



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Certification of Position Approval for Retirement
Under
5 USC 8336(c) and 8412(d)

[X] Approved under the Civil Service Retirement System, 5 USC 8336(c)

[X] Approved under the Federal Employees Retirement System, 5 USC 8412(d)

Category of Coverage: Primary - Rigorous

Bureau: of Land Management - Bureau-wide (ANY DOI BUREAU USING IDENTICAL PD WITH THIS NUMBER)

Classification Title: Range/Forestry Technician (Fire)

Organization Title: Senior Firefighter

Position Number: F263 Series and Grade: GS-0455/0462-04/05

RECOMMENDATION FOR COVERAGE REVIEW:

Primary rigorous coverage is recommended for this position. Special retirement coverage under both CSRS and FERS is requested.

Primary duties are directly connected with the control and extinguishment of fires. Duties are rigorous and employment is limited to young and physically vigorous individuals.

Primary purpose of the position is to perform work directly related to wildland fire suppression and control activities including suppression, preparedness, prevention, hazard fuel reduction, and prescribed burning on an engine, helitack or hand crew. Serves as a senior firefighter on one or more types of organized firefighting crews within the fire management organization.

Ronald L. Dunton
Bureau Program Designee, Ronald L. Dunton

2-23-00
Date

Marcia L. Scifres
DOI Fire & Law Enforcement Team Lead, Marcia L. Scifres

02/22/2000
Date

Lester K. Rosenkrance
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation (BLM), Lester K. Rosenkrance

2/23/00
Date

APPROVAL The position described above is approved for coverage under Firefighter or Law Enforcement (FF/LEO) Retirement retroactive to classification date. Approval is by DOI Secretary's Designee:

Mari Barr
Mari Barr, Secretary's Designee

2-28-2000
Date

POSITION CLASSIFICATION AMENDMENT

1. OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS	2. NAME OF INCUMBENT
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3. ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION AS SHOWN ON CURRENT DESCRIPTION AS HEREBY AMENDED

11a _____ d. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Department of Interior, FF/EB Retirement Team Specialist *Stueck*

This PD has been amended as follows under 50 USC 5304 (d):

Firefighter _____

Primary _____ Specialist/AC _____

Approval Date *February 28, 2000*

4. CSC TITLE AND BUREAU POSITION NO. **F263**

Range/Forestry Technician (Fire)

SCHEDULE	SERIES	GRADE
GS	455/462	04

SAME AS PRESENT, AMENDED FOR: CSC TITLE POS. NO. SCHEDULE SERIES GRADE SEE ITEM 7 BELOW

CERTIFICATION

<p>5. I CERTIFY THAT THE POSITION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS CHANGED AS REFLECTED IN THIS AMENDMENT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ (Signature of Supervisor) (Date)</p> <p>TITLE _____</p>	<p>6. I CERTIFY THAT THE CHANGES REFLECTED ARE PROPER AND THE POSITION AS HEREBY AMENDED IS PROPERLY CLASSIFIED.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>Mark W. Whitesell</i> <i>1-18-2000</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ (Signature of Official Exercising Classification Authority) (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark W. Whitesell TITLE <u>Supvy. Personnel Management Spec.</u></p>
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7. DESCRIBE BRIEFLY, BUT IN FULL, THE REASONS FOR CHANGES CHECKED ABOVE AND THE ADDITIONS, DELECTIONS, OR OTHER REVISIONS WHICH ARE TO BE MADE IN THE DESCRIPTION PROPER.

This position is part of the GS-05 full performance position description attached. The incumbent of this position may be non-competitively promoted toward the full performance position description after satisfactorily completing higher graded duties and upon completion of time-in-grade and qualification requirements.

Knowledge Required by the Position is amended to read (1-4 to 1-3)
 Knowledge of standard fire program requirements, suppression tactics, methods and procedures and skill in the use of wildland firefighting handtools, pumps and hoses, and chainsaws sufficient to perform routinely assigned fire suppression and prescribed fire assignment in various types of fuels and under a variety of weather and terrain conditions.

Working knowledge of fire behavior; causes of fire; influence of local wind, slope, and moisture; and methods of extinguishing fire.

