North Zone Forestry Technician
(Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation)
GS-462-08/09
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
North Zone
Duty Location:
Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Sandpoint, Idaho or Nordman, Idaho

The North Zone of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) will be seeking a candidate for the position of Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation Technician (GS-0462-08/09) with a duty station of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Sandpoint, Idaho or Nordman, Idaho. This will be a full time, permanent position and the duty location will be determined at time of hire. To express interest in the position, please complete the Outreach Response Form at the end of this document and return to A.J. Helgenberg at ajhelgenberg@fs.fed.us by the close of business on April 25, 2016. For more information about this position, please contact A.J. Helgenberg at (208) 265-6643.

ABOUT THE IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/ comprise about 2.5 million acres of public lands which lie within “the panhandle” of north Idaho and extend into eastern Washington and western Montana.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests are an aggregation of the Coeur d'Alene and portions of the Kaniksu and St. Joe National Forests. There are eight local points of contact including the Supervisor’s Office, six district offices and the Coeur d'Alene Nursery. The Forest is located within nine counties in three states: Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai, Shoshone, Latah and Clearwater Counties in Idaho; Lincoln County in Montana; and Pend Oreille County in Washington.

Major transportation corridors through the Forest are Interstate 90, U.S. Highways 2, 10, 95, and 95A, State Highways 3, 57, and 200. Amtrak, Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, Potlatch and Spokane International Railroads cross the Idaho Panhandle. The Spokane International Airport is the main hub for air travel (a 40 minute drive west from Coeur d'Alene). The Coeur d'Alene Airport is a general aviation airport located north of the city near Highway 95.
ABOUT THE ZONE

The North Zone of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) includes three Ranger Districts: Bonners Ferry, Priest Lake, and Sandpoint. This positions work will be spread over the three Ranger Districts based on priorities. The North Zone rangers collectively approve a program of work to ensure the highest priority work is accomplished. This position will be supervised by the North Zone Vegetation Staff Officer and will work closely with the North Zone Silviculturist. The zone’s complex array of forest composition and structure make it a stimulating place to practice silviculture.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The North Zone’s silviculture program is primarily focused on the restoration of western white pine, western larch, ponderosa-pine, and whitebark pine forests. This work is accomplished through a combination of timber harvest, prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, and reforestation. The North Zone of the IPNF also hosts the Grouse Creek and Dry Creek Tree improvement areas and the silviculture program works closely with tree improvement personnel to achieve common goals.

There is an active Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) project on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District of the North Zone. This program brings additional funding and associated targets to the silviculture program. The North Zone works closely with the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) to meet restoration goals using a landscape-scale approach to long-term ecosystem sustainability.

Duties of the North Zone Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation Technician position include:

- Assisting the North Zone Silviculturist in the planning and implementation of vegetation management projects on the North Zone. Develops site specific diagnosis of treatment needs for site preparation, natural and artificial regeneration, animal damage control, release, stocking level control and makes recommendation to certified Silviculturist for inclusion/modification of silvicultural prescription to accomplish land management objectives.

- Leading and/or accomplishing plantation and natural regeneration survival examinations to determine if results meet site-specific Forest or Regional standards, or site or project specific standards developed through project planning and silvicultural prescription process.

- Assisting Zone Silviculturist in developing out-year target and budgeting requests for the North Zone Silvicultural program. Assists the Silviculturist in the preparation of various reforestation and thinning reports. Assesses long range needs for seed, plans and supervises seed collection and handling.

- Participating in preparation and review of appropriate environmental analysis documents Reviewing planned projects for NEPA compliance and consistency with current laws and regulations. Consults with various specialists for clarification or validation to correctly implement planned projects. Refers to Silviculturist major conflicts or barriers for resolution / clarification.
• Recognizes insect and disease outbreaks and recommends to the Silviculturist pesticide/prescription applications and carries out the insect and disease control project upon approval.

