

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY – LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ARMAS/USDA – FRRRE/ACE

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INTERNSHIP JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Posting Date: August 1, 2010

Position: Forestry Technician, GS-0462-04

Position Number: A5125 FS0102

Department: US Forest Service

Reports To: Carlos Lovato, District Watershed Specialist and Esther Nelson, District Wildlife Biologist

Job Type: Student Internship (To be determined after interview)

Rate: \$12/hr

Fall 2010: 15hrs/week

SUMMARY:

This position is established on a Forest Service unit. The purpose of this position is to serve as a resource crew member in support of unit programs in timber, silviculture, recreation, fire, wildlife or range.

Crew Member Work 16%

Performs as a member of a fire crew assigned to suppress the full range of difficulty and complexity of fires. Uses standard forestry practices and techniques, and accepted fire suppression and prescribed burning methods used in various types of fuels and under a variety of weather and terrain. Fells trees or snags using power saws. Sets backfires as needed. Patrols areas of controlled fires to 'mop-up' by searching out and extinguishing any remaining burning material. Operates specialized fire suppression equipment such as portable pumps and drip torches, as well as a variety of hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaski, McLeod, power tools, and chain saws, to build fire lines and extinguish burning materials. Cleans, reconditions, and stores specialized fire tools and equipment. Observes, records, and preserves evidence of cause of fires.

Forest Recreation Support 16%

Contacts visitors to provide information about recreation regulations, opportunities, and current restrictions. Provides information on resource management practices in the area. Ensures that recreation areas and trails are maintained in accordance with standards. Constructs and rehabilitates minor recreation areas, facilities, and trails. Makes safety checks of public use areas and takes corrective action. Collects fees at designated fee sites from the sale of recreation use permits. Collects recreation use data by interviewing visitors as they are leaving the forest or as they view scenery along forest highways.

Timber Sale Preparation Activities 16%

Selects and marks individual trees for harvest using well defined marking guidelines, silviculture prescriptions, and specific instructions. Assists in the measurement of limiting distances, tree diameter and height, estimation of defect and quality, and related fundamental timber cruising procedures. Uses tools such as relaskop, diameter tape, compass, prism, clinometer, ax, shovel, Pulaski, fire rake, and power equipment in performing standardized timber cruising work.

Timber Stand Improvement 16%

Performs regular and recurring procedural and technical tasks contributing to the preparation of a land unit for planting, thinning, or fertilization, such as preparing maps and providing data for contract preparation and unit examination. Performs inspections to determine tree species and conditions, suitability of areas for replanting or inter-planting, competing vegetation species and density, and evidence of animal, insect, or disease damage.

Wildlife Management Support 16%

Independently, or as part of a team, participates in procedural wildlife-related assignments where methods and techniques are well-established. Makes browse surveys; takes and records measurements such as counting stems, identifying species, measuring leaders, etc.; identifies and measures species and conditions; delineates wildlife habitat types on topographic maps; and, identifies habitat condition.

Range Management Support 16%

Follows instructions from rangeland management specialist or crew leader. Performs procedural assignments where methods and techniques are well established. Applies a limited amount of experience related to the field of rangeland management in accomplishing the work. Assists in project work such as prescribed burns, revegetation, fencing, and treatments to reduce woody cover and water developments. Routine assignments involve conditions, concepts and methods that are familiar to the technician without explicit instructions as to work methods. When assignments are new or unfamiliar, supervisor gives specific guidance for available manuals, texts, etc., and explicit instructions.

Factor 1- 3 Knowledge Required by the Position

Knowledge of the processes- methods, and procedures associated with forestry duties to apply a limited number of the technical methods and procedures applicable to duties common to resource management supported with little discretion to deviate from the technical methods assigned for use is required. For example, the technician works in a position limited to supporting the efforts of more seasoned technicians who are themselves performing standard technical tasks found in the work areas.

Factor 2- 2 Supervisory Controls

The supervisor or higher graded employee makes continuing assignments by initially indicating, orally or through written work orders, such criteria as the amount of work expected, general explanation of what is to be done, advice on the location of reference material or work samples, and the nature of the limits applicable to the assignments. Provides additional specific instructions for new, more difficult, or unusual assignments or those that are not straightforward and/or repetitive. Within established procedures, the technician independently executes the task sequences associated with recurring and continuing work and makes adjustments to accommodate needed minor deviations in work methods. The sequence in which the employee performs recurring individual tasks within the assigned block of work typically is based on guidelines, precedent actions, and prior experience in performing the tasks. Unfamiliar situations or technical deviations from established practices are referred to the supervisor for guidance or resolution.