Working knowledge of fire behavior, hazards, and accepted fire safety practices and procedures to prevent injury and loss of life. (CONTINUED ON SEPARATE PAGE)

SUPERVISORY CERTIFICATION: I certify that this is an accurate statement of the major duties and responsibilities of this position and its organizational relationships and that the position is necessary to carry out Government functions for which I am responsible. This certification is made with the knowledge that this information is to be used for statutory purposes relating to appointment and payment of public funds, and that false or misleading statements may constitute violations of such statutes or their implementing regulations.

 Signature & Title of Immediate Supervisor, and Date

Statement of Difference to the GS-04 level

F263 Range/Forestry Technician (Fire) GS-455/462-05
Senior Firefighter

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Working knowledge of fire behavior; causes of fire; influence of local wind, slope, and moisture; and methods of extinguishing fire.

Working knowledge of fire behavior, hazards, and accepted fire safety practices and procedures to prevent injury and loss of life.

Working knowledge of fire apparatus operation and pumping mechanisms to ensure equipment is operated in a safe, efficient manner.

Skill in the use of hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, McLeods, and power tools including chainsaws, to build fireline and extinguish burning materials as well as to maintain firefighting tools and equipment.

Ability to operate four wheel drive pickup trucks and fire engines.

Knowledge of fire terminology sufficient to communicate with other crewmembers.

Knowledge of appropriate act requirements to include the Equal Opportunity Act, Civil Rights Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Rehabilitation Act, 29 CFR 1604.11(a) Sexual Harassment sufficient to function within a diverse workforce.

Ability to perform duties under stressful and adverse operating conditions, such as long work hours, heavy workloads, emergency situations, adverse working and environmental conditions.

Knowledge of agency and interagency qualification, position task book requirements, and certification standards and procedures adopted by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

Knowledge of reporting requirements and procedures.

Knowledge and skill of standard first aid procedures sufficient to perform preliminary first aid and triage as necessary.

Guidelines are amended to read (1-2 to 1-1)

General guidelines can be found the annually published BLM Standards for Fire Operations. Procedures for doing the work have been established and a number of specific guidelines exist such as oral instructions, standing operating procedures, maps, equipment manuals, Health and Safety Code, Fire Line Handbook, Field Operations Guide, and training prior to the actual fire suppression activities.

The employee works in strict adherence to the guidelines, referring needed deviations or questions to the supervisor or higher graded employee who is available while performing fire suppression activities.