• Preparing and coordinating service contracts for forest density management, stand examinations, release of target species, re-vegetation, animal damage control, release, site preparation, hazard fuel reduction, hazard fuel reduction and contracts for other resource disciplines, including wildlife, aquatics, soil and water. Developing contract specifications for review by contracting officer, preparing cost estimates, recommends procurement methods, including multi-year and multi-treatment contract. Functioning as Contracting Officer’s Representative and Inspector.

• Maintaining and updating Sale Area Improvement plans for active timber sales and other applicable natural resource databases. Updating and utilizing pertinent databases (FACTS, FSVEG). Preparing maps and conducting tasks using GPS and GIS.

This position offers a challenging career-ladder opportunity for an individual seeking experience on a busy and complex forest. A team player with excellent communication abilities and a strong foundation of technical skills would be an excellent fit for this position. There is government housing available on the North Zone at the Priest Lake Ranger Station in Nordman, Idaho.

**SANDPOINT RANGER DISTRICT**

Sandpoint is a vibrant community, rich in arts and culture. The population of the city is 7,365 (2010 census). As the county seat, Sandpoint also services much of Bonner County, population 40,877 (2010 census). A wide range of people make up the Sandpoint community; many are native residents – 30 percent were born in Idaho – but most were born elsewhere, relocating after experiencing Sandpoint’s friendly atmosphere and beautiful setting. This influx accounts for the area’s rapid population growth. The County’s population increased 35 percent between 1990 and 2010.

Surrounded by heavily forested mountains and nestled on the shore of the state’s largest lake, Sandpoint is known for its exceptional natural beauty. The town itself is eclectic and attractive with many buildings of architectural distinction, several nice parks including City Beach and bustling events that reflect the vigor of the community.

The weather in Sandpoint changes dramatically throughout the year, creating four distinct seasons. Summer temperatures, such as in July, reach average highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. On occasion, the mercury spikes to 100, making it an ideal time to take advantage of the lake. Fall is a popular time for camping and sports activities; temperatures are cooler and the autumn leaves and beautiful weather make it the preferred season for many residents. Winter in Sandpoint revolves largely around Schweitzer Mountain Resort, which boasts an average annual snowfall of 300 inches. Winter temperatures, in January for example, average 26.3 degrees. The spring thaw brings warm weather and rushing creeks, making it a popular time for sports such as hiking and whitewater rafting. The rapid weather shift also offers the unique chance to ski in the morning in the mountains and golf in the valleys in the afternoon.

Lake Pend Oreille School District comprises Sandpoint High School – the largest of three high schools in the district – Clark Fork Junior/Senior High School, Lake Pend Oreille High School, Sandpoint Middle
School and seven area elementary schools. Sandpoint High School serves around 1,400 students and is a focal point for the community, hosting sporting events, concerts and plays.

The area has numerous churches and religious organizations, with more than 30 in Sandpoint alone. More information about Bonner County and the City of Sandpoint can be found at www.sandpoint.idaho.com, and www.co.bonner.idaho.com.

Sandpoint, Idaho is located 32 miles south of Bonners Ferry. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho is the closest urban area (0.9 hours to the south). Beyond Coeur d’Alene, Spokane, WA (2.0 hours to the south), Kalispell, MT (2.5 hours to the southeast), and Missoula, MT (4.0 hours to the southeast) are the most readily accessible urban areas.

PRIEST LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

The Priest Lake District is approximately 322,600 acres and begins four miles north of the town of Priest River, ID and extends north to the Canadian border. The western third of the district lies within Washington State and the remainder is in Idaho. The district encompasses the western portion of the Priest River watershed with beautiful Priest Lake along the district’s eastern edge. Lands in the eastern portion of the watershed are predominately state-owned, managed by Idaho Department of Lands. Private lands are limited, mostly occurring in valley bottoms and the southern portion of the basin. The Ranger Station is located near Nordman, ID is located 32 miles north of Priest River, Idaho on State Highway 57.

Elevations vary from 2000 feet to over 7,500 feet. Vegetation is extremely diverse - from boreal and coastal conditions to plant species and communities commonly found in the interior Northern Rockies. Weather is moderate. In a relatively normal year there are only a few days where temperatures will drop below zero in the winter or climb above 90 degrees during the summer. Summer nights are generally cool. There is an average of 125 frost-free days every year. Average precipitation is 32 inches and is about equally divided between snow and rain. Average yearly snowfall at the District office is 100+ inches.

