



United States
Department Of Agriculture

OUTREACH NOTICE

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST



CABINET RANGER DISTRICT

Forestry Technician

GS-0462-4/5

Senior Firefighter

The Northern Region (R1), Kootenai National Forest, Cabinet Ranger District will be filling a Forestry Technician, Senior Firefighter, GS-462-4/5 position. Duty station is Trout Creek, 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



This position will serve as a fire engine operator for the wildland fire and prescribed burning. The purpose of this position is to aid in the implementation of a wildland fire suppression and fuels management program. Employee is expected to be a dependable firefighter with responsibility for the operation and maintenance of specialized tools and equipment such as; engines, chainsaws, drip torches, hand tools, and pumps.

The incumbent will be expected to work in remote areas of the district and will sometimes be required to spike out for multiple days. Work schedule may also include working on the weekend with days off during the week.

Minimum qualifications must be FFT1 and have completed S-290. Taking and passing the Work Capacity Test 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. This position is classified as a primary firefighter under the provision of 5 USC 8336 (c) and 5 USC 8412 (d). Prior wildland firefighting experience is required. This is a CDL required position (within 90 days of hire) and employee will be placed in the DOT random drug testing program.

Interested applicants will need to monitor usajobs.gov and apply to the announcement when it becomes available. To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements and application procedures, as listed in the announcement.

The vacancy announcement for this position will open in usajobs.gov approximately October 26, 2020.

This will be filled through the centralized Fire Hire process.

Interested applicants will need to monitor usajobs.gov and apply to the announcement when it becomes available. To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements and application procedures, as listed in the announcement.

Government housing may be available.

The Forest does not offer federal day care facilities.

Transfer of Station will be determined at time of selection.

For more information regarding this position, please contact Dusty Pierson at 406/827-0709 or email at dustin.pierson@usda.gov

ABOUT THE DISTRICT



The Cabinet Ranger District is one of five districts on the Kootenai National Forest in northwestern Montana. Of the 528,000 acres within the District boundary, about 432,000 are federally administered. The Kootenai NF covers 2.2 million acres.

The District has 35 permanent employees and up to 50 temporary employees during the summer field season. District offices are located two miles west of Trout Creek, Montana along Highway 200. At Trout Creek the elevation is 2400 feet with annual precipitation totaling 25 inches. Fall and spring are generally mild; summers can be moderately hot with short periods of 100 degree weather; and winter brings snow and temperatures that are warmer than generally associated with Montana.



Two reservoirs along the Clark Fork River and nearby streams provide abundant waterbased recreation with fishing, boating, skiing, and rafting opportunities. Hunting is popular in the autumn. Outdoor winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and ice fishing. A ski resort is 60 miles away near Sandpoint, Idaho. Hiking and camping opportunities abound in the 94,000 acres Cabinet Mountains Wilderness

which is partially on the District. There are several developed campgrounds and three rental lookouts on the District.

This area offers an adventure for those seeking outdoor activities with a view! Although services are limited in the local area; the opportunity to experience the wildlife, huckleberries, and the quiet side of nature are abundant. Trout Creek hosts the annual Huckleberry Festival, which attracts hundreds of tourists. The town has a small grocery store and two card-operated gas stations, two motels, three eateries, and small businesses. Noxon is a similar sized community about 12 miles northwest. Thompson Falls, with a population of 1800, is about 20 miles southeast and serves as the county seat. It has a larger grocery store, two banks, medical services, dentist, bowling alley, hardware stores, public library, nine-hole golf course, and an airport. Hospitals are located in Plains, Montana (45 miles southeast of Trout Creek) and Sandpoint (60 miles west of Trout Creek). Churches of various denominations are found in all communities. Other shopping and commercial service opportunities are found in Missoula (120 miles from Trout Creek), Sandpoint, Kalispell (130

miles), and Spokane (130 miles). Commercial airline service is available in Missoula, Kalispell, and Spokane. Railroad passenger service is available in Sandpoint.

Trout Creek has an elementary school while Noxon and Thompson Falls offer elementary and high schools Internet services, including DSL, are available in most areas through internet providers. Wi-Fi is only available through providers or some local businesses. Cell phone coverage is limited, major TV networks are available, however specialty TV channels are only available by satellite.

Housing prices vary from \$140,000 for a small, older home to \$300,000 or more for a larger home with acreage. Housing inventory can be limited. Bare land is also available. Rental property is challenging to find, but a limited amount is available. Government housing may be available. District employees live in Trout Creek, Thompson Falls, Noxon, or Heron, Montana (near Idaho state line); and at the Ranger Station. For more information on Trout Creek go to [Sanders County](#).

ABOUT THE FOREST

The [Kootenai National Forest](#) encompasses over 2.2 million acres of NFS lands. The forest is located in the extreme northwest corner of Montana, including a small portion of northeast Idaho. 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.

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.

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