



# Central Zone



## USDA Forest Service Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests & Thunder Basin National Grassland Laramie, WY & Saratoga, WY 2019

The Central Zone of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland (MBRTB) underwent several changes following the 2018 fire season, Flavio **Gallegos** remained the Fire Management Officer, and **Casey Cheesbrough** stayed as Assistant Fire Management Officer for suppression resources. **Jerod Delay** (former engine captain) took over as fuels AFMO for the central and North Zones of the MBRTB this addition will make for a strong fuels program for the foreseeable future, including prescribed fire acreage and hazardous fuels reduction. Jerod taking the fuels position left several vacancies in the program including engine 651 captain, engine 352 captain, and engine 352 assistant captain.

### Central Zone Resources

**Engine 621** is located On the Brush Creek- Hayden Ranger District in Saratoga, Wyoming. 621 retained its staff for the 2019 season including; Captain Blake Creagan, Assistant Travis Chamberlain, Lead Jody Pfeifer, crewmembers Charles Antwine, and Brett Clafin.

**Engine 651** is located on the Laramie Ranger District, and is co-located with the Supervisor's Office in Laramie Wyoming. 651 is Crewed By; new Captain Nick Collard, Assistant Timmy Downham, Lead Sam Valdez, Crewmembers Logan Gustafson and Katie Forton.

**Engine 352** is located on the Laramie Ranger District, and is co-located with the Supervisor's Office in Laramie Wyoming. 352 is Crewed By; new Captain Cody Tully, Assistant is vacant, Lead Lee Burke, Crewmember Stephen Roaque. A detail opportunity for the assistant captain position on engine 352 is available and is a great opportunity for someone looking to make a step forward in the fire program.



**Fuels Crew** is located on the Laramie Ranger District, and is co-located with the Supervisor's Office in Laramie Wyoming. The fuels crew is supervised by fuels AFMO Jerod Delay, and is crewed by; Lead Parker Johnson, and crewmembers Parker Trower, Amanda Ortegon, Ryan Bassiner, and Luke DeHoff. The crew works on a wide array of fuels projects as well as local and national fire suppression assignments.

All of the Modules work on a variety of projects outside of wildfire response. These include recruitment of new employees for the fire program, but also for the Forest as a whole. Recruitment has taken place at the University of Wyoming, located in Laramie as well as local high schools in the past. Other activities include attending community events

such as farmer's markets while available throughout the summer, and attending parades in the communities.



Training is essential to the function of the Central Zone, with training taking place throughout the season on a weekly basis but also over the winter months at fire academies, both as student and as instructor. The experience level of the Central Zone staff leads to a variety of instructional capabilities including local and regional support. Some of these opportunities include instruction at the Rocky Mountain Engine Academy, and Colorado Wildfire Academy.

Bunkhouses are limited to the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger district, but available for our Seasonal Fire Staff upon request. Housing in Laramie can be a little more difficult to attain, as the University of Wyoming is located in Laramie creating competition for available housing. 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***.

### **Medicine Bow National Forest:**

The Medicine Bow National Forest dates back to May 22, 1902, with the establishment of the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve by President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1929, the former Hayden National Forest along the Continental Divide was added. The Pole Mountain Unit between Laramie and Cheyenne was formally administered by the War Department. In 1959, the area formerly used by the military was added to the Medicine Bow National Forest, and in 1961 all military interests in the Pole Mountain District were terminated.



The origin of “Medicine Bow” is legendary. The generally accepted version is that the Native American tribes which inhabited southeastern Wyoming found mountain mahogany in one of the mountain valleys from which bows of exceptional quality were made. It became the custom of friendly tribes to assemble there annually and construct their weapons. At these assemblies, there were ceremonial powwows for the cure of disease which, in the hybrid speech that developed between the Indians and the early settlers, was known as making – medicine. Eventually, the settlers associated the terms “making-medicine” and “making bow”, and Medicine Bow resulted as the name for the locality. Later the name gained worldwide renown through Owen Wister’s novel, “The Virginian”.

In 1993, the consolidation of the Medicine Bow National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland with the Routt National Forest was proposed. The Chief of the Forest Service approved the consolidation in February 1995, and the forests were administratively combined.



The Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland cover nearly 2.9 million acres from north central Colorado to central and northeastern Wyoming. From mountain ranges to grasslands and crystal clear streams, the national forests and national grassland provide abundant and unique opportunities for visitors.

### **Laramie, WY:**



The Laramie Ranger District is located in the scenic Snowy Range and the Medicine Bow mountains in southeast Wyoming, just a short distance from several major metropolitan areas. With approximately 400,000 acres of public land, the ranger district offers a wide array of multiple-use management activities.

Favorite local activities include fishing, camping, rafting, and hunting in the summer and fall. Winter brings ample opportunities for skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing etc...

Educational opportunities are plentiful in Laramie. Private schools are offered K-6 and public schools K-12; junior college courses are offered locally through the Laramie County Community College in both Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming. The University of Wyoming is the only four-year institution in the state, serving the widespread population through modern technology and offering over 140 different academic programs.

Please click here for more information: <https://laramie.org/>

### **Saratoga, Wyoming:**

The Brush Creek/Hayden District of the Medicine Bow NF sits in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in south central Wyoming. About 30 permanent employees work at the Forest Service Office, and a varying number of seasonal hires, work in recreation, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, range, fire, engineering, planning, and hydrology. The District Office is in Saratoga, a friendly town of about 1800 people. Local and federal governments, plus traditional and renewable energy industries, are among the area's largest employers. There is an interesting variety of restaurants, hotels, shops, hardware stores, farm and ranch stores, a brewpub, grocery, pharmacy, laundromat, gas/service stations, and 2 banks. A gorgeous community center complex serves as host to local theater, meetings and other events, and indoor recreation. There are also numerous local festivals, sporting events, and hands-on museums for every interest. Saratoga often places high on "best places to live/recreate lists" and was named the 2012 *Outdoor Life Magazine* 10<sup>th</sup> best hunting and fishing town in America.

Please click here for more information: <http://www.saratoga.govoffice2.com/>