Schooling for grades K-6 is at Priest Lake Elementary School in the Lamb Creek area a few miles south of the Ranger District office, with the junior and senior high schools in Priest River, ID. All major services, including medical facilities, are located in Priest River, ID, with a community hospital located in Newport, WA (40 miles from Priest Lake), and major medical centers for Northern Idaho are in Spokane, WA and Coeur d’Alene, ID 80 miles southwest of the district. Spokane International Airport is located 10 miles west of the Spokane city center, and provides excellent service and fares.

There are three small stores supplying groceries for area residents and tourists, two laundromats, two fuel and service stations, an auto repair and service garage, several restaurants, and a hardware store. Several marinas offer sales, services and storage. Most area residents do their major shopping in Priest River, ID, Newport WA, and Spokane, WA.

Limited housing is available within the community. There is a Forest Service residential compound at the Ranger Station plus bunkhouse living quarters. Residential housing is available. A trailer site is available on the compound for a single wide mobile home owner. The average cost of housing (off of the FS compound and away from the lake shoreline) is roughly
$150,000 - $250,000. Rental homes generally cost $500-$750 per month and are difficult to find. More housing opportunities exist in the towns of Priest River, ID or Newport, WA.


**BONNERS FERRY RANGER DISTRICT**

The **Bonnets Ferry Ranger District** is located in the community of Bonners Ferry, a full service community nestled along the Kootenai River. Bonners Ferry has a population of 2,473 and is the county seat for Boundary County, population 10,808. Boundary County borders Canada to the north, Washington to the west, Montana to the east, and Bonner County, Idaho to the south.

The community is home to Boundary Community Hospital, numerous medical and dental offices, ambulance service, several pharmacies, residential care, senior services, hospice, a public library, community theatre, county-owned airport, radio station, weekly newspaper, elementary, middle, and high school, city swimming pool, historical museum, several grocery stores, restaurants, and motels.

Along with excellent hunting and fishing, Bonners Ferry and surrounding areas offer unlimited outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, mountain biking/cycling, rock hounding, camping, dramatic scenery, golfing, history, winter sports such as cross country and back country skiing or snowmobiling. Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort is located 38 miles south of Bonners Ferry in Sandpoint Idaho.

The Bonners Ferry Ranger District is home to a multitude of big game species including white-tailed deer, mule deer, black bear, elk, moose, mountain goat, big horned sheep, cougar, lynx and bobcat. The area is also home to two very special species; the woodland caribou and the grizzly bear. The Selkirk Mountains are the last home in the Continental United States of the endangered woodland caribou. The grizzly bear also finds refuge in the high peaks there, as well as other areas of the district.

There are a multitude of bird species for the bird watcher including osprey, hawk, eagle, pileated woodpecker and many varieties of owl. The principal upland game birds are blue grouse, Franklin grouse and ruffed grouse, duck, woodcock and geese. There are 271 miles of streams and 297 acres of lakes in the district, furnishing habitat for considerable fish and waterfowl, including various trout species, sturgeon, whitefish, bass and salmon.

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Outreach Interest Form
North Zone Timber Stand Improvement and Reforestation Technician
GS-0462-08/09
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
North Zone

Candidate Profile

NAME: ________________________________ E-MAIL ADDRESS: ________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBER: ____________________________________________

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: ___USFS   ___BLM   ___FWS
___OTHER (SPECIFY) ____________________________________________

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____PERMANENT     _____TEMPORARY     _____TERM     _____VRA
_____PWD     _____OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT/UNIT: _________________________________

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: ________________________________

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: ________________________________

IF 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
_____VETERANS READJUSTMENT
_____DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
_____VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
_____FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
_____INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT
_____OTHER ________________________________

DUTY LOCATION PREFERENCE: ________________________________

Thank you for your interest in our job opportunity!

Respond by: April 25, 2016
Respond to: A.J. Helgenberg at ajhelgenberg@fs.fed.us