

MaryGrace Bedwell audio transcript

00:00:01:07–00:00:17:00

MaryGrace Bedwell

I joined the Forest Service because I believe in the mission of the Forest Service, and when I get to work with people from all walks of life in all parts of the country who are also motivated by that same mission, the way that I do on fire assignments, that's really special to me. And, you know, my day job, we work to care for the land and serve the people every day.

00:00:17:00–00:00:49:07

MaryGrace Bedwell

But in the intense working conditions of a fire, I think you just really feel that mission, both with people within the agency and all of these folks who are coming in to serve our public lands. I'm Mary Grace Bedwell. I'm the issues manager for the Rocky Mountain region. My fire qualifications are public information officer, technician and type three expanded dispatch recorder, expanded support dispatcher, and wildfire prevention education team member.

00:00:49:08–00:01:14:00

MaryGrace Bedwell

Public information Officers work to provide communities impacted by fire with all the information they need to stay safe and informed on the fires that are directly impacting the places that they love. I think that I'm in a lucky position because I work in communications and information in my day job and on fire, and so I'm able to keep my skill sets sharp in terms of writing and public communication and things like that.

00:01:14:03–00:01:36:14

MaryGrace Bedwell

Plus, you know, website management, all these things that a lot of us have to relearn once a year when we start going back out on fire assignments, I'm able to kind of stay ahead of the curve on that in my day job, which is really valuable. So being red carded means getting

to go out on incidents and work with people from across the service and different agencies and bring my skill set to the table to help accomplish the mission.

00:01:37:00–00:01:58:05

MaryGrace Bedwell

People are often surprised at how far I travel to get to fires. I live in southeastern Wyoming and I've worked fires everywhere from the Great Basin all the way back to North Carolina. Wildfire response to me is showing up for the communities that we serve in a way that is impactful at a time when they really need it.