



OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENT

One Position to be filled – May be advertised as a 401 or 462 series

Assistant Fire Management Officer

Series/Grade: GS-401/462 -07/08/09

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST –OAKMULGEE DISTRICT

The **Talladega National Forest – Oakmulgee District** is looking for a dynamic, energetic individual willing and able to serve as the District Assistant Fire Management Officer. The incumbent will join the Fire Management Program’s growing team providing on the ground leadership and implementation of fuels reduction, restoring native fire regimes, and fire suppression.

The Oakmulgee District has a proud history of managing fire; yet tremendous opportunity exists for program growth. The incumbent will supervise fire personnel and provide operational oversight and supervision during pre-suppression activities, prescribed fire preparation, and both suppression and prescribed fire operations. The Assistant District Fire Management Officer will provide technical assistance in the planning, administration and implementation of the district fire program. During the absence of the District Fire Management Officer, the incumbent will assume responsibility for all District Fire Management activities and programs.

Prior wildland firefighting experience on the fire-line is mandatory and experience with southern fuel types and conditions is highly recommended. There is a distinct likelihood that this position will, in the future, be required to meet the definition of an Interagency Fire Management Program (IFPM) position. If that occurs, the incumbent will be required to meet the qualifications specified in the IFPM Qualifications Standards and Guide. Duties require that incumbent be NWCG qualified as RXB2 and ICT4. Incumbent must also have or obtain and maintain, within 60 days of reporting date, a class B commercial driver’s license (CDL).

The Position is a secondary fire fighter position under the provision of 5 U.S.C. 8336 (c) and the duties require that the incumbent meet the arduous level for fitness.

THE OAKMULGEE DISTRICT:

The lands currently managed as the Talladega National Forest - Oakmulgee District were part of what was once the South’s most prevalent forest – the longleaf ecosystem. These District lands lie on the northern limits of the range of Alabama’s native longleaf. The topography is rolling allowing a mosaic of forest types to exist intermingled with upland sites that were historically stands of open park-like longleaf forest. Today, for a variety of reasons, many of these native longleaf sites have been converted to loblolly and shortleaf pines, and in some areas, hardwoods within these sites exist at levels that classify those sites as mixed pine-hardwood. This shift in the natural balance is producing

symptoms of die-off and decline within these loblolly and shortleaf stands. Actively addressing these forest health concerns by building adaptive fire and vegetation management programs is the key focus of the District.

The Oakmulgee District lies in west-central Alabama with nearby population centers including Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. While west Alabama contains some of the state's, and region's poorest counties, it also hosts a reservoir of private citizens and public servants that are dedicated to responsible economic growth focusing on the areas natural resources and cultural history. This provides the Oakmulgee with an array of partnership opportunities to help market its many resources and values. Conversely partnerships with Volunteer Fire Departments, adjacent landowners, and other land management agencies remain an untapped resource. The incumbent will be expected to play a primary role in positioning the District for successful relationships within this unique landscape.

PROGRAM AREAS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The position will have supervisory and budget responsibilities, and will be expected to build program capacity through professional relationships and partnerships. Communication skills, both written and oral, are essential, as well as working knowledge of GPS, GIS, excel spreadsheets, and other associated technology and software.

Understory Restoration/Fuels Reduction: The District is actively pursuing a variety of fuel treatment methods including prescribed fire and mechanical removal of biomass. Given the extent of decline and die-off in loblolly and shortleaf, restoration activities are often complicated due to the sensitivities of these trees to additional stressors such as fire, mechanical disturbances, and most recently sustained high winds from hurricanes. The District's current prescribed fire program treats approximately 25,000 acres annually. Recent successes include moving approximately 65% of this accomplishment into a growing season program. Given the acreage in need of restoration, the District has the opportunity to double this program. The incumbent will be charged with developing and implementing a strategy to better achieve these restoration objectives.

Community Involvement/Prevention/Wildland Urban Interface: The Oakmulgee is committed to making community based partnerships a reality. Positioned on the rim of population growth from both Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, the District is working to better understand the concerns of a new demographic of recreation users and adjacent landowners. Smoke management is often the biggest issue as nearby counties struggle with Clean Air Act attainment standards. Prevention is also growing in importance as recreation use increases.

