



TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OUTREACH

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST FORTINE RANGER DISTRICT

The Fortine Ranger District is outreaching for a temporary position to lead Youth Conservation Corps enrollees for a 10 week period (June – August). Interested candidates are encouraged to apply.

The announcement for this position will be an individual announcement and accessed through USAJOBS (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>). This position will be a 0186 series at a 4 or 5 grade level. Applicants are encouraged to monitor USAJOBS (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>) for any additional openings.

To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements, as listed in the announcement, as of the date a referral list is issued.

This position may require working on weekends and various work schedules.

Dates of employment range from June through August depending on funding.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Ron Komac, Environmental Coordinator for additional information on this position. He can be reached at 406-296-2536 or 406-882-4451.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Fortine Ranger District, one of five districts on the Kootenai National Forest, includes 350,134 acres within its boundary, of which 259,653 acres are National Forest lands. The Fortine District office is located on Murphy Lake, at the south end of the Tobacco Valley. The working environment on this District is one of the best in Region One, from the scenic setting of the Ranger Station itself, to the people who work here. The District employs approximately 30 permanent employees with an additional 35 seasonal employees.

Residents in the Tobacco Valley number approximately 4200. The Valley runs from the Canadian Border on the north to just south of Murphy Lake. The major industry is timber, with recreation, in the form of hunting, fishing and winter sports, drawing in a

number of tourists. Employees generally live in the Valley and some commute daily from the Whitefish area.

Located two miles north of Murphy Lake is the community of Fortine. The Fortine community has a school (Grades 1-8), post office, grocery store, church, golf course and bar. Trego is located two miles west and offers a small grocery store, post office and school (Grades K-8).

Eureka is located 15 miles north of Murphy Lake and is the largest town in the Valley. Eureka offers schools (Grades K-12), banking, two grocery stores, churches of various denominations, three physicians, two dentists, one optometrist, three chiropractors, a skilled-care nursing facility and an emergency medical clinic. Ambulance service is provided by dedicated and qualified volunteers and an emergency helicopter service is on call 24 hours a day from Kalispell Regional Hospital.

Housing prices are moderate in the area. A three-bedroom home sells for \$50,000 to \$85,000. Rentals are scarce, but can be found. Government housing is available from time to time.

The Whitefish and Kalispell areas are located south of Murphy Lake approximately 50 miles or an easy one and a half hour drive. There is a full array of shopping and medical facilities available in these towns and also Glacier International Airport offers flights out daily. The District is approximately five hours from Spokane, WA (population 423,000) and four hours from Missoula, MT (population 57,000).

This part of Northwest Montana enjoys a bit milder, wetter weather pattern during the fall, winter, and spring and offers four distinct seasons. 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. Temperatures throughout the winter remain mostly above zero, but occasionally dip below in January. Spring is often quite wet with temperatures ranging from 60 to 80 degrees by the middle of June. Summer temperatures range from 80 to 95 degrees.

Ice fishing and cross-country skiing are both popular winter sports on the District. The District office is also just 45 miles from the Big Mountain Ski Area in Whitefish.

The Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area & Scenic Area is in the higher elevations of the northeastern corner of the 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 District. The favorite activity for many is berry picking. Of course, you may encounter a bear who thinks you're in his patch, so caution is wise.

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.

ABOUT THE FOREST

The Kootenai National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/kootenai>) encompasses over 2.2 million acres of NFS lands. The forest is located in the extreme northwest corner of Montana, including a small portion of northeast Idaho. The forest is bordered on the north by British Columbia, Canada and on the west by Idaho.

The Kootenai is truly a forest with multiple uses. The vegetation management program is aimed at restoring and maintaining Northern Rockies fire dependent habitats. The diversity of tree and other plant species is among the greatest in the Northwest. Management and recovery of threatened and endangered species, such as grizzly bear, lynx, and bull trout emphasize the forest wildlife and fisheries programs. Other wildlife on the forest include gray wolf, wolverine, cougar, elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, bald and golden eagles and other species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

INDIAN TRIBES

The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) encompasses lands that are part of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Aboriginal Territory. In the Hell Gate Treaty of 1855 the CSKT ceded over 22 million acres to the United States Government retaining 1.2 million acres for their own use that today is the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Flathead Indian Reservation is approximately 85 miles southeast of the Kootenai National Forest. The Tribes retain Treaty rights under the Hell Gate Treaty on federal lands such as the KNF. These rights include hunting, gathering, digging plants and roots, fishing, and grazing on Kootenai National Forest lands.

The Kootenai National Forest holds many places in the natural environment that are important to the Kootenai people. These are known as cultural sites and traditional cultural properties. The relationship and bonds that Kootenai people have to these places were established before there was a Kootenai National Forest and the stories, place names and songs from these sites have been handed down from generation to generation. This is called a cultural landscape and is the basis for or essence of Kootenai identity and culture.