

**Fort Belknap Indian Community
Fort Belknap Agency
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, Mt. 59526**

DEPARTMENT: Fort Belknap Fire Management

LOCATION: Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

TITLE: Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Specialist

STATUS: Permanent/Full Time

SALARY: GS-8/9, DOQ

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Incumbent works under the general supervision of the FMO.

INTRODUCTION:

The mission of the Wildfire Management program is to provide safe and effective land wildfire protection to privately owned Indian forest and range lands held in trust by the United States of America through the use of modern and efficient fire management practices including aggressive fire suppression; a responsive and cost effective preparedness program based upon a cooperative approach to a common problem with other land wildfire protection agencies; a creative fire prevention program focusing on hazard abatement through the application of prescribed fire; and the implementation of tribal control of the program under Indian Self Determination as requested by Tribal government.

Prior firefighting experience as gained by substantial services as a primary firefighter is a **MANDATORY PREREQUISITE** for incumbents for this position.

This position serves as Fire/Fuels Management Specialist.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK:

This position serves as the Fuels Specialist to integrate prescribed fire, smoke management, and fuels management into Fort Belknap Fire Management programs and provide assistance in fuels, prescribed fire training. Position provides professional advice and assistance to meet resource management objectives with prescribed fire and/or wildland fire use.

Major Duties

- Provides program management oversight for a high complexity fire/fuels management program, based on the IFPM complexity analysis rating factors.
- Evaluates individual fuels treatments, effectiveness of the overall program and makes recommendations for improvement.
- Implements and administers prescribed fire activities, wildland fire use, and fuels management activities. Monitors fire behavior, evaluates fire effects; and identifies potential problems.

- Develops fuels treatment alternatives adhering to applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines.
- Serves as a member of an interdisciplinary team planning, developing, and implementing land management plans, compliance documents, and agreements.
- Participates in the development, review and modification of fire management plans.
- Performs fiscal analysis, formulates the annual fuels management budget, and tracks program expenditures.
- May serve as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) on fuels management contracts and may be responsible for the preparation of contract specifications and performance measures.
- Ensures welfare and safety in all aspects of project implementation and identifies training needs in fire and fuels management.
- Participates in preparedness reviews, proficiency checks and drills, safety sessions, and after action reviews.
- Coordinates multi-disciplinary field studies related to fuels management program issues to determine effectiveness of treatments. Coordinates and provides transfer of findings to the appropriate personnel.
- Coordinates with the next higher organizational level, other agencies, cooperators, and stakeholders to develop interagency fuels strategies. Represents the organization in multi-agency fuels management activities.

Qualifications

Your application and resume must clearly show that you possess the experience requirements. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. Provide course descriptions as necessary. Basic Requirement: A. Degree: Biological sciences, agriculture, natural resources management, chemistry or related disciplines appropriate to the position. -OR- B. Combination of education and experience: Courses equivalent to a major course of study in biological sciences, agriculture or natural resources management, chemistry or at least 24 semester hours in biological sciences, natural resources, wildland fire management, forestry, or agriculture equivalent to a major field of study, plus appropriate experience or additional education that is comparable to that normally acquired through the successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in the biological sciences, agriculture, or natural resources. In order to be considered for this position, copies of your Official Transcripts and/or Technical Fire Management (TFM) certificates MUST be attached to your application. Your resume must clearly show that you possess the specialized experience requirements. Specialized experience is defined as experience that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled and has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties related to fire program management. Experience must have included all of the

fire program management elements as described below: Reviewing and evaluating fire management plans for ecological soundness and technical adequacy; and Conducting field inspections before and after prescribed or wildland fires to determine if resource objectives were achieved and/or to evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken; and Developing analyses on the ecological role of fire and its use and/or exclusion, and smoke management. In addition to fire program management, appropriate experience must have included either prescribed fire/fuels management - or - fire management operations as described below: Prescribed fire/fuels management - experience in a broad range of activities such as: Professional forest or range inventory methods and procedures (e.g., Brown's planar intercept for dead and down fuels; live fuel loading assessments); Analysis of fuel loadings and determination of appropriate fuel treatment methods and programming; Land use planning and environmental coordination; Evaluation of prescribed burn plans or fire management plans to ensure fire containment is possible and identification of appropriate suppression contingencies if containment is not obtained. Fire management operations - analyzing and applying fire management strategies, plus experience in at least five of the following activities: Mobilization and dispatch coordination Fire prevention and education Training Logistics Equipment development and deployment Fire communication systems Suppression and preparedness Aviation Selective Placement Factors: Successfully completed the Primary NWCG Core Requirement of Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2) -AND- successfully completed the Secondary NWCG Core Requirement of Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4). A minimum 90 days experience performing on-the-line (Primary/Rigorous) wildland fire suppression duties as a member of an organized fire suppression crew or comparable unit that utilized knowledge of wildland fire suppression, containment or control techniques and practices under various conditions. This experience must be documented with specific dates in the online application or resume. In order to be considered for this position, copies of your Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) Master Record (or equivalent training documents) which contain documented proof of the certification or attainment of the IFPM Selective Placement Factor for this position MUST be attached to your application. Red cards are not acceptable documentation. Currency Requirement: Required to maintain currency once hired into the position. Currency of NWCG qualifications is not required for selection. If not currently qualified, the applicant must provide documented evidence that they have been fully qualified in the past, and are able to regain currency within one year of being hired. Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience. Must possess a Montana Drivers License and subject to random drug testing.

Candidate Description

The ideal candidate will have knowledge of Tribal and department policies, environmental laws, regulations, and policies including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Air Act, Threatened and Endangered Species Act, and the Wilderness Act sufficient to prepare routine reports and make presentations. Knowledge of the effects of fire and fire suppression techniques on the tribes natural and cultural resources, as well as related social, political and economic values. Knowledge of wildland fire safety policies, practices and procedures to ensure the welfare and safety throughout all aspects of project implementation. Knowledge of, and skill in applying, natural resource management, fire ecology, fire behavior, and fire management theories, concepts, principles, and standards in a wildland fire environment sufficient to participate in the development and management of a fuels management program and independently perform recurring, well-precedented projects using standard methods and techniques.

Supervisory Controls

The incumbent is supervised by the Fire Management Officer.

Work is assigned by outlining broad objectives and goals. This incumbent has considerable latitude for independent actions in daily operations. As a technical authority in land wildfire suppression, fuels management and prescribed fire management, project priorities are formulated by the incumbent and recommends to the supervisor.

The incumbent is expected to implement project independently, relying on personal knowledge and abilities to formulate methods and approaches. Projects are reviewed to determine that objectives are being met and that the methods and results are sensitive to natural resource programs and political considerations. Supervisor periodically check for technical accuracy and is available for assisting in the more unique or controversial situations.

Physical Demands

The work is partly sedentary but does require the incumbent to maintain an arduous duty fitness level test. The work requires physical endurance in hiking and climbing over steep terrain, often beyond an eight hour period, in heavy concentration of smoke during ongoing land wildfires or prescribed activities.

Work Environment

Work is perform both in-doors (office) and out-of-doors (field work). Office conditions require long periods of sitting, working with computers and general lifting, and bending and reaching. The field work is performed in various conditions and environments in steep terrain where surfaces may be extremely uneven, rocky, covered with vegetation, and in smoky conditions, etc. Temperatures vary from above 100 degrees Fahrenheit to below freezing. Risks include smoke inhalation, fire entrapment, snake or insect bites and stings, exposure to excessive machinery noise, and falling and rolling material.