The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is seeking candidates to fill a GS-401-11/12 Fire Ecologist position. This is a permanent, full time position. Interested applicants should contact Joyce Thompson, Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs, Planning and Public Affairs Staff Officer, at 208-935-4273, or jthompson@fs.fed.us by May 10, 2016.

This Fire Ecologist position will initially serve on the Forest Plan Revision (FPR) Team for the next two years. Forest plan revision is an opportunity to shape the direction of land and resource management on the Forests for years to come. The Forests have scoped a proposed action and will be releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Monitoring Plan early in 2017.

The Forests are an early adopter of the 2012 Planning Rule and the resulting Forest Plan will be viewed by many as an example. This opportunity will highlight the work of the Fire Ecologist throughout the Forest Service.

The role of the Fire Ecologist in FPR is to incorporate fire and disturbance ecology into the revised plan direction to meet multiple resource and social objectives. They would work with the indisciplinary team in integrating fire ecology and behavior with other disciplines. The overall goal is to develop plan direction to
better help managers in designing fuel treatment projects at a landscape scale that would mitigate fire risk on the forest.

Specific duties include:

- serving as a member of the interdisciplinary team to develop plan components
- compiling, evaluating, and analyzing data,
- assessing fire ecology in forest ecosystems,
- interpreting National and Regional level direction to the team,
- coordinating development of the plan components with forest, district, and regional office specialists,
- drafting analysis reports,
- participating in public outreach and collaboration, and
- working with a contractor who is preparing a risk assessment for the Forests.

Experience working in fire suppression and management is highly desirable. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively in a team environment are essential.

After the Forest Plan is completed the incumbent will be supporting objections and litigation, as appropriate. They will also work with the interdisciplinary team and districts and fire personnel in implementing the Forest Plan, particular in designing strategic fuel treatments at the landscape scale. There may be additional duties with fire management, particularly in preparing WFDSS and other duties as appropriate.

### ABOUT THE NEZ PERCE – CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS

**The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are about:**

- Promoting and protecting our history, wildlands, and wild experiences;
- Connecting with our communities;
- Building and restoring resiliency in our diverse landscapes, workforce and relationships.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs are a complex fire forest with diverse ecosystems that range from dry ponderosa pine to coastal disjunct communities. Wildfire is the primary driving force in the forested ecosystems. Last year, approximately 190,000 acres burned on the Forests along with many acres on state and private land.

The four million acre forest extends from the Selway-Bitterroot Continental Divide to Hells Canyon. Approximately one third of the Forest is wilderness, another third is roadless designated under the Idaho Roadless Rule, and the final third is referred to as the “Front Country” where the majority of timber harvest and roaded recreation occurs.
There are six Ranger Districts with approximately 325 permanent employees and over 225 seasonal employees during the summer field season. The Forests host the Grangeville Smokejumper, Grangeville Air Center and Grangeville Dispatch Center.

There is an active collaborative group with strong regional and national relationships. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative represents all interests and have been instrumental in garnering support for restoration projects, including projects under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. There is one CFLRP area on the Forest - Clear Creek.

The Forest also has multiple partnerships that are critical for accomplishing our work including: Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Nez Perce Tribe, and multiple recreation groups amongst others.

The current Forest priorities are:

- **Fire Recovery** focusing on salvage harvest, hazard trees and restoring lands burned by the 2015 fires.
- **Landscape Restoration** focusing on working with Clearwater Basin Collaborative, Nez Perce Tribe and others to accomplish landscape-scale restoration to improve watershed function, habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities, and reduce hazardous fuels, as well as providing local employment.
- **Forest Plan Revision** under the 2012 Planning Rule. The Forest is an early adopter of the Planning Rule and the resulting Forest Plan will be viewed by many as an example. The Forest Plan and accompanying environmental impact statement will be completed within two years.
- **Wildland Fire Preparedness** including training and preparedness to manage wildland fire incidents on the Forest and across the country.

More information about the Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs is available at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater)

### KAMIAH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

The Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests are located in an area rich with history, abundant fish and wildlife and unique recreation opportunities.

