



'WE ARE...NORTH ZONE'

NORTH ZONE FIRE MANAGEMENT/DOUGLAS RANGER DISTRICT

The Douglas Ranger District was established in August 1987 with the consolidation of the Laramie Peak Ranger District and Thunder Basin National Grassland Ranger District. The Douglas District is approximately 200 miles long and 60 miles wide, containing 750,000 acres of National Forest system lands scattered throughout 2 1/2 million acres of private and State ownerships. This interspersed ownership makes close cooperation with local resources essential.

The District extends from the Laramie Plains north through the Laramie Mountain Range into the Powder River Basin and continues to within 30 miles South of the Wyoming/Montana Border. Wheatland, Douglas, Newcastle, Gillette, Upton and Wright are towns employees frequently visit in administering the Douglas Ranger District. It is a vast area requiring traveling long distances on Highways and back roads.

Douglas is a full service community of 6,000 people. Services include 2 supermarkets, a movie theatre, dental and medical facilities, a sports medicine clinic, a modern hospital, 9 motels, a limited-service airport, a weekly newspaper, award-winning schools, and churches of many denominations.

The town and District area provide numerous outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, ice skating, camping, picnicking, golf and water slide park. Our community Recreation Center also provides racquetball, basketball, volleyball, swimming, and weight room for indoor recreation. Several city parks provide excellent tennis courts, picnicking, play grounds, Skateboard Park, hockey, gymnastics center and baseball. A 4-mile bike and walking path lies adjacent to the North Platte River. Local events include the annual Jackalope Days and the Wyoming State Fair. Cultural events include the High Plains Old-Time Country Music Contest and Festival, and the Community Concert series.

Casper, the largest city in Wyoming, is 45 miles west of Douglas and offers a wide array of services. Denver, CO is approximately 4 hours away and Cheyenne, WY is around 2 hours away.

Please click here for more information: [DOUGLAS, WYOMING](#)

FUELS, TOPOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

The North Zone Fire and Fuels Management area of the Forest provides a unique experience for individuals who apply for fire positions. From the rugged Laramie Mountain Range to the Powder River Basin. Individuals will have the opportunity fight fire in a vast array of fuels from timber to grassland mid-grass/sage prairie.

The Thunder Basin National Grassland is comprised of four distinct areas: Upland Plains a rolling plateau on the western edge of the Grassland; Escarpments a high plateau eroded to form steep slopes 300 to 400 feet high located on the eastern edge of the upland plains; Broken Dissected Plains a very erosive "badlands" type environment; and Shale Uplands a rather flat to rolling plains like area containing bentonite and other minerals. Livestock grazing, development of the mineral resources (oil, gas, coal and bentonite), and big game hunting dominate the land uses occurring on the National Grassland. Sagebrush and mid-grass plant species predominate as the vegetation component. Cottonwoods are scattered along some drainage bottoms and ponderosa pine is scattered across the higher elevation hills and escarpments on the Grassland.



THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND



The LARAMIE PEAK Unit of the Zone is located in the Laramie Mountains, which are an extension of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The rugged and rocky slopes of the range are bordered by open grass and sagebrush lands on all sides. Many of the slopes are covered with stands of ponderosa and limber pine, Douglas-fir and scattered patches of aspen. Mountain parks and deep valleys lie between the rugged breaks of this range. The breaks are characterized by attractive granitic formations, high rocky, sharp peaks, and sharp narrow ridges, covered with large boulders. Few mountain lakes exist but perennial streams are not uncommon to the area. Involvement in fire is frequent due to the high incidence of wildfire activity. Livestock grazing and summer recreation dominates the land use. Some timber harvest also occurs on the unit.

LARAMIE PEAK UNIT

The District and its surrounding area supports one of the largest pronghorn antelope populations in North America, other wildlife, and the largest open-surface coal producing mine in the United States. Ranching is the dominant agricultural industry and is a common component of the area culture.

NORTH ZONE FIRE MANAGEMENT STAFF AND RESOURCES

The North Zone Fire Management staff comprises of:

Personnel:

- *Zone FMO*
- *Zone AFMO*
- *Zone Fuels Specialist*
- *3 Engine Captains*
- *3 Assistant Engine Captains*
- *3 Senior Firefighters*
- *6 Seasonals*
- *Lookout (Black Mountain)*
- *Helicopter Manager*

Fire Resources:

- *1 – Type 4 Engine (Thunder Basin NG, Wright Wyoming)*
- *2 – Type 6 Engines (Esterbrook Work Center)*
- *Wyoming State Helitack – Wyoming State Forestry Resource/Partnership***
- *Black Mountain Lookout.*

FIRE RESOURCES

Due to the vast distance of our zone we Station a Type 4 Engine at Wright, Wyoming. They work closely with Campbell, Converse, and Weston Counties, Many of the fires they respond too are primarily grass and sagebrush with occasional fires in the timbered hills North of Gillette and East of Wright. Fire occurrence on the grassland is frequent and fire duration is usually 72 hours and less.