The supervisor or work leader assures that tasks completed, data developed, the methods used in securing and verifying data, and application of guidelines are technically accurate and in compliance with instructions and established procedures. Assignments with problems new to the technician and/or which require special handling or guidance are checked in more detail to insure accuracy and to make certain that any special instructions were carried out properly.

Factor 3- 1 Guidelines

The guidelines are directly applicable, specific, and used repetitively in the work. The routinely used portions of the guidelines, (e.g., those used on a day-to-day basis), are often memorized or are quickly referenced. Guidelines on equipment operating procedures and their applications are readily mastered and generally pertain to basic procedures such as equipment set up and operation or equipment cleaning and maintenance procedures. These guidelines typically consist of such things as standing oral instructions, written guides, charts, manuals, schedules, equipment manufacturers' operating manuals, standard and established operating procedures, and agency regulations.

Requires little or no judgment in applying the guidelines, i.e., the applicable one is typically obvious, though the step-by-step procedures may require careful attention and consideration of detail to execute. The employee works in strict adherence to the guidelines, referring needed deviations or those with a lack of clarity to the supervisor.

Factor 4- 2 Complexity

Forestry technicians provide practical technical support in resource management efforts. Performs a variety of routine procedural tasks or one or more complex duties related to regular and recurring technical work, operating a variety of pieces of equipment or one or more complex equipment systems commonly associated with the work site, and/or performing a full variety of the standardized technical support and technical duties associated with the work.

Makes choices when, for example, executing a number of types of sequential, related steps or assembling several pieces of equipment. In addition, duties assigned often have steps or processes that vary, depending on factors such as the reason the work is being performed or the conditions under which it is being performed. The employee is expected to exercise independence in recognizing such differences, choosing the right course of action, and then selecting and executing the proper task sequences for completing the work.

The employee determines what needs to be done to update or complete records and documentation packages and initiates action to acquire needed information from others as indicated by situations encountered in the work.

Factor 5- 2 Scope and Effect

The primary focus of the technician's work is to support an organization's resource management efforts. The basic objectives of programs for the intensive management, protecting, and development of forest lands and forest resources are (1) to apply sound utilization and conservation practices to the natural resources of publicly managed lands and (2) promote such practices among all forest landowners through example, cooperation, research, and interpretation and dissemination of information.

Executes specific rules, regulations, or procedures, such as those found in common technical manuals, laboratory handbooks, and administrative manuals. Typically, completed assignments constitute a complete segment of assignment with broader scope, (e.g., on a day-to-day basis runs a visitors center or collects data for use by others involved in research, administrative planning, or program/project operations).

Work products affect the accuracy, reliability, or acceptability of further procedures, processes, or services.

Factor 6- 2 Personal Contacts

Personal contacts are with employees in the agency, inside and outside of the immediate organizations, (e.g., personnel from higher level organizational units, or, occasionally, resource persons from State or local government units, or other Federal agencies). In other work situations, personal contacts may be with the general public, contractor personnel, or special users, (e.g., private landowners, cooperators, or business persons). The contacts are usually established on a routine basis, though the employee's authority may not be initially clear to the person contacted, (e.g., the identity, role, and authority of the parties may have to be outlined before conducting business).

Factor 7- 1 Purpose of Contacts

The personal contacts are established to: exchange information about procedures, schedules, or operating problems; clarify information on records; report on the results of studies; explain the steps involved in operating equipment; explain the reason the work is being performed; or other similar exchanges of factual information. The facts or information exchanged may range from easily understood to highly technical.

Factor 8- 2 Physical Demands

The work requires regular and recurring physical exertion related to conservation work requiring walking on rough terrain, climbing steep banks, and jumping ditches and furrows. The duration of the activity contributes to the arduous nature of the job.

Factor 9- 2 Work Environment

The work is performed in a forest environment where the terrain may be steep, uneven, rocky, and covered with thick and tangled vegetation. Temperatures may range from very hot and dry to cool and extremely wet. Rain, snow, wind, or dust may be encountered. May be exposed to irritant chemicals. Work requires the use of safety equipment such as boots, gloves, goggles, and hardhats.

HOW/WHERE TO APPLY:

Go online to www.armasineducation.com or pick up application package at ARMAS (Engineering Bldg #106) with Monique Esquibel (T. 426-2010) or with Mabel Suárez (T. 426-2104)..

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