

Position Number: MR: 252953 IP: 90596853
GS-0462-07 Forestry Technician

Introduction:

This position is located on a Forest Service Unit where the incumbent works independently or serves as a work leader for a crew performing vegetation management, timber sale preparation and administration, and wildlife or wildlife habitat management duties that include some heavy equipment operation such as mowing levees or building low earthen impoundments.

Major Duties:

Timber Management 60%: Works as a team leader for two GS-5's on a regular and recurring basis and prepares, develops, and executes timber cruises, including cruise design and sample surveys to develop resource information and estimate quality and quantity of timber for purpose of appraisal, sales administration, management planning, and logging plans.

Interprets, explains, makes minor modifications and enforces timber sale contract provisions and Forest Service procedures, policies, and standards. Prepares written reports of all sale inspections and follows up on deficiencies.

Interprets complex silvicultural prescriptions and marking guides to designate harvest timber.

Lays out timber sale boundaries in accordance with environmental assessments and other instruction, considering factors such as transportation system, topography, fuels management, silvicultural objectives, wildlife needs, stream protection and other related resource considerations.

Develops the schedule and work plans for monitoring and inspecting Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and reforestation activities.

Performs reforestation, timber stand improvement and stocking surveys in accordance with established procedures to determine planting needs, need for site preparation, stand improvement, plantation conditions, and seedling survival.

Collects technical data needed to prescribe stand treatment; measurements include radial growth, basal area, site index, stand density, stand condition, etc. Based on field analysis, assists in preparation of the technical specifications for TSI, tree planting, brush release, or animal damage control contracts.

Serves as Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), or inspector on specific contracts as assigned and/or supervises force account projects. Ensures all provisions are enforced and proper measures are taken to protect or enhance values in accordance with contract objectives. Prepares and submits related inspection reports, checks for compliance on needed corrective actions, and recommends final acceptance of the contract upon completion.

Assists in preparation of recurring reports associated with the unit TSI and reforestation program.

Wildlife Management 20%: Works as a team leader for two GS-5's on a regular and recurring basis applying an integrated resource approach to collaboratively achieve mutual goals and objectives for the unit's wildlife project plans and program for habitat management.

Performs a variety of complex and recurring duties in the assigned area. Schedules, organizes, and executes field wildlife projects for detecting, identifying and evaluating habitat management needs. Using prescribed procedures, the technician resolves complex administrative concerns related to the wildlife project plans for habitat management. Conducts inventories for big game, upland game, raptors, small mammals, invasive species, and threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. Assists with development of reports after higher graded employees have refined and verified the data and analyzed the results.

Provides leadership efforts to control invasive species including the application of chemical pesticide.

Equipment Operation 20%: Operates one or more types of heavy equipment such as graders, tractors with bulldozer or angle dozer blades, front end loaders, backhoes, trench diggers, and large industrial tractors with pan or scraper attachments. Work is generally done on flat or rolling terrain with simple terrain problems such as forest roads and compounds. Work typically involves mowing levees or constructing low earthen dams or emplacing or removing culverts.

Performs other duties such as boundary line maintenance, recreation management, road or trail clearing, and prescribed fire or fire control duties as they are assigned.

Factor 1 Knowledge Required by the Position

Substantial practical knowledge of forestry practices and Forest Service objectives and policies concerning vegetation management and wildlife habitat maintenance. Knowledge of the basic theories and practices of biological science sufficient to analyze findings and make recommendations for changes concerning wildlife habitat.

Good working knowledge of timber and land resource characteristics, and understanding of complex interrelationships between resource values.

Thorough knowledge of timber sale contract provisions including when there is variety in timber types, stand conditions, defect types and cutting practices.

Knowledge of a wide variety of marking rules and techniques to recognize appropriate situations for their use.

Knowledge of the technical processes, procedures and techniques related to biological science sampling, measurements and analysis and ability to modify or adapt procedures to improve project efficiency. Ability to provide leadership and training for others to follow safety and health procedures. Ability to write technically accurate papers.

Knowledge of computer functions related to data input, retrieval and routine analysis of data for timber and wildlife management applications and for accomplishment reporting.

Ability to operate and periodically clean, maintain and perform basic repairs for motor vehicles, other motorized equipment including agricultural tractors and small bulldozers. Ability to use hand tools and forestry instruments.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls

Supervisor assigns projects in terms of objectives but may supply instructions of reference material for new or unusual assignments.

Employee makes independent decisions on technical matters which are familiar, exercising initiative and resourcefulness in planning and execution. Employee may develop revisions to standard work methods, while supervisor approves complex modifications.

Familiar work assignments are occasionally spot-checked for technical adequacy, while unusual or new work aspects are more closely reviewed.

Factor 3, Guidelines

Guidelines as to standard methods and techniques, policies, regulations, and other requirements are readily available in the form of handbooks, manuals, correspondence, EARs, and oral instructions.

Employee selects appropriate guidelines and adapts them where precedents are not fully applicable.

Factor 4, Complexity

Employee is independently responsible for the planning and completion of conventional timber sale administration, presale, wildlife habitat improvement and related assignments of substantial variety for which precedents are not fully applicable. The work requires the ability to recognize situations which require deviation from normal contract requirements, silvicultural prescriptions, and habitat survey or maintenance guidelines and to implement modifications to standard methods to meet the conditions found.

Judgment is required to independently resolve problems using a wide range of conventional, established approaches, methods, techniques and solutions to new situations having commonality with others previously encountered.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to perform presale and sale administration duties for the District, as well as wildlife surveys and wildlife habitat maintenance.

The planning and onsite decisions and judgments made by the employee facilitate the work of other employees on the District, and the work of timber purchasers or other contractors.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts

Contacts are with other employees on the Forest, resource specialists, cooperators and partners, members of the public and timber purchasers or other contractors and their representatives.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts

Contacts are to identify and resolve operating problems, inform others about the meaning of contract provisions and Forest Service policies, clarify information, and administer contract requirements, as well as to inform the general public of resource management policies.

Factor 8, Physical Demands

The work involves both field and office work. Work in the field often requires physical exertion in rugged terrain under adverse conditions such as high heat and humidity. Participates in fire suppression and prescribed fire activities consistent with training and personal ability.

Factor 9, Work Environment

Works in a forest environment where there is considerable risk of falls due to uneven or debris-covered surfaces, risk of insect bites, snakes, contact with poisonous plants, etc. Works around heavy logging or other types of equipment. Hardhat, boots, and gloves are required. At times incumbent may be required to work at night or on weekends.