

**POSITION DESCRIPTION** (Please Read Instructions on the Back)

1. Agency Position No.

2. Reason for Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Redescription <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishment		3. Service New <input type="checkbox"/> Hdqtrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		4. Employing Office Location		5. Duty Station		6. OPM Certification No.	
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 IA Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		10. Position Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted (Specify in Remarks)		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		14. Agency Use * 425		15. Classified/Graded		16. Organizational Title of Position (if different from official title) <b>FUELS TECHNICIAN</b>	

**NPS Standard Position Description  
Fire Management Program**

15. Classified/Graded	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	<b>FORESTRY TECHNICIAN</b>	<b>GS</b>	<b>0462</b>	<b>05</b>		
d. First Level Review						
e. Recommended by Supervisor or Initiating Office						

17. Name of Employee (if vacant, specify)		18. Department, Agency, or Establishment <b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>	
		c. Third Subdivision	
		d. Fourth Subdivision	
		e. Fifth Subdivision	
		Signature of Employee (optional)	

19. Employee Review - This is an accurate description of the major duties & responsibilities of my position.

**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 misleading statements 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 Manger (optional)	
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 the most applicable published standards.		22. Position Classification Standards Used in Classifying/Grading Position Forestry Technician, GS-462, dated December 1991; Fire Protection and Prevention Series, GS-081, dated September 1991; Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, dated December 1991	
Typical Name and Title of Official Taking Action <b>J. LYNN SMITH HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM MANAGER</b>		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	Date		
<i>J. Lynn Smith</i>	NOV 24 1998		

23. Position Review	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
a. Employee (optional)										
b. Supervisor										
c. Classifier	Department of Interior, FF/LE Retirement Team Specialist <i>[Signature]</i>									
24. Remarks	This PD has been approved as follows under 5USC 8336(c) and 8412(d): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firefighter <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary/Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary/Supvy Approval Date <i>December 17, 1998</i>									

**This position is for young and physically vigorous individuals. Maximum entry age restrictions apply when filled under an appointment subject to the retirement system.**



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



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

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

Category of Coverage: Primary (Firefighter)

Bureau: National Park Service

Classification Title: FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

Organization Title: Fuels Technician

Series and Grade: GS-0462-05

Fire Management Program Standard Position Description number: 425

RECOMMENDATION FOR COVERAGE REVIEW:

Primary coverage is recommended under both CSRS and FERS.

The primary responsibilities of this position are to serve as a prescribed fire technician in the implementation and monitoring of wildland and prescribed fire burning projects. This position serves as a prescribed fire monitor, collecting and evaluating weather, fuels, topography, and fire behavior data for prescribed and wildland fires. The incumbent assists in all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation. Prepares maps of fire perimeter to report fire progress over the fire. Observes and reports smoke transport and potential impacts of fire on resources and safety of personnel. Evaluates observed conditions and problems, makes preliminary determinations on the cause of problems noted, and provides results to higher-level specialists for analysis. The incumbent serves as Ignition Specialist, Field Observer, Squad Boss, or as a holding or ignition crew member on wildland and prescribed fires, as assigned. Operates four wheel drive pickup trucks and fire engines, portable pumps, chain saws, and other common fire equipment. Performs tasks to control and extinguish wildfires as needed. This is a rigorous position with incumbent performing duties, which are directly connected with the control and extinguishment of fires for over 50% of the time:

Marilee Pospahala  
 MARILEE POSPAHALA, FF/LEO Retirement Specialist, NPS Representative

12/4/98  
 Date

Richard T. Gale  
 RICHARD T. GALE, Deputy Chief Ranger, NPS

12-04-98  
 Date

Marcia S. Scifres  
 MARCIA SCIFRES, DOI Fire & Law Enforcement Retirement Team Leader

12/9/98  
 Date

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

12/11/98  
 Date

APPROVAL : The position described above is approved for coverage under Firefighter or Law Enforcement (FF/LEO) Retirement retroactive to classification date of 11-24-98. Approval is by DOI Secretary's Designee:

Mari R. Barr  
 MARI R. BARR, Secretary's Designee

12/17/98  
 Date

**STANDARD POSITION DESCRIPTION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**CLASSIFICATION TITLE: FORESTRY TECHNICIAN**

**SERIES AND GRADE: GS-462-05**

**Introduction**

This position is located in a National Park Service organization. The primary responsibilities of this position are to serve as a prescribed fire technician in the implementation and monitoring of wildland and prescribed fire-burning projects.

**Major Duties**

**Fire Control Duties**

This is a rigorous position with incumbent performing the following duties, which are directly connected with the control and extinguishment of fires for over 50% of the time:

Assists in all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, mop-up, and rehabilitation. Collects fire weather data, fuel and/or soil moisture samples, maps projects, and maintains appropriate records, including fire reports.

Serves as a Prescribed Fire Monitor, collecting and evaluating weather, fuels, topography, and fire behavior data for prescribed and wildland fires. Prepares maps of fire perimeter to report fire progress over time. Observes and reports smoke transport and potential impacts of fire on resources and safety of personnel. Evaluates observed conditions and problems, makes preliminary determinations on the cause of problems noted, and provides results to higher-level specialists for analysis.