We staff two Type 6 Engines at Esterbrook Work Center. These Engines respond to fires on the Laramie Peak Unit of our Zone. Like Our Type 4 Engine on the Grassland. These engines work in cooperation with our Converse, Platte, and Albany County partners. The fuel type and fire frequency varies from the East side of the Laramie to



West side. The West side of the Laramie range is higher in elevation and less dry than the East side of the range. Fuel Types Range from Ponderosa Pine stands to Mixed High Alpine Conifer. Depending on the



size and location of fires in this area fires can be week long duration incidents.

Black Mountain Fire Lookout is staffed from June - September. Our Fire Lookout provides the eyes to locate and inform dispatch and resources of new starts. They also provide the communication needs for ground resources who are on scene and are unable to communicate out to dispatch and supporting resources.

** Wyoming State Helitack is a Wyoming State Forestry Resource. This resource is stationed at Duncan Helibase south of Glenrock, Wyoming. The Helicopter comes on contract mid-June and goes off contract by the end of September. This valued resource responds to incidents within the state of Wyoming and occasionally assists our State neighbors. The Forest and North Zone fund a permanent Assistant Helicopter Manager for Wyoming State Helitack. This position is unique as it's in partnership with Wyoming State Forestry. With this resource within the same geographical area as our Forest and Zone; it provides our seasonal fire staff the opportunity to train and become qualified as Helicopter Crewmembers.



WYOMING STATE HELITACK



NORTH ZONE FIRE PROGRAM



North Zone focuses on the training and development to build a solid foundation for our future firefighters. We strive to provide opportunities for folks to develop their leadership skills through training, instructing, project work, and detailing/learning from other fire resources and the services they provide, i.e. Hotshot Crews, Helitack, Type 2 IA Crews, IMT's (Interagency Management Teams), and Dispatch. We have current and former North Zone Firefighters who have worked on; Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crews, Helitack Crews, Smokejumping, Dispatch, and Wildland Fire Modules.

Physical Training is an essential aspect of our program. We anticipate employees to be in good physical shape when they arrive for their first day of work. Many aspects of the work we accomplish require long durations of exposure to the elements working on un-level remote terrain.

Physical conditioning allows us to overcome/avoid many injuries and exposures. It can also decrease the healing time if an injury should occur. If an individual shows up out of shape, it can cause avoidable risk to yourself and additional exposure to your fellow firefighters. There is no excuse for showing up unprepared and out of shape. You will be required to pass a Physical Fitness Test/Pack Test, which requires you to walk 3 miles within 45 minutes or less, carrying 45 lbs.

As a fire program; our primary responsibility is to provide initial response to reported fires within the fire management zone. Due to the mixed land ownership we work closely with our interagency and cooperating partners by providing training and annual refresher courses. We work with local landowners to minimize the impacts of suppression efforts. We understand that many of our cooperators depend on the rangeland to provide for their lively hood.



We participate with other functions and project work on the Forest, Central/South Zones, and Douglas Ranger District. This may include hazard tree removal from campgrounds, planting sage brush, repair and replacement of Forest Service signs, mechanical hazardous fuels treatment, prescribe burning, and assisting the University of Wyoming with fire research studies.



NORTH ZONE WANTS YOU

If you are an individual who is motivated and enjoys challenging work we ask that you apply. Our Fire Staff enjoys the benefits of coaching and building character for our future firefighters, watching them grow and promote within the fire organization. It is our goal to pass knowledge and experience on to new employees. We understand that one day it will be these individuals who will become future leaders. The skills that you will develop when you enter in to the fire service will not only benefit in the work you do, but can also influence future relationships, partnerships, and most important to *NEVER QUIT*. You will learn to work as team. When a team member becomes overwhelmed you will understand the benefits of stepping in to help carry the load.

We believe in *FAMILY*. As firefighters we are called to serve. The word 'SERVICE' is in our Agency Title, Motto, and is used to represent the 'Fire Service' as a whole. To serve; is the ability to sacrifice your personal wants in order to benefit the needs of others. As supervisors we serve our employees, as employees we serve our supervisors, and fellow co-workers. When we exhibit the character of "Servanthood" the facets of an individual's character will be observed without need of self-recognition. To understand in depth of what quality leadership and character is about select on the links below.

- *PERSEVERANCE*
- *OWNERSHIP*
- *LEADERSHIP*
- *ENDURANCE*
- *INTEGRITY*
- *SACRIFICE*
- *FAILING VS. FAILURE*

These elements are what help create and sustain a positive productive organization. If you possess these traits, and choose to mold and refine yourself, and contribute to a purpose larger than yourself, we encourage you to rise from the ashes and apply to work on North Zone!



TO BEGIN YOUR CAREER

USA Jobs

Contact:

North Zone FMO
Shay Rogge
307-358-7119
[*krogge@fs.fed.us*](mailto:krogge@fs.fed.us)

North Zone AFMO
Brandon Selk
307-358-7118
[*bselk@fs.fed.us*](mailto:bselk@fs.fed.us)

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