



SOUTH ZONE FIRE



USDA Forest Service

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland
Steamboat Springs, CO; Yampa, CO; Walden, CO

Our Fire Program has new changes in organization and staffing as of 2019. *Kevin Thompson* is the Fire Management Officer; the Assistant Fire Management Officer position is Vacant; and we welcome *Lance Broyles* as South Zone's Fuels Specialist. Together, they manage the overall fire program within all three districts that complete the South Zone.

Storm Peak Fire Module is a 10-person handcrew that specializes in suppression as well as fire observations for scientific objectives. This module is located in the heart of Steamboat Springs, CO. *Tim Gusack* is our new crew lead for the module, with *Callum Harper* filling behind Tim as the Assistant and *Jake Brown* joining us as Storm Peak's Apprentice. Engine 617 is a Type 6 engine staffed at Parks Ranger District in Walden. The engine crew staffs up to four personnel under *Kristen Thomason* as Engine Captain. Engine 617 is looking for a qualified candidate to fill the Assistant position. The module is also looking at future possibilities of an Apprentice or 13/13 permanent seasonal position. *Chris Green* is the Module Lead for a transitioning crew working out of Yampa. This year he will be running Engine 618/Fuels crew with the intent to complete the transition and become a fully operational Fuels Crew in the near future. This module is also looking for a quality candidate to fill the Assistant position. The engine/fuels module will staff 5-7 personnel depending on assignments.



All modules work on a variety of projects outside of wildfire response. During the preparedness season in the spring, training within the three zones commences. Training emphasizes general and specific field season information sharing. Specific fire training is facilitated weekly throughout season with the intent to bring all modules and cooperators together. These are designed to familiarize our fire crews with apparatuses on the zone—we may utilize and maintain apparatuses outside of the reporting duty station's equipment. During the summer the modules are busy with fuels management when not responding to all risk incidents. With

Lance Broyles in the Fuels Specialist position, we are moving forward with a strong desire to develop our prescribed fire program for forest resiliency. Fuel sampling has historically been taken twice a month on each district during the summer months. Outside of fuels projects, the South Zone Fire Program assists other departments with their targeted work. We enjoy participating in community events and educational programs.

Bunkhouses are limited, but available for our Seasonal Fire Staff upon request. After completing the requirements of initiating a red card, crewmembers are checked out gear and underway the vast training opportunities available from and for our MBRTB Fire Program. As the season kicks in, it is incumbent upon the staff to be available for flexible shifts and long hours—that includes traveling to Incidents nationally. We are looking for high energy, passionate souls that hold the highest standard in *Duty, Respect, and Integrity*.



**** 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. This resource is in the same geographical area as our Forest and provides assistance for all three zones. It offers our seasonal fire staff the opportunity to train and become qualified as Helicopter Crewmembers.**

WYOMING STATE HELITACK

THE SOUTH ZONE/ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST:

The Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland is headquartered in Laramie, Wyoming approximately 150 miles southeast of Casper Wyoming. The Medicine Bow National Forest, Routt National Forest, and Thunder Basin National Grasslands encompasses nearly three million acres from the north and eastern borders of Wyoming, south almost to the Colorado River that traverses north central Colorado. Additional information about the area can be found at

USFS MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NF & THUNDER BASIN NG

The *Routt National Forest* is located in northern Colorado. It was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905 as the Park Range Forest Reserve. The Routt includes 1,126,650 acres of National Forest land within its boundaries. It consists of three Ranger Districts, together known as South Zone of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grasslands: Hahn's



Peak-Bears Ears at Steamboat Springs, Parks at Walden, and Yampa at Yampa. The Middle Park District at Kremmling is administered as part of the Routt. The Routt National Forest contains seven wilderness areas to include: Flat Tops, Sarvis Creek, Mount Zirkel, Platte River and Never Summer. Elevations on the Forest range from about 5,000 feet to over 12,000 feet. Vegetation varies from sage brush-grasslands and oak brush at the lower elevations to mixed conifer forests of pine, spruce, fir and aspen in the upper elevations. Wildlife is abundant, with pronghorn, elk, moose, mule deer, and black bear being the most common larger species. The North Platte and Yampa Rivers are blue ribbon trout fisheries which are also popular with rafting and kayaking enthusiasts.

