The Idaho Panhandle National Forests will soon be advertising and filling a Timber Sale Administration position, GS – 0460 – 7/9 or GS-0462-08/09/10 on the North Zone. This position offers a challenging career opportunity for an individual seeking experience on a busy and complex zoned unit.

ABOUT THE ZONE: The North Zone of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) includes three Ranger Districts: Bonners Ferry, Priest Lake, and Sandpoint. The work will be spread over the three Ranger Districts based on priorities. North Zone District Rangers and TMO will collectively approve a program of work to ensure the highest priority work is accomplished.

TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE PERMANENT POSITION: Please fill out the attached outreach response form and send to Rick Driggs rrdriggs@fs.fed.us by the close of business on April 29, 2016. The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted on the U.S. Government’s official website for employment, www.usajobs.gov.

ABOUT THIS POSITION

The target position serves as a fully certified Timber Sale Administrator for timber sales located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. This is a career ladder position to a GS – 460 – 7/9 or GS-0462-08/09/10. This position is responsible for administering timber sales on the North Zone primarily, but will be required to serve as a Forest wide resource. The primary responsibility is the implementation, administration and documentation of complex timber sale and stewardship contracts to ensure contract compliance. The position requires knowledge of various logging systems including helicopter, cable systems and mechanical harvesters, as well as the ability to resolve technical and related administrative problems encountered executing work in accordance with agency policy and practices. This position is expected to function with an exceptional level of independence while maintaining open communication with the Forest Service Representative and the Contracting Officer, the ID Team, associated with the sale and the line officer responsible for the sale. It is a challenging position on a large forest that implements projects at all scales from small log sales to landscape-scale projects. The North Zone sustains an active timber sale program with a current target of 25 to 30 MMBF.
NOTE: Certifications as a timber sale administrator (SA) and a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) are required to reach the full performance grade level of this position. Forest Service standards for assignments to SA's are: 1) Twenty hours of formal basic sale administration training. 2) Satisfactory completion of the region's certification program. 3) One year of satisfactory performance in timber sale administration and preparation demonstrating sufficient knowledge and expertise to handle the complexity of individual timber sales and demonstrating an understanding of the applicable laws, Executive orders, and regulations concerning timber sale administration. 4) Formal timber theft prevention training. 5) Forest level training on logging systems, resource protection, logging safety, and forest plan standards and guidelines relating to sale administration. 6) Additional requirements may be supplemented on an ad-hoc basis by the Regional Forester if they are deem necessary. 7) Forest Service standards for assignments to COR are: 1) Certification on the National Construction Certification Program (NCCP) exam Roads and Watershed Restoration Public Works and Service COR written and oral board exams

THE ORGANIZATION

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 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 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.

AREA INFORMATION

The Sandpoint Ranger District is located in Sandpoint, Idaho 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 estimate). 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 44 percent between 1990 and 2003.

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 attractive with many buildings of architectural distinction, several nice parks including City Beach and bustling events that reflect the vigor of the community
The Sandpoint area is rich in natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities. About 40 percent of northern Idaho is National Forest land, along with 65 percent of the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. As a result, camping, hiking, biking and other outdoor activities are popular in the area.

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 with long Indian summers, 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 Bonners County and the City of Sandpoint can be found at Sandpoint Online for Sandpoint Idaho Welcome to the City of Sandpoint, Idaho and www.co.bonner.idaho.com.

The Priest Lake Ranger District is located at Nordman, Idaho. The largest community, Priest River, Schooling for grades K-6 is located at Priest Lake Elementary School in the Lamb Creek area a few miles south of the ranger station, and the junior and senior high schools are located in Priest River, ID. All major services, including medical facilities, are located in Priest River, ID. A community hospital is located in Newport, WA (40 miles from Priest Lake), and major medical centers for Northern Idaho are located in Spokane, WA and Coeur d’Alene, ID, approximately 80 miles to the south of the district office. Spokane International Airport is located 10 miles west of 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 for watercraft. 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, in addition to bunkhouse living quarters. Availability of the residential houses is limited, and may be available if any houses are unoccupied. A trailer site with snow roof is available on the compound for a singlewide mobile home.
owner. The average cost of housing (off of the FS compound and away from the lake shoreline) is roughly $200,000 - $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.

Lower Priest Lake is 26 miles long, 4 miles wide, connected by a scenic slow moving 2 ½ mile river called the Thorofare to the Upper Priest Lake Scenic area that is approximately 9 miles long. Priest Lake has 26,000 acres of clear water, making this one of the most exceptional lakes in the world. The District also shares management of the 41,335 acre Salmo-Priest Wilderness Area with the Colville National Forest.

In addition to the lake and water-sport activities (including fishing season, open from mid-April through November), other recreational opportunities are numerous. Summer activities include camping and picnicking at 13 developed campgrounds and two picnic grounds, hiking of 200 miles of trail system (with many well-marked hiking trails leading to acres of wild huckleberries and mushrooms), horseback riding, and float-trips down Priest River. Hunting is a favorite activity with big-game hunting primarily for deer and elk, but moose permits are also awarded on a limited basis. Bird hunting is mostly for grouse along the roads. In the winter, three cross-country ski trails and 400 miles of snowmobile trails (250 on NFS) are kept groomed with a large number of ungroomed trails available. The area has spectacular possibilities for photographers. Three large resorts located on the west side of the lake offer restaurants, recreational rental units from cabins, rooms to condominiums as well as gas and groceries.


The Bonners 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, and geese. There are 271 miles of streams and 297 acres of lakes in the district, furnishing habitat for considerable fish and waterfowl, including rainbow and brook trout, sturgeon, whitefish, bass and salmon.

_Sandpoint, Idaho is located 32 miles south of Bonners Ferry. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho is the closest urban area (1.5 hours to the south), 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)._}

**FOR MORE INFORMATION/CONTACT**

For more information about this position, please contact Rick Driggs, Operations Staff Officer, at (208) 265-6637 or rrdriggs@fs.fed.us.

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**OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM**

Idaho Panhandle National Forests, North Zone, Sandpoint, Idaho

Forester (Sale Administrator), GS - 0460 – 07/09 or forestry Technician (Sale Administrator), GS - 0462 - 08/09/10

Please return your completed form via email to Rick Driggs at rrdriggs@fs.fed.us by close of business on April 29, 2016.

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Agency: □ USFS □ BLM □ Other

Type of Appointment: □ Permanent □ Temporary □ Term □ VRA □ PWD □ Other

Current Title/Series/Grade:  

Current Location (Region/Forest/District):  

Briefly explain your interest in this position and attach a resume:
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