

**Forestry Aid (Fire)**  
**GS-0462-03**  
**Kootenai National Forest**  
**Murphy Lake Ranger Station**  
**Fortine Ranger District**  
**Fortine , MT**  
March 12, 2013

The **Kootenai National Forest** may be soon be filling a GS-0462-03 (Fire 1039 position). This opportunity is located within Lincoln County, MT on the **Fortine Ranger District, Fortine, Montana**. This notification is being circulated to inform interested individuals of this current opportunity. The exact number of positions filled will be based on the current budget.

The position is being advertised under an open continuous announcement. The announcement number is **TEMPOCR-0462-03-FIRE-DT**. The announcement for this position is accessed through USAJOBS (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>). You must select Fortine, MT as your location.

**DUTIES:**

Introductory Statement: This is a standard wildland fire management position description intended for use in the USDA, Forest Service. The position is located on a wildland fire crew. The primary purpose of this position is to perform wildland firefighting work. These crews perform work directly related to wildland fire suppression and control activities including suppression, preparedness, prevention, monitoring, and hazardous fuels reduction. May also perform duties in other fuels related or ecosystem restoration projects.

The incumbent must be able to pass the Work Capacity Test (WCT) at the arduous level. This test consists of a three mile walk with a 45 pound pack, to be completed in 45 minutes.

Serves as a member of fire crew assigned to suppress the full range of wildland fires independently performing recurring fire suppression duties. Performs assignments as a wildland firefighter in developing a working knowledge of fire suppression and fuels management techniques, practices and terminology. This consists of fireline construction, use of pumps and engines, hose lays using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustments in the effective use of water and additives, working in and around aircraft such as helicopters, safety rules, and basic fire behavior. Searches out and extinguishes burning materials by moving dirt, applying water by hose or backpack pump, etc. Chops brush, fells small trees, and moves dirt to construct fireline using various hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, McLeods, and may use power tools including chainsaws and portable pumps to control spreading of wildland fire and/or to prepare control lines prior to burning. Patrols fireline to locate and extinguish embers, flareups, and hotspot fires that may threaten developed firelines. Cleans, reconditions, and stores fire tools and equipment.

## **LOCATION:**

The Fortine Ranger District office is located in Fortine, MT which is 40 miles north of Whitefish, MT. The District's entire northern boundary is contiguous with Canada, and it is one of five districts on the Kootenai National Forest. The district encompasses 346,416 acres within its boundary, of which 259,813 are National Forest lands. The district employs approximately 25 permanent employees, with an additional 30 seasonal employees during the summer months.

## **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, two credit unions, 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 (55 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.

The larger communities of Whitefish (40 miles) and Kalispell (55 miles) offer a wide variety of shopping and other service-oriented businesses. Eureka is approximately five hours from Spokane, Washington (population 342,000), and four hours from Missoula (population 33,400). Glacier Park International Airport near Kalispell provides daily flights, and an AMTRAK station is located in Whitefish. Glacier National Park to the east and Banff National Park in Canada are also close enough to be enjoyed for the day or weekend.

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.

Alpine skiing and snowboarding opportunities are ample. Eureka is one hour away from Whitefish Mountain Ski Area in Whitefish and an hour away from Fernie Alpine Resort in Fernie, British Columbia.

There is bunkhouse space available but on a limited basis. If you are interested in the bunkhouse or want to know more about available space please contact the individuals below.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in applying for this position and would like more information, contact RJ Mcdole, Engine Captain, at [rmcdole@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmcdole@fs.fed.us) or Bobby Cooper, Engine Captain, at [bcooper@fs.fed.us](mailto:bcooper@fs.fed.us) at (406) 882- 4451 Fax Number: (406) 882-4835.