Serves as Ignition Specialist, Field Observer, Squad Boss, or as a holding or ignition crew member on wildland and prescribed fires, as assigned.

Operates four-wheel drive pickup trucks and fire engines, portable pumps, chain saws, and other common fire equipment.

Performs tasks to control and extinguish wildfires as needed.

**Additional Duties**

When not performing fire control duties, and for less than 40% of the time:

Assists in preparation of portions of prescribed fire burn plans. This includes literature research, descriptions of methods, preparation of graphs and charts, and summary of findings.

Establishes and monitors index plots to assess fire effects in a variety of fuel/vegetation types.

Assists in identification of grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees. Assists in preparing herbarium specimens and records habitat and plant association data.  
Uses computer models to store, update, and analyze fire behavior and other monitoring data.

May perform hazard fuel reduction projects, which entails mechanical removal of vegetation through use of chainsaws, etc. May assist in park emergency operations.

May clean, maintain, recondition, and store fire fighting tools and equipment. Inventories fire supplies and equipment.

May be assigned to other resource management activities such as recreation, erosion control, exotic species removal, fuel inventory, cleaning outdoor recreational facilities, etc.

### **Other Significant Facts**

This is a Testing Designated Position (TDP) under the Department of the Interior Drug-free Workplace Program.

This position is for physically vigorous individuals.

### **Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position**

**Level 1-4, 550 points**

Knowledge of suppression methods used in containment and control of wildland fires.  
Knowledge of fire behavior at the S-290 Intermediate Fire Behavior level or higher to communicate observations and to determine where to locate fire control line.

Knowledge of fire weather monitoring procedures and accuracy requirements. Knowledge of collection and recording procedures for fire behavior, fire effects, and weather data. Ability to become a certified Prescribed Fire Monitor (RXFM).

Knowledge of NPS fire management policies, cultural resource management practices, NPS fire management plans, fire monitoring procedures, fire effects, and ignition techniques to support, understand, and relate results of wildland fires and prescribed burns projects to the broader natural resource function.

Knowledge of safe use of common fire tools and equipment such as Pulaski shovel, McLeod, chainsaws, pumps, etc., to build fire line and control wildland and prescribed fires.

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

Technical knowledge of firefighting operations such as fire engine, pumps, and handcrews.

Ability to use computers and telecommunications equipment for data entry, word processing, and report writing.

Ability to use compass, topographic maps and aerial photographs to safely and efficiently locate and access fires and monitoring plots.

Basic knowledge of standard procedures used in fuel inventories and sampling.

Ability to communicate orally and in writing to relay instructions and information and produce reports of findings and observations.

Knowledge of plant classification techniques.

Knowledge of personal safety techniques to prevent injury to self and others.

Knowledge of fire terminology and use of radios to communicate with other crew members.

**Factor 2. Supervisory Controls**

**Level 2-2, 125 points**

The supervisor assigns work, provides training and outlines objectives. Once made, the incumbent is relied upon to independently carry out assignments based on past experience. When unfamiliar field conditions or situations are encountered, a higher graded employee is contacted to provide guidance or resolution. The supervisor assures that tasks completed, data collected, and the methods used are technically accurate and in compliance with instructions and established procedures.

**Factor 3. Guidelines**

**Level 3-2, 125 points**

Guidelines typically are in the form of oral and written instructions and training prior to wildland fire, prescribed fire or suppression activities (e.g., National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Fireline Handbook, etc.). Established plans and techniques (e.g., parks' Natural Resources Management Plans, Fire Management Plans, and an adapted version of the NPS Western Region's Wildland Fire Monitoring Handbook, scientific literature, etc.) are used to conduct fire control and other resource monitoring work. 'When existing written or oral instructions do not apply, the problem is referred to supervisor. Since every possible situation cannot be anticipated and covered in training, the employee must use independent judgment in applying guides, especially in situations where the supervisor is not available for consultation before action is required. Guides such as safety regulations must be applied.

**Factor 4. Complexity**

**Level 4-2, 75 points**

Projects include completing a variety of tasks on prescribed burns and wildland fires, and fire weather and effects data collection. The work involves skillful application of a variety of complicated fire monitoring and prescribed fire ignition and holding techniques, and use of equipment and tools. Decisions as to what must be done depend, to a considerable degree, on the employee's analysis of the situation and issues involved, with the selected course of action chosen from a variety of options. Incumbent is expected to apply and modify guidelines and protocols from previous experience.

**Factor 5. Scope and Effect**

**Level 5-2, 75 points**

The work involves skillful application of a variety of prescribed fire control and monitoring techniques and use of equipment and tools. The work contributes to the effective implementation of the Park's and the National Park Service's Fire Management Program. Duties have a significant impact on the long-term fire restoration component of the Park's Fire Management Program, in that prescribed fire projects and data collected enables managers to make decisions about ecosystem management and to evaluate program success.