Wildfire Suppression: The District historically responds to 10-15 wildfires annually with each averaging less than 100 acres in size. The militia firefighters are key to suppression activities and there is a strong partnership with Alabama Forestry Commission. At present, the District is able to meet staffing guidelines for initial attack with the exception of an initial attack dispatcher. A second heavy equipment operator is also needed to allow better use of existing qualifications. The incumbent will be charged with developing a sustainable strategy, respective of the overall District needs, to meet these staffing requirements.

DISTRICT LOCATION AND SURROUNDING AREA

The District encompasses approximately 157,000 acres in six west-central Alabama counties. Currently about 18 District permanent employees provide stewardship responsibilities for these lands,

with support and guidance from the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery, AL. The Supervisor's Office is approximately 1 ½ hours away and can be easily visited in a day.

The Oakmulgee District Office is located at 9901 Highway 5, Brent AL, near the 4-way stop at the intersection of Highway 5 and University Highway. The District work-center is less than five miles away located on Bear Creek road, just off Highway 5. The City of Centreville is located adjacent to Brent and they share many services. Nearby cities include West Blocton, Tuscaloosa, Marion, Selma, and Clanton. The cities of Birmingham and Montgomery are both an hour drive away from the District Office.

Population: Brent and Centreville are located in Bibb County named in honor of William Wyatt Bibb, the first governor of Alabama. The county seat of Centreville, with a population of 3,000, is the county's second largest city. Other incorporated places are Brent and West Blocton, with populations of approximately 3,000 and 1,500 respectively. The Chamber of Commerce maintains the following web site that may be accessed for additional information. <http://www.bibbchamber.org>

Housing: Housing to rent in Brent and Centreville averages from \$300.00 to \$450.00 per month. Homes for a family of four may be found for sale in range of \$75,000 to \$125,000. Land for building is also available at a reasonable cost. **No government quarters are available.**

Education: Brent-Centreville is a full service community with elementary, middle and high schools. Tuscaloosa is 30 miles west of Brent and is home of the University of Alabama, Stillman College and Shelton State Community College. The University of Montevallo is about 20 miles away. Marion Military Institute and Judson College are located in Marion, AL and are approximately 40 miles away. Birmingham is home to the University of Alabama – Birmingham (UAB), Sanford, and Jefferson State University.

Health Care: The Bibb Medical Center is a 35-bed facility located in Centreville. The Medical Staff includes specialists in respiration therapy, mammography, surgery, radiology, gynecology, and internal medicine. Bibb Medical Center also provides diagnostic laboratory service, 103-unit long-term convalescence housing for the elderly or others who need assisted living arrangements. There are numerous large medical facilities in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa.

Churches: Most religious denominations can be found locally.

Recreation: Locally most recreation is based outdoors. The local area is well known for both large and small game hunting, with spring turkey hunting opportunities attracting enthusiasts from across the U.S. There are opportunities for fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, and most other forms of outdoor recreation. The Cahaba River, Alabama's longest free-flowing river transects the Oakmulgee District and is known for its recreational fishery. The District manages a 110-acre impoundment for bass and blue gill and nearby Lake Tuscaloosa is frequented by both anglers and boaters. The city of Tuscaloosa is a 30-minute drive from the District office and offers a wide variety of restaurants and shopping opportunities. Tuscaloosa is home to the University of Alabama – Crimson Tide, which consistently produces national champion sports teams including football, baseball, basketball, and gymnastics. The Talladega International Speedway is only an hour away for race fans.

Contacts: For additional information on duties and responsibilities, contact:

Doug Gantt, District Fire Management Officer -- 205-926-9765 (ext 204); sgantt@fs.fed.us

Kent Davenport, Forest Staff Officer Fire/Safety/FERC – 334-241-8172; kdavenport@fs.fed.us

Assistant Fire Management Officer
GS-401-7/9
Or
GS-462 – 7/8/9
Talladega National Forest – Oakmulgee District

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One Position to be filled

Please respond to: **Doug Gantt**
9901 Highway 5
Brent, AL 35034
sgantt@fs.fed.us

Phone: 205-926-9765 (ext 204)
Fax: 205-926-9712

ATTENTION: Do you qualify for the 401 series? If so, please let us know if you qualify through IFPM or via a college degree.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE? YES ___ NO ___

IF YES, CURRENT AGENCY AND LOCATION: _____

Please Respond By: July 2, 2007
Thank you for your interest!