Kamiah is within the Nez Perce Reservation. The Tribe holds events in Kamiah and welcomes non-tribal members’ participation at the majority of their events. History of the Nez Perce Tribe and Lewis and Clark’s Journey is a big draw for visitors to the area. The town’s population is approximately 1300; however, there are about twice that many residents in the surrounding area. The climate in the Kamiah valley is much milder than the surrounding prairies and mountains, with very little snow in winter, long autumns and early springs. Lots of sunshine in the summer and protected from harsh winds.
The area is known for its excellent outdoor recreational opportunities. The Clearwater River, the most productive salmon and steelhead watersheds in the Columbia River Basin, runs adjacent to Kamiah. To the south are the Salmon and Snake Rivers. Salmon and steelhead fishing is some of the best in the lower 48. The Forests’ rivers and streams, including Kelly Creek, Lochsa River, and Selway River, also provide nationally-renowned blue ribbon catch-and-release trout fishing opportunities for large westslope cutthroat trout. Whitewater rafting is popular on the rivers. Four wilderness areas offer opportunities to explore on foot or horseback: Hells Canyon, Gospel Hump, Frank Church River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot. For those that favor motorized recreation, the Forest has a developed system of ATV trails that go into the backcountry.

The Forest provides year-round habitat for one of the most significant elk herds in Idaho with an emphasis in restoring elk habitat. White tail deer are abundant.

Outdoor recreation, lumber production, farming and cattle ranching are the major industries in the area.

Communities - There’s several small communities in the area: Kooskia – 8 miles; Orofino – 23 miles; Grangeville – 33 miles; Nezperce – 23 miles; and Cottonwood – 26 miles. Larger communities are Lewiston, Idaho - 66 miles; Moscow, Idaho - 93 miles; Missoula, Montana - 152 miles and Spokane, Washington - 166 miles.

Housing - Government housing is not available. Rental rates for an average three-bedroom home range from $400 to $700 per month. Purchase price for a three-bedroom home in the Kamiah area ranges from $75,000 to $800,000 with 56 houses currently on the market.

Schools and Churches - Public schools are available in Kamiah from preschool through 12th grades. There is a private Catholic school in Cottonwood, Summit Academy. The University of Idaho at Moscow is a two hour drive from Kamiah, and Washington State University at Pullman, Washington is 15 miles beyond that. Lewis-Clark State College at Lewiston is approximately an hour and half drive. Most major religious affiliations are represented in the area.

Medical - A medical clinic is located in Kamiah. There are small hospitals in Grangeville, Cottonwood and Orofino. Full service medical facilities are located in Lewiston, Spokane and Missoula.
For more information about living in Kamiah, visit these websites:

www.kamiahchamber.com

http://clearwaterprogress.com/

http://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/kamiah/idaho/united-states/usid0424

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamiah,_Idaho

http://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/

The purpose of this outreach is to determine the level of interest in a position. For more information about the position contact: Joyce Thompson, Planning and Public Affairs Staff Officer, 208-935-4273, email: jthompson@fs.fed.us.

For information on how to apply for a federal job, the salary, or job series, visit the US Office of Personnel Management website.

USDA-Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer and provider.
If you are interested in this position, please complete this outreach interest form and email to Joyce Thompson, Planning and Public Affairs Staff, jthompson@fs.fed.us

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: 
E-Mail: 
Address: 
Work Phone: ___________________ Alternate Phone: ___________________

Agency Employed with: ☐ USFS  ☐ Other (Please list): 

Type of appointment currently under (please check one):  
☐ Permanent  ☐ Temporary  ☐ Term  ☐ Other (Please list): 

Current Title: 

Current Series/Grade: 

Current Region/Forest/District/Unit: 

Are you interested in a secondary firefighter position?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not Sure

(A secondary firefighter position requires at least 90 days of wildland firefighting experience. There is no age limit. Firefighter retirement coverage of the incumbent depends upon his or her individual work history. Secondary firefighter positions participates in wildland fire fighting activities. Passing the Work Capacity Test at the Moderate level – completing a two mile hike with a 25 lbs. pack within 30 minutes –would be a condition for employment if this position is filled as a secondary firefighter.)

If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities:

☐ Persons with Disabilities  ☐ Former Peace Corp Volunteer  
☐ Veterans Recruitment Appointment  ☐ Pathways Program  
☐ Disabled Veteran w/30% Compensable Disability  ☐ Other (explain):  
☐ Veteran Employment Opportunities Act of 1998

Please describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position. Attach your response to this outreach. Thank you!

This outreach form does not constitute an application. The vacancy announcement will be available on the USAJOBS website: www.usajobs.gov/