**Factors 6 and 7 (combined). Personal and Purpose of Contacts Level 2/A, 45 points**

Primary contacts are with co-workers, personnel from fire and resource management and other divisions within the park, fire and resource management personnel from other parks, and personnel from other Federal and State land management agencies. Contacts are made in a moderately structured setting. The purposes of contacts are to exchange information, and to clarify and gather information.

**Factor 8. Physical Demands**

**Level 8-3, 50 points**

Arduous: Duties involve field-work 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.

The duties of this position requires the incumbent to meet the physical fitness test for arduous positions.

**Factor 9. Work Environment**

**Level 9-3, 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 hats, gloves, boot, flame resistant clothing and other personal protective equipment). Work may require travel by light fixed-wing or rotor-wing aircraft.

Processing and analysis of data are done primarily in an office setting, this is done less than 10% of the time.

## CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION

**Classification Allocation:** Forestry Technician, GS-462-05

**Position Classification Standards Used:** Forestry Technician, GS-462, TS-111, 12/91; Fire Protection and Prevention Series, GS-081, 09/91; Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, (TS-111, 12/91)

### Background

This position description is established as a standard position description for use by the National Park Service Fire Management Program and is appropriate for rigorous positions in Parks where the **PRIMARY PURPOSE** is to serve as a crewmember in the implementation and monitoring of wildland and prescribed burn projects. These duties are directly connected with the control and extinguishment of fires. This position is for physically vigorous individuals and incumbents must meet the physical fitness standards for arduous positions.

### Title and Series Determination

The Forestry Technician, GS-462 series (TS-111, 12/91) covers positions that primarily require a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of forestry and other biologically based resource management fields. Forestry technicians provide practical technical support in the scientific management, protection, and development of forest resources. Forestry Technicians are most commonly found in first level units and are principally concerned with performing work supporting the implementation of projects and program goals. Since the majority of wildland and prescribed fire projects are carried out in forested areas, the GS-462 is the most appropriate series for this position. Furthermore, GS-0081, Fire Protection and Prevention Series (TS-108, 9/91), states that positions that include fire control, suppression, and related duties incident to forestry management work should be classified to the Forestry Technician Series.

In accordance with the titling instructions of the Forestry Technician standard (GS-462), Forestry Technician is the authorized title for this position. Therefore, the proper title and series are Forestry Technician, GS-462.

### Grade Level Determination

The Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-400, (TS-111, 12/91), which is in the FES format, will be used to evaluate this position.

Evaluation Factors	Level Assigned	Points Assigned
<b>1. Knowledge Required by the Position</b>	1-4	550
<b>Comments:</b> Incumbent applies knowledge of the technical methods and procedures of wildland fire control. Monitors and carries out a variety of technical duties (e.g., prescribed and wildland fire preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, mop- up, and rehabilitation); collects weather, fuels, topography and fire behavior data, etc., common to the specialty area of wildland fire.		
<b>2. Supervisory Controls</b>	2-2	125
<b>Comments:</b> Supervisor provides instructions on recurring assignments, and provides		

additional specific guidance and reference sources for new or difficult assignments; incumbent performs recurring assignments independently, and refers situations not covered by instructions or precedents to supervisor; work and methods evaluated for accuracy and adequacy.		
<b>3. Guidelines</b>	3-2	125
<b>Comments:</b> Incumbent must choose the most appropriate from several guidelines; uses judgment to handle aspects of work not completely covered by guidelines.		
<b>4. Complexity</b>	4-2	75
<b>Comments:</b> Work involves performing a variety of related technical tasks of limited scope or difficulty, e.g., performs a variety of technical duties in implementing prescribed and wildland fire plans. The incumbent chooses the correct technique, guideline, or procedure based on past experience.		
<b>5. Scope and Effect</b>	5-2	75
<b>Comments:</b> Work involves the execution of specific procedures, and techniques which differ with each project's fuel type, weather conditions, and topography; execution of bum plans and data collected affects the accuracy, reliability, or acceptability of the Park's fire restoration component of the fire management program.		
<b>6. Personal Contacts</b>	2	--
<b>Comments:</b> Contacts are with co-workers, personnel from fire and resource management and other divisions within the home park, fire and resource management personnel of other parks, other Federal and State land management agencies in a moderately structured setting.		
<b>7. Purpose of Contacts</b>	A	45
<b>Comments:</b> Exchange, clarify and gather information.		
<b>8. Physical Demands</b>	8-3	50
<b>Comments:</b> This is a rigorous field position. The work requires regular and recurring protracted period of considerable and strenuous physical exertion. Must meet Arduous physical standards.		
<b>9. Work Environment</b>	9-3	50
<b>Comments:</b> Work is performed in steep terrain, uneven surfaces, in extreme weather conditions with exposure to heat, smoke, and insects. Work requires protective clothing.		
<b>Total Points:</b> 1095		
<b>Final Grade Allocation:</b> GS-05		

(GS-5 range is 855 - 1100)

### Conclusion

The total points allocated to this position equal 1095 which falls within the GS-5 range of 855 - 1100. The appropriate classification of this position is Forestry Technician, GS-462-05.