

FF Special Retirement Coverage

Standard Position Description (SPD)# F081

Certification of CSRS Primary (FF) coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed OPM general coverage certification letter dated 07/29/91.

Certification of FERS Primary-Rigorous (FF) coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed DOI general coverage certification sheet dated 10/02/91.

Evaluation Statement
Range Technician, GS-455-5
(BIFC Fire Operations Technician)
Position No. ~~F0022~~ F081

BACKGROUND:

BIFC is established as an Interagency Fire Center in Boise with BLM, Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Aircraft Services, etc. being represented. The primary emphasis is support of fire control efforts. The Bureau is the only unit with crewmembers. Most units have warehouses, logistical support, training, etc.

BLM has but two organized crews, one 20-person in Nevada and a 10-15 person crew in California for overhead purposes. The Bureau leans heavily on crews employed under the Emergency Firefighter (EFF) authority. At one time BIFC had two, three or four organized crews dependent upon the anticipated fire season, funding levels, etc. They now have some highly trained crewmembers who can fill positions in any organization to further firefighting efforts. Their priority is Bureau assignments, but they may work for a variety of organizations under a fire order. They perform both wildfire and controlled (prescription burn) firefighting duties with the emphasis on wildfire. The temporaries in these positions spend most of their non-fire time assigned to the Bureau's equipment shop in BIFC. Most of the summer work in the shop involves repair and maintenance of District firefighting equipment which exceeds the District's limited maintenance and repair capabilities. They may be "detailed" to District or Alaska Fire Service firefighting crew positions. The GS-5 positions receive considerable firefighting training to qualify them to fill a wide variety of fireline positions.

The BIFC crews are suppression rather than initial attack orientated. This means they work larger fires of longer duration rather than smaller, one/two day fires. Travel to and from fires is not recorded on fire records and may be 1-2 days each way. Neither do they record standby on their fire records which may be quite a bit of time during some fire seasons when they are held at staging areas pending decisions on where to send them. The suppression status of these employees also means extensive pre-and post- season firefighting assignments to the southeast or southern California when these areas have heavy fire seasons. It is not uncommon for them to be in Alaska for a full month or more on fire assignment.

REFERENCES:

GS-462/455 Forestry/Range Technician series
FES Primary Standard

TITLE AND SERIES DETERMINATION:

OPM has previously determined that fire control positions which require a background in firefighting methods and procedures such as this one are to be classified in the GS-455 or GS-462 series dependent upon the primary vegetation of the unit. Since BLM lands are basically range, the GS-455 Range Technician series and title are appropriate.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

The GS-462/455 narrative standard was used in determining the grade of this position.

Factor 5

Level 5-2

75 Points

The work performed is a segment of a major firefighting effort. The work performed contributes to the fire control efforts to limit the acreages burned and resource values destroyed in a safe and efficient manner.

Factor 6

Level 6-1

10 Points

Personnel contacts occur primarily with fire control personnel from various agencies on the fireline or in performing other duties in BIFC.

Factor 7

Level 7-1

20 Points

The purpose of the contacts is to receive or clarify assignments and report information. The employee has only limited responsibilities to assist in planning and carrying out firefighting assignments, coordinate operations, and advise on work efforts. These additional contacts are not considered appropriate for crediting in this trainee position, however, due to the limited involvement.

Factor 8

Level 8-3

50 Points

The operation, repair and maintenance of fire engines, equipment, and tools requires considerable and strenuous physical exertion for long periods of time.

Factor 9

Level 9-3

50 Points

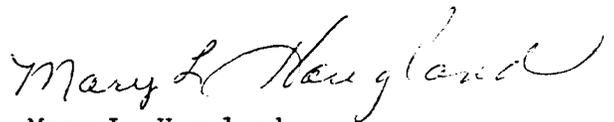
The employee is subjected to hazardous work situations on the fireline with only slightly less potentially dangerous situations existing in the repair and maintenance of equipment. Special safety equipment and gear is required.

Total Points: 1080 (GS-5=855-1100)

CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

This position is properly classified as Range Technician, GS-455-5.

FLSA: Nonexempt.



Mary L. Haugland
Classification and Wage Specialist
12/18/85