

GOT WHAT IT TAKES? Wildland fire summer job opportunities available in central Montana

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LEWISTOWN, Mont.) – If you think you have what it takes, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in Central Montana are looking to employ highly motivated Americans in a variety of summer wildland fire positions. The Central Montana Fire Zone (CMFZ) covers 16 counties in central and north-central Montana. The zone has fire protection responsibility on 3.5 million acres of public land. CMFZ provides assistance to other agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and most of the counties within the zone.

The BLM main office is located at the Lewistown Airport. The other BLM fire station is 1.5 hours north of Lewistown at the base of the Little Rockies in Zortman, Montana. The USFS J-M Fire Zone is comprised of the Judith and Musselshell Ranger Districts, located in Stanford and Harlowton, Montana respectively. Both zones hire approximately 15-20 seasonal employees for wildland fire suppression during May-September.

The employment opportunities include, but are not limited to: Engine Crew - 3-5 person crews-respond to wildland fires that are sometimes accessible with fire engines, fire line construction; Helitack - 7-9 person crews-fire line construction, crew shuttle operations; Dispatch - receive fire reports, direct resources, support suppression operations.

Some of the benefits of employment are: wages start at \$12 per hour for first year firefighters, plus possible overtime and hazard pay; excellent summer earnings \$12,000-\$25,000; accrue annual and sick leave on a 90-day or more appointment; continuous summer employment through re-hire application process, assuming acceptable performance reviews; possible travel or assignment to other fire districts both in and out of state.

Applicants must meet the following employment requirements: U.S. Citizenship, valid driver's license, at least 18 years old (when reporting to work), pass fire physical exam, negative drug test, pass Work Capacity Test (pack test) on first day, and complete Basic Fire School once hired.

Wildland firefighters need a high level of muscular and cardiovascular fitness to perform safely in difficult environments. Being prepared to work in steep terrain, extreme temperatures, high altitude and smoke, while maintaining a reserve work capacity to meet unforeseen emergency, is critical. Applicants must pass a work capacity test (pack test) as condition of hire. The pack test consists of a 3-mile hike with a 45-pound pack over level terrain. The test must be completed in 45 minutes or less. This test is administered on the first day of work. Applicants that fail the test will not be offered a firefighting position.

To apply to DOI/USDA Fire Announcements, go to www.usajobs.gov by March 29, 2016. For more information, visit: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewistown_field_office/dispatch.html or <http://www.fs.usda.gov/lcnf> . For information on positions at Lewistown or Zortman, call: Lewistown Engines Dennis Crawford (406) 538-1092; Zortman Engines Scott Meneely (406) 654-5123/(406)-637-2002; Helitack Henry Gilliland (406) 538-1071; Dispatch Jay McAllister (406) 538-1084. For information on positions at the J-M Fire Zone, call: Judith RD Anthony Emacio (406) 566-2292; Musselshell RD Kip Colby (406) 632-4391.