

## OUTREACH NOTICE

## OUTREACH NOTICE Forestry Technician (Lookout)

## OUTREACH NOTICE

GS-0462-04

Kootenai National Forest  
Rexford Ranger District

December 10, 2015

The **Kootenai National Forest** will soon be filling a temporary GS-0462-04 Forestry Technician (Lookout) position. This opportunity is located within Lincoln County, Montana on the **Rexford Ranger District** (Black Butte Lookout). This notification is being circulated to inform interested individuals of this current opportunity and to determine interest in the position.

**The position is being advertised under an individual announcement that will open on 1/06/2016 and close on 1/12/2016. The announcement number 16-TEMP-R1-462-4LOOK-DT can be searched for on the USA JOBS website at <https://www.usajobs.gov/>. You must Eureka, MT as the location that you want to apply for.**

### Introduction Statement

This position is established on a Forest Service unit to provide for the detection and reporting of fires from a lookout station.

### Major Duties

Uses standard fire finders to locate observed smoke. Estimates distance to smokes and probable size and characteristics of fires. Determines map location of fires with reference to known landmarks. Reports azimuth, distance, location, volume, color, behavior of smoke, and other pertinent information by radio or telephone. Continues to observe the area and reports significant changes such as increased smoke, wind conditions, changes in color or volume of smoke, etc. Observes ground lightning strikes, thunderstorms, and build-up cloud formations and reports significant observations.

Records and reports daily weather observations. Maintains records and log books. Makes minor adjustments and maintains lookout equipment. Maintains lookout station and grounds in a neat and orderly condition.

Operates a radio communications center which connects other lookout stations and radio sets. Receives and relays messages and information received relating to weather forecasts, fire hazard conditions, fire emergencies, accidents, and location of work crews and personnel.

Serves as key contact at a lookout station visited by large numbers of people during the fire season. Promotes the fire prevention program by explaining State and Federal laws, policies, and regulations, as well as fire prevention methods and procedures and fire hazard conditions.

### Knowledge Required by the Position

Practical knowledge of forestry techniques and procedures applicable to performance of fire detection and related work in a complex lookout station environment requiring previous training and experience.

Practical knowledge of applicable established forestry procedures in order to effectively and safely make use of provided equipment.

## Supervisory Controls

The supervisor makes daily/weekly assignments.

Recurring work assignments are made without specific instructions as to procedures. Instructions are provided for unfamiliar assignments. The employee is expected to use initiative in carrying out work with considerable independence. Special problems are referred to the supervisor.

The work is checked for accuracy and conformance to instructions by periodic site visits.

## Guidelines

The area for which the employee is responsible is characterized by high-hazard fuel types which are capable of producing large fires or many small fires which require large fire mobilization control tactics. A number of fire-causing agencies prevail, such as lightning, construction and logging activities, communities, heavy recreation use area, etc.

## Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to detect and report fires.

The accuracy and timeliness of the information given affect the speed of attack on fires and decisions about personnel and equipment to be dispatched.

## Personal Contacts & Purpose of Contacts

Contacts are with other Forest Service personnel, and may include other agency personnel, by means of telephone and radio. There are also contacts with recreationists who visit the lookout station.

Contacts are to provide information and relay messages. In contact with the public, indicates points of interest, explains the purpose and operation of the lookout station, and describes visible forest management activities.

## Physical Demands

Work is generally sedentary although some exertion is required on maintenance tasks. Some lookout facilities have several flights of steps.

## Work Environment

Work is generally performed indoors, although because of the remoteness and elevation of the station, may be subject to extremes of temperature.

## LOCATION:

**Community Information:** The town of Eureka is situated in the Tobacco Valley which has a total population of approximately 5,500 people. The Tobacco Valley is located at the junction of the most scenic areas of northwest Montana and southeast British Columbia in the forests of the northern Rocky Mountains. The Tobacco Valley runs from Canada on the north to the small town of Stryker on the south, and includes the communities of Rexford, Eureka, Fortine, Trego and Stryker. The town of Eureka has a population of approximately 1300 people and is the largest town in the valley. Eureka offers a school (K-12), post office, two banks, one credit union, two grocery stores, two medical clinics, one dentist, one optometrist, various chiropractors, physical therapists, and massage therapists, a drug store, two motels, a Bed & Breakfast, and numerous small variety shops, restaurants, and businesses. The county airport is located north of town. Churches of various denominations are also available in the area. There is an active volunteer fire department and ambulance staff. The nearest hospitals are in Whitefish (50 miles), Kalispell (65 miles) and Libby, (65 miles). Kalispell also has an ALERT helicopter (emergency air transport) that serves this area. The Trego-Fortine-Stryker (TFS) Volunteer Fire Department provides coverage for the three communities in the southern end of the valley. Housing prices range from \$100,000 to \$400,000 for a three-bedroom home. Rentals are available but can be seasonally scarce. Government housing is available from time to time but is limited currently. Land in varying acreages is available for building. This part of northwest Montana enjoys mild, wet weather patterns during the fall, winter, and spring. By late September, the first frost is likely to appear with the first snows coming from mid-to-late November. Most winters, snow accumulations aren't more than a couple of feet in the valley, snow levels increase as you go up in elevation. Temperatures throughout the winter remain mostly above zero, but occasionally dip below in January. June is the wettest month. Normally a high pressure system dominates from mid-July through mid-September resulting in warm, sunny days with cool evenings. Summer high temperatures typically range from 80-95 degrees. Gardening opportunities vary depending on where you live in the valley. Those closer to Eureka usually have a bit longer season than those farther south. Average rainfall for the area is 14 inches, and the average snowfall is 46 inches. The 2.25 million acre Kootenai National Forest has long been known for its elk and deer hunting. White-tailed and mule deer are the most abundant big game on both districts. Moose, elk, and bear are also found. Grizzly bear and the gray wolf also use the habitat provided on the districts. A small herd of bighorn sheep inhabits the northern corner of the Fortine District and along the reservoir on the Rexford District.

Fine snowmobiling opportunities are available from high elevation to low elevation. Ice fishing and cross country skiing are popular winter sports on both the districts. The Ten Lakes Scenic Area is in the higher elevations of the northeastern corner of the Fortine District, a beautiful area with many lakes and trails to be enjoyed for a backcountry experience. Fishing, boating, hiking, and numerous outdoor sports can be enjoyed all over the districts. The elevations over 4,500 feet offer huckleberries for picking from August to September, a favorite activity for many.

The Rexford Ranger District also has Lake Koocanusa reservoir where you can enjoy swimming, fishing, water skiing, camping, and ATV and motorcycle riding on the draw-down area in the spring. There are also many smaller lakes and a rock climbing area for your enjoyment.

Housing may be available but on a limited basis.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in applying for this position and would like more information, contact

Jeff Muenster Assistant Fire Management Officer at (406) 296-7132, [jmuenster@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmuenster@fs.fed.us)