POSITION DESCRIPTION <i>(Please Read Instructions on the Back)</i>								1. Agency Position No. F263		
2. Reason for Submission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Redescription <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishment <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Other		3. Service <input type="checkbox"/> Hdqtrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field		4. Employing Office Location		5. Duty Station		6. OPM Certification No.		
Explanation <i>(Show any positions replaced)</i> Replaces PDs F041 F064 F081 F141 F161 10288 Range Technician (Fire) GS-0455/0462-05				7. Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonexempt		8. Financial Statements Required <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Personnel Financial Disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and Financial Interests		9. Subject to 1A Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
				10. Position Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excepted <i>(Specify in Remarks)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> SES (Gen.) <input type="checkbox"/> SES (CR)		11. Position Is: <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory <input type="checkbox"/> Managerial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither		12. Sensitivity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1- Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Noncritical Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Critical Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Special Sensitive		13. Competitive Level Code
15. Classified/Graded by		Official Title of Position				Pay Plan	Occupational Code	Grade	Initials	Date
a. U.S. Office of Personnel Management										
b. Department, Agency or Establishment										
c. Second Level Review		Range/Forestry Technician (Fire)				GS	455/462	05	mww	01/28/00
d. First Level Review										
e. Recommended by Supervisor or Initiating Office										
16. Organizational Title of Position <i>(if different from official title)</i> Senior Firefighter						17. Name of Employee <i>(if vacant, specify)</i>				
18. Department, Agency, or Establishment Department of the Interior						c. Third Subdivision				
a. First Subdivision Bureau of Land Management						d. Fourth Subdivision				
b. Second Subdivision						e. Fifth Subdivision				
19. Employee Review - This is an accurate description of the major duties and responsibilities of my position						Signature of Employee <i>(optional)</i>				
20. Supervisory Certification. I certify that this is an accurate statement of the major duties and responsibilities of this position and its organizational relationships, and that the position is necessary to carry out Government functions for which I am responsible. This certification is made with the						knowledge that this information is to be used for statutory purposes relating to appointment and payment of public funds, and that false or misleading statement may constitute violations of such statutes or their implementing regulations.				
a. Typed Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor						b. Typed Name and Title of Higher-Level Supervisor or Manager <i>(optional)</i>				
Signature			Date			Signature			Date	
21 Classification/Job Grading Certification. I certify that this position has been classified/graded as required by Title 5, U.S. Code, in conformance with standards published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or, if no published standards apply directly, consistently with most applicable published standards.						22. Position Classification Standards Used in Classifying/Grading Position Range Tech Series, GS-455 Dec 91 TS-111. Forestry Tech Series, GS-462 Dec 91 TS-111. GEG for Aid and Technician Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400 Dec 91 TS-111.				
a. Typed Name and Title of Official Taking Action Mark W. Whitesell, Supv Personnel Management Specialist						Information for Employees. The standards, and information on their application, are available in the personnel office. The classification of the position may be reviewed and corrected by the agency or the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Information on classification/job grading appeals, and complaints on exemption from FLSA, is available from the personnel office or the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.				
Signature <i>Mark W. Whitesell</i>			Date <i>1-28-2000</i>							
23. Position		Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	
a. Employee <i>(optional)</i>										
b. Supervisor										
c. Classifier										
24. Remarks This position is for young and physically vigorous individuals and is subject to the maximum entry age restrictions.										
25. Description of Major Duties and Responsibilities (See Attached)										
Department of Interior, FF/LE Retirement Team Specialist						Approved Date <i>February 28, 2000</i>				

Introduction

The primary purpose of this rigorous position is to perform work directly related to wildland fire suppression and control activities including suppression, preparedness, prevention, hazard fuel reduction, and prescribed burning on an engine, helitack, or hand crew. The incumbent serves as a senior firefighter on one or more types of organized firefighting crews within the fire management organization. As a senior firefighter, he/she serves as a specialized technician on the module performing the more complicated duties or assignments, and has responsibility for operation and maintenance of specialized equipment used by the module. The incumbent may be assigned for varying periods of time into one or more types of positions within the fire management organization where the individual's specialized skills are needed.

Major Duties (60% or more of the time)

Performs one or more of the following major blocks of duties in excess of 60% of the time:

Serves as a senior firefighter on a handcrew or prescribed fire crew. Performs the duties of a fully qualified faller and chainsaw repair technician, or is certified in the use of helicopter long lines. Performs all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, and mopup. Collects fire weather data, fuel and/or soil moisture samples, maps projects, and maintains records.

Serves on a fire engine crew. As senior firefighter, gathers and considers information on weather data, topography, range/forest types, fuel types, and fire behavior in responding to fire incidents. Recommends best approaches and practices to use in protection of the resource when positioning and moving equipment based on soil stability, weather, range/forest cover, and other practical conditions and operational considerations.

Drives engine to fire locations, frequently over unimproved roads. Positions engine in appropriate locations in consideration of safety of crew and equipment, and how the equipment can best be used in control and mopup operations. Personally performs and may direct others in starting pump engine, priming pump, adjusting engine speed and pump valves, laying hose, and using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustment in effective use of water and additives. May on occasion serve as driver of a crew carrier.

Responsible for maintenance of specialized equipment used to respond to wildland and prescribed fire situations. Accomplishes emergency repairs as necessary to permit continued use of equipment. In those instances when the apparatus cannot be used effectively in suppressing the fire, the incumbent takes aggressive control action in attacking the fire, using other means.

May serve as Fire Engine Operator for Type IV through Type VI wildland fire engines with a three to five person crew. May serve as water handling specialist or fully qualified faller.

