

USDA Forest Service | Region 2

NEBRASKA NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/nebraska>



OUTREACH NOTICE District Fire Management Officer

GS-0301-9/11 **Please Respond by January 15, 2021**

The USDA Forest Service, Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands, Bessey and Pine Ridge Districts are seeking interest for **two District Fire Management Officers, GS-0301-9/11** that will be hired in the near future. One duty station will be in Chadron (Pine Ridge RD) and the other in Halsey (Bessey RD), Nebraska.

This is a pre-announcement outreach for the permanent positions and will be filled [under Open Continuous Register 21-FIRE-R2OCR-DZFMOM-911DH](#). We hope to reach a wide and diverse pool of potential applicants. If you are interested in either of these positions and enjoy working in a dynamic, challenging, and rewarding environment, please complete and email the attached Outreach Response to the email address listed below. Questions about the position or local area can also be directed to the listed contact. Transfer of station (TOS) will be authorized for this position. Applicants are encouraged to update their resumes, gather required documentation such as IQCS master record, and create/update their USAJOBS profile now since the position will only be open for approximately fourteen days. Applicants that complete the outreach response will be notified when the position is open.

For additional information, please contact:

Tim Buskirk, Pine Ridge District Ranger	308-432-0393	timothy.buskirk@usda.gov
Julie Bain, Bessey District Ranger	308-533-8115	julie.bain@usda.gov

Description of duties associated with this position

The District Fire Management Officer (DFMO) is a key position that leads the district’s fire and fuels organization, which are the bread-and-butter targets for the NNFG. The DFMO plays an important role as a member of the district leadership team supporting overall district operations including potential roles as acting district ranger. The DFMO is responsible for all aspects (personnel, safety, budget, planning etc.) of prevention, pre-suppression, detection, suppression and fuels programs and personnel, and takes an active role building and maintaining positive relationships with local partners and cooperators.



Qualification Requirements

This position is categorized as a Moderate Complexity District/Zone Fire Management Officer position that is subject to the Forest Service Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) Standard and Guide, as designated by the W.O. Fire and Aviation Management. The FS-FPM minimum qualification standards (MQS) for this position must be met prior to entrance into the position as a condition of hire. Refer to the Forest Service FS-FPM Standard Position Description Crosswalk for a full description of the MQS.

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for Wildland Firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT at the ARDUOUS level is a "condition of employment." The Arduous fitness (Pack) test requires completing a three (3) mile hike within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your physician and begin training immediately if applying for this position. This announcement constitutes the required 30 days advanced notice for testing requirements.

In accordance with USDA Department Regulation 4430-792-2, this position is a Testing Designated Position (TDP) under the USDA Drug Free Workplace Program and subject to pre-employment drug testing. All applicants selected for this position will be required to submit to a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Incumbents of this position will be required to submit to a urinalysis on an ongoing random basis, after appointment as directed.

Minimum Qualification Standards for Moderate Complexity:

Primary Core Requirement: Pathway 1: TFLD and ICT3 or RXB2, and M-581
 Pathway 2: HEB1 and ICT3 and M-581.

About the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

The NNFG encompasses over 1.1 million acres of land in both Nebraska and South Dakota. The unit is composed of five Ranger Districts and one Nursery. The Pine Ridge Ranger District includes part of the Nebraska National Forest and all the Oglala National Grassland in the northwest corner of the state. The Bessey Ranger District includes a portion of the Nebraska National Forest in west-central and the McKelvie National Forest in north-central Nebraska. The Bessey Nursery is co-located with the Bessey Ranger District at Halsey, NE. The Fall River Ranger District and Wall Ranger District share management of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland across southwestern South Dakota. The Ft. Pierre National Grassland is managed by the Ft. Pierre Ranger District and is situated in south-central South Dakota.

The Supervisor's Office is in Chadron, Nebraska and is co-located with the Pine Ridge Ranger District. The Pine Ridge Job Corps Center is located 10 miles south of Chadron and is a close partner with the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands.



Quick facts about the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

- Habitat for significant populations of huntable and viewable wildlife, such as turkey, mule and white-tailed deer, antelope, and elk.
- Manages the Soldier Creek Wilderness, two proposed Grasslands Wilderness Areas, and the Pine Ridge National Recreation Area, along with developed campgrounds and over 100 miles of hiking trails.
- Home to the largest hand-planted forest in the western hemisphere, second only to Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Includes three Scenic Byways (Bridges to Buttes Byway, Gold Rush, and Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway).
- Internationally known Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center, which encompasses the largest extinct bison bone bed in the world.
- Hosts the National Grasslands Visitor Center.
- Supports a diverse wildlife program with numerous partnership agreements for habitat improvement that support species like the black-footed ferret, burrowing owl, and black-tailed prairie dog.
- Administers livestock grazing permits on approximately 350 allotments through seven grazing associations and over 160 direct permittees.
- Toadstool Geologic Park is located adjacent to Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center. Toadstool is another internationally known site on the Oglala National Grassland. Toadstool is a moonscape of eroded buttes and drainages with evidence of volcanic events and extinct animal species that occurred from 26-38 million years ago.

