is creditable for retirement from their current age to meet this requirement. Applicants must provide proof of this creditable service prior to appointment. Applicants who are entitled to veteran's preference are eligible to request a waiver to the maximum age requirement. In instances where the maximum entry-age is waived, the corresponding mandatory retirement age for these individuals will also be higher because it will be reached after 20 years of coverage under special retirement provisions for the entitlement to an immediate enhanced annuity.

**WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS:**

This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT 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. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your physician and begin training immediately if you are applying for this position.

**TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:**

Permanent, fulltime

**DUTY STATION:**

Duty Station is the Conecuh Ranger District Office at 24481 AL Hwy 55, Andalusia, AL.

**THE FOREST:**

The Conecuh National Forest covers 84,000 acres in the coastal plain of South Alabama. We are located in "the heart of longleaf country" as part of a large landscape of partner properties with more than a million acres dedicated to restoration of longleaf pine associated ecosystems. Longleaf pine ecosystem restoration is the mission that drives our management activities. These activities include prescribe burning 30,000 acres annually, harvesting 12,000 ccf of timber per year to restore longleaf pine to appropriate sites, recovery of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, reintroduction of the threatened indigo snake, and providing a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Hunting of deer, turkey, and quail are especially popular recreational activities. Natural sinkhole ponds, pitcher plant bogs, and other wetlands are signature natural communities on the Conecuh that support the highest diversity of reptiles and amphibians of any U.S. national forest.

The District is active in supporting conservation education programs and ecological research. Our list of partners is growing, and includes Auburn University's Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, the Covington County Forestry Planning Committee, The Longleaf Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP).

District staff includes 18-20 employees. We work as an integrated mission-driven team with strong traditions of innovation, partnerships, and accomplishment. We pride ourselves in being a small district with a big vision.

**THE COMMUNITY:**

This position is located in Andalusia, Alabama. Andalusia has a small town atmosphere with a generous complement of Southern hospitality and old-fashioned values of welcoming neighbors and strangers alike. Most goods and services are readily available. Population is around 10,000. Andalusia is located in South Alabama about 20 miles north of the Florida state line, 1 1/2 hours from the Forest Supervisor's office in Montgomery, and less than 1 1/2 hours from Gulf Coast beaches. Timber and agriculture are mainstays of the area. Manufacturing includes a Shaw Carpet mill.

The school system in Andalusia and surrounding Covington County is considered one of the best in the state. The community has full service hospital/health care services as well as abundant churches of most denominations. Recreation resources include developed camping on the National Forest and at State Parks, reservoirs and ponds for boating and fishing, and lengthy hunting seasons with liberal bag limits.

There is no government housing available, but housing in the community is readily available for both rental and purchase. Real estate prices range from 80's and up for average family dwellings. Colleges and universities in the area include Troy University located approximately one hour from Andalusia. Lurleen B. Wallace State Community College is located in Andalusia.

**CONTACT:**

For more information on this opportunity, contact Mary Owen, Zone Fire Management Officer, at 334-222-2555 (ext. 104), or [maowen@fs.fed.us](mailto:maowen@fs.fed.us).



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### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Series and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently a Federal Employee: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, current agency and location: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Appointment: Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_

VRA \_\_\_\_\_ PWD \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for your interest

Please return your completed form as soon as possible, but no later than COB Dec 31, 2015 via e-mail to Mary Owen at: [maowen@fs.fed.us](mailto:maowen@fs.fed.us) or by surface mail:

National Forests in Alabama  
Conecuh Ranger District  
ATTN: Mary Owen  
24481 Alabama Highway 55  
Andalusia, AL 36420

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