Serves as a senior firefighter on a helitack crew. Loads helicopter cargo considering methods, weight distribution, necessity for securing, total weight, etc. and completes

manifests of personnel and equipment being transported to the fire or other work site. Inventories and inspects helicopter accessories, fire tools, and equipment. Assures that needed tools and equipment are available for fire fighting tasks. May exit helicopter in remote areas to construct helispots, or to attack small fires, hot spots and spot fires. Certified in the use of long line external loads and the operation and maintenance of accessory equipment. May serve as a certified rappeller.

Additional Duties

When not performing wildland fire suppression duties, and for 40% or less of the time:

May inventory fuel beds, prepare associated reports, perform hazard fuel reduction projects, monitor burning conditions, pile vegetation debris and act in assigned positions such as ignition or holding specialist or other designated positions during actual fuel reduction efforts by prescribed fire.

May perform project work and lead other workers in the same type of work which may include, but is not limited to: cleans outdoor recreational facilities; mows grass and trims shrubs; performs trail maintenance and building maintenance duties; completes resources management projects; removes and disposes of hazard trees; provides emergency medical services; and so forth.

Other Significant Facts

This is a testing designated position (TDP) under the Department of the Interior DrugFree Workplace Program.

Incumbent is subject to medical examination and must pass the work capacity test for arduous positions.

Must meet state commercial driving licensing requirements. This license must be obtained prior to being assigned driver duties.

Driver is subject the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation drug and alcohol testing program.

Factors

1. Knowledge Required by the Position

(Level 14, 550 points)

Working knowledge of fire behavior including causes of fire, influence of temperature, humidity, wind, topography, slope and fuel moisture conditions, and fuels in order to know where to attack the fire, build fire line and where to be positioned to manage a wildland fire.

Working knowledge of fire management techniques, methods and conditions in order to provide instructions to crew members, accurately analyze complex fire circumstances, determine when additional forces may be needed, or determine when circumstances warrant withdrawal of crew to safe locations.

Detailed knowledge of the methods and procedures associated with wildland fire suppression and management to resolve a full range of irregular or problem situations when suppressing wildland fires.

Specific technical firefighting knowledge such as, but not limited to, fire engine and pump operations, handcrew operations and/or helicopter operations to enable the incumbent to function in assigned capacities and to instruct or lead others in those duties if necessary.

Specialized knowledge and necessary certifications in areas of falling, saw repair, long line certification, rappelling, pump operation and water handling, use of specialized equipment used in response to emergency medical services and urban interface/intermix situations and helicopter accessory equipment used in wildland fire management and prescribed burns.

Ability to operate pumping mechanisms and determine proper hose lays for the most effectiveness in accomplishing the appropriate fire management activities.

Ability to operate four wheel drive pickup trucks and fire engines.

Knowledge of air operations, rappelling, helicopter capabilities and limitations, helicopter contracts, load balance and capacity, load calculating, and manifesting of personnel and equipment. Knowledge of work procedures and practices in working with helicopters and aircraft.

Knowledge of tactical methods and techniques for use of water and additives in controlling and mopping up fires in order to efficiently and effectively accomplish operations where water is in short supply.

Skill in use of hand tools such as pulaski, shovel, and McLeod; and power tools including chainsaw and portable pumps to build fireline and control wildland fire and to perform other nonfire related duties engaged in firefighting or preparation for such assignments.

Knowledge of fire terminology to communicate with other crewmembers.

Working knowledge of fire behavior, hazards, and accepted fire safety practices and procedures to prevent injury and loss of life.

Knowledge of general range/forestry technician work in order to personally perform and lead others in the performance of a variety of work in such areas as hazard tree removal, hazard fuel reduction, prescribed burning, recreation, wildlife and watershed, and in the general facility of vehicle and equipment maintenance and upkeep.

Knowledge of appropriate act requirements to include the Equal Opportunity Act, Civil Rights Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Rehabilitation Act, 29 CFR 1604.11(a) Sexual Harassment sufficient to function within a diverse workforce.

Ability to perform duties under stressful and adverse operating conditions, such as long work hours, heavy workloads, emergency situations, adverse working and environmental conditions.

Knowledge of agency and interagency qualification, position task book requirements, and certification standards and procedures adopted by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

Knowledge of reporting requirements and procedures.

Knowledge and skill of standard first aid procedures sufficient to perform preliminary first aid and triage as necessary.