Communities and Surrounding Area

Chadron, Nebraska

Chadron is located at an elevation of 3,365 feet above sea level in the north-west panhandle of Nebraska on scenic Highway 385. Chadron is a community of approximately 6,000 people and is the county seat of Dawes County. Chadron is located 100 miles south of Rapid City, South Dakota; 300 miles northeast of Denver, Colorado; and 450 miles northwest of Omaha, Nebraska. Basic economic activities include education, retail and wholesale sales, farming, ranching, transportation, and tourism. Located in Chadron are a new hospital, a medical clinic, a nursing home and assisted living facilities, dentists and orthodontists, many stores and shops including Wal-Mart, Safeway, Bomgaars, and Maurices, a handful of gas stations/mini marts, clothing stores, numerous banks, and various reasonably-priced restaurants-both fast-food and sit-down. Within an hour and a half drive you will find both Rapid City, SD and Scottsbluff, NE for more shopping and eating choices.

Chadron is home to Chadron State College, a fully credited educational institution known for its teaching program. CSC offers students the opportunity to pursue both bachelor's degrees and master's degrees and has an annual enrollment of approximately 3,000 students, with approximately 260 employees. CSC has an impressive physical activity center, with an indoor track, weight facilities, exercise rooms,



basketball courts, and racquetball courts. This facility is open to the general public through a membership program. Public education opportunities in Chadron include one elementary school (K-2), one intermediate school (3-4), one middle school (5-8), and one high school (9-12). Private schooling is also an option for preschool through middle school ages.

Chadron offers cultural events that are very comparable to larger populated areas. Chadron State College is home to the Mari Sandoz Center, a museum dedicated to the life of the local author and to the settlers who came to live in this region. Memorial Hall, located on the CSC campus, provides the community with concerts, art exhibits, and performances by local artists, students, and professional companies. To learn about the history of the area, travel just a few miles east of Chadron to the Fur Trade Museum, or 25 miles west to Fort Robinson, located near Crawford, Nebraska. Fort Robinson offers museums, gift shops, horseback rides, picnic and fishing areas, and camping amenities. Chadron has one local newspaper, The Chadron Record, which is published weekly, and a local radio station, AM 610 KCSR, complete with a website that is updated daily at <https://chadronradio.com/>.

Currently, Chadron has several houses on the market, with prices ranging from \$55,000 to \$250,000. Rentals, apartments, and houses are also available in the range of \$300 to \$900 a month.

Other local services include: child care, public library, post office, County Court House, numerous churches representing most major denominations, a movie theatre, bowling alley, swimming pool, tennis courts, several city parks, a golf course, baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, and many youth programs and activities. Chadron also has an outstanding volunteer fire department and volunteer emergency medical technicians, an airport with daily commercial flights to Denver, police department, sheriff's department, and a thriving retail business community.

More information can be obtained from the Chadron Chamber of Commerce, 706 West 3rd St., Box 646, Chadron, NE 69337; phone 308.432.4401 or 800.603.2937 or website <http://www.chadron.com/>.

Halsey, Nebraska

Halsey is situated in Nebraska's Sandhills, one of the few remaining intact mixed grass prairies in the country. At last count, Thomas County had about 600 humans and 36,000 cows. It is a very good environment to raise a family. Halsey has a population of 83 and serves the rural ranching community. It has a post office, a bar/restaurant, a new convenience store/hairdresser/ATV repair shop, and one motel. Housing is reasonably priced compared to many areas, with many homes listing for under \$75,000. Rentals are occasionally available as well. Homes for sale and rentals can be difficult to find, however. Thedford, 16 miles to the west, has a grocery store, a hardware and lumber store, two gas stations, a bank, a restaurant, and two motels. Broken Bow (55 miles southeast, population 3,400) and North Platte (80 miles southwest, population 22,000) are the nearest large commercial centers and medical facilities. Churches of various denominations are in the area. Schools provide an excellent small classroom atmosphere with grades K-4 attending school in Halsey and grades 5-12 attending the Sandhills Junior/Senior High School in Dunning. Busing is provided from Halsey to Dunning, 12 miles to the east.



The Bessey Ranger District has a robust fuels program, prescribed burning about 6,000 acres per year and cutting another 2,000. Our motto is to “Keep the Grasslands Grass” by removing encroaching trees. Bessey recreation complex includes a campground, a picnic area, and close access to ATV, hiking, and horseback trails. This is a rather remote location that lacks bright lights and upscale malls, but there is plenty to do in the way of outdoor activities and helping your neighbors. The position provides an excellent opportunity with a lot of responsibility.

No government housing is available. More information about the Halsey area can be found at <http://www.city-data.com/city/Halsey-Nebraska.html>.

PLEASE RESPOND BY January 15, 2021.



District Fire Management Officer, GS-0301-9/11

Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands, Bessey and Pine Ridge Ranger Districts

USDA Forest Service, R2-Rocky Mountain Region

Please respond by **January 15, 2021** to

Bessey RD: Julie Bain at 308-533-8115 or julie.bain@usda.gov

Pine Ridge RD: Tim Buskirk at 308-432-0393 or timothy.buskirk@usda.gov

Contact Information and Interest Form

Contact Information

Name:

E-mail address:

Contact Number:

Location interested in:

Current Federal Employees:

Agency/Forest:

Series:

Grade:

Position Title:

Type Appointment:

Non-Federal Employees

Current Occupation:

Agency/Company:

Are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

Person with Disability

Veterans Readjustment/Recruitment

Disabled Veterans w/30% Compensatory Disability

Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998

Former Peace Corp Volunteer

Other _____

USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.



Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands

Caring for the Land and Serving People