The South Zone communications center is based out of Craig Interagency Dispatch out of Craig, CO. This Dispatch is responsible for not only South Zone Fire, but a vast majority of the BLM in Northwest Colorado. We work closely with Colorado DFPC (Department of Fire Prevention and Control), BLM Northwest Colorado Fire and Aviation Unit, as well as several municipal Volunteer and Commissioned Fire Departments within the area: North Routt FD, Oak Creek FD, Yampa FD, Kremmling FD, Grand County FD, North Park FD, Steamboat Spring Fire and Rescue, West Routt FD; and Moffat County Sheriff's Office—to name a few. We often work alongside with many outside resources that are called in to assist us during busy fire season. Those resources are welcomed to jump in and participate in any training or activities scheduled during slower periods. Our communities are small, thus creating opportunities for intimate working relationships with our local businesses, schools, politics as well as the people who live within those communities.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO:

Hahns Peak Bears Ears Ranger district is located in Steamboat Springs-the biggest city within the south zone with a population of 12,690. It's a charming town nestled in the mountains at an elevation of 6,700 ft. The city is internationally known as a winter ski resort destination. Steamboat can be enjoyed outdoors, shopping, exploring the mutli-cultural restaurants and quaint shops. The ski resorts provide fun activities during winter and summer—including a mountain slide.

The Yampa River runs through the town providing a popular conduit for water sports like fishing, rafting, tubing, and kayaking. Alongside with seasonal recreation sports is the vast snowmobile, cross-country and snowshoe trails along the rabbit ears pass and north of Steamboat in the Elkhead and Park Range. Strawberry hot springs is a popular community pool open year round. Amenities in Steamboat are vast and varied. It's a short drive from Yampa and about one hour drive from Walden.

Please click here for more information: [STEAMBOAT SPRING, COLORADO](#)



WALDEN, COLORADO:



Parks Ranger District is located in Walden, CO in Jackson County. The town is located in North Central Colorado. This area is known as North Park. Walden is located at 8,000 feet in elevation with a population of 600 people. This town has amenities such as a grocery store, two gas stations, a k-12 school, library, courthouse, as well as a handful of restaurants and gift shops. The county indoor swimming pool can also be found in Walden. Festivals and Rodeos are frequent throughout the year; and the friendly community

welcomes old and new traditions. Annual Festivals include: North Park Rodeo, Yeti Fest, Gould Ski Scramble, Moose Festival. Walden is minutes away from year-round outdoor recreational activities with some of the best hunting and fishing in the area. Annual fishing tournaments as well as the famous Ice Golf tournament happens amongst the many lakes here in North Park. It shares the valley with Private, Forest Service, BLM, National Wildlife Refuge and State lands. Denver is located 2 ½ hours away; Fort Collins, Colorado is just 2 hours away.

Please click here for more information: [WALDEN, COLORADO](#)

YAMPA, COLORADO:

Yampa is a small town with the Yampa Ranger District tucked in town. It sits at 7,800 ft with a population of 447 and attracts outdoor enthusiasts as Yampa is the eastern gateway to the Flat Top Wilderness. The community consists of mostly agriculture with the railroad mainly for surrounding mining economy. Yampa provides a quiet, pristine beauty with opportunities for outdoor recreation. Its history delves into the Ute Native American tribe prior to the mining camp that initiated the growth of Yampa. Don't forget to enjoy the annual horse polo around the Fourth of July amongst other unique events. This town has a few amenities such as restaurants, a school, and small grocery store—however, Yampa is within minutes of Oak Creek and about a half hour south of Steamboat Springs.



Please click here for more information: [YAMPA, COLORADO](#)

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WORK FOR THE US FOREST SERVICE & MBRTB, SOUTH ZONE FIRE:

All three Zone hold a high standard of operations, respect, and integrity for successful interdependency. South Zone is always looking for individuals who possess self and team integrity; set high standards in performance for themselves, and who honor respect and trust. These individuals are motivated, enquiring, and service-oriented. Our firefighters are unique in character and experience—ranging from permanent positions that bring in seasoned folks to first year firefighters; and a culture of Respect and Ethics.

USAJOBS is the website that will list all positions that are or may become vacant. We are now accepting applications early Fall, so stay tuned to announcements on our website! Look for 0462 series, as that includes most fire positions for Federal Government Agencies. Be sure to include South Zone locations!

CONTACTS FOR HIRING

KEVIN THOMPSON
(FMO)

VACANT
(AMFO)

LANCE BROYLES
(FUELS AFMO)

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER TRIBUTE

***Video is not affiliated with the USFS; it is a tribute from our supporting public.*