Knowledge of the structure and function of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and the United States Forest Service sufficient to determine how they interact on an interagency basis.

Knowledge of related fields such as forestry, range, wildlife, botany, soils and water, cultural and historical resources in order to make informed fire operational decisions.

Oral and written communication skills sufficient to effectively interact with people at all levels, internal and external to the organization, including the public.

Ability to perform basic computer technology skills such as word processing, electronic mail, internet use, and specialized fire information databases and programs.

Knowledge of the organization and the function of cooperative interagency fire organizations such as NWCG, NICC, GACC, state and local governments to facilitate fire operations in a multi-jurisdictional setting.

2. Supervisory Controls

(Level 22, 125 points)

The supervisor provides instructions for new assignments. The employee uses initiative in carrying out standard assignments and independently works out solutions to complex problems related to specific skills. Technical problems or unfamiliar situations that would require modifying established practices are referred to supervisor for guidance. Work is

reviewed on the basis of overall effectiveness. New assignments are checked in more detail to insure accuracy and to make sure that instructions were followed.

3. Guidelines (Level 32, 125 points)

Most guidelines are in the form of oral instructions and training prior to actual fire suppression activities. General guidelines can be found in the annually published BLM Standards for Fire Operations.

Some guidelines are also contained in the prescribed burning and hazard fuel reduction plan, emergency medical services plan, safety plan, the Fireline Handbook, Health and Safety Handbook, and other specific local guides pertinent to the local unit or specific to the type of work being performed.

Since every possible situation cannot be anticipated and covered in training, the employee must use judgment in applying knowledge, especially in situations where the supervisor is not available for consultation. Guides such as safety regulations must be applied.

4. Complexity (Level 42, 75 points)

Practices and leads fire suppression under the most adverse conditions of climate, fuels, and terrain. As an experienced specialized firefighter is expected to have the technical knowledge to perform in specific fire assignments, (i.e., faller, water handling specialist, rappeller, etc.) safely and efficiently. Decisions as to what must be done depend, to a considerable degree, on the employee's analysis of the situation and issues involved, and the selected course of action. The work involves conditions and elements that must be identified and analyzed to discern interrelationships.

5. Scope and Effect (Level 52, 75 points)

The scope of work varies from that of smaller fire suppression activities to acting as a member of a fire organization that may involve several hundred people. However, the primary role is to manage wildland fires safely and effectively. The effect of the work performed in any case is to minimize total loss. The performance of the crew contributes to the overall effectiveness of the wildland fire management effort.

6&7. Personal and Purpose of Contacts

(Level 1/A, 30 points)

Contacts are with coworkers and other members of wildland fire management suppression resources. Contacts are made to exchange information about wildland fire suppression activities and needs. Contacts may also be required to coordinate these needs with other land managing agencies.

8. Physical Demands

(Level 83, 50 points)

Arduous: Duties involve fieldwork requiring above average physical performance, endurance and superior conditioning. Work requires prolonged standing, walking over uneven ground, and recurring bending, reaching, lifting and carrying of items weighing over 50 pounds and shared lifting and carrying of heavier items, and similar strenuous activities requiring at least average agility and dexterity.

Duties include demands for strenuous activities in emergencies under adverse environmental conditions and over extended periods of time. Operation of some specialized fire equipment can place extended physical stress on incumbent during fire activities.

Incumbent is subject to medical examination and must pass the work capacity test for arduous positions.

9. Work Environment

(Level 93, 50 Points)

The work is primarily performed outdoors in forest and desert environments in steep terrain where surfaces may be extremely uneven, rocky, or covered by vegetation. Temperatures commonly exceed 100 degrees F and fall below freezing. Risks include smoke inhalation, fire entrapment, snake or insect bites and stings, exposure to excessive machinery noise, and falling and rolling material. Personnel must adjust and cope with exposure to weather elements, dust and smoke, poor bivouac and eating situations under an unpredictable set of circumstances. Incumbent may be required to live in backcountry camps for extended periods of time. The hazardous nature of the job requires that protective clothing be worn (hard hat, gloves, boots, flame resistant clothing and other personal protective equipment). Work requires travel by light fixedwing or rotorwing aircraft.