



**MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

Position Title:	Field Forester – Hazardous Fuels Reduction		
Department:	Division of Resource Management and Protection (DRMP)		
Employment Status:	Exempt E3	Pay range:	\$47,610.00-\$71,415.00, Dependent upon Experience and Qualifications
Opening Date:	July 28, 2022	Closing Date:	Open Until Filled

Job Summary

The Mescalero Apache Tribe, Division of Resource Management and Protection (DRMP) has operated a hazardous fuels reduction program since the adoption of the National Fire Plan in 2000. Our Thinning Crew has been the backbone of the DRMP program, and has provided assistance to the Tribe in all forms of emergency response needs. This is primarily a field-oriented Forester position with approximately 80% time to be spent in the field and 20% time in the office, assisting in the development of hazardous fuels reduction projects for the Mescalero Apache Tribe. This Field Forester position will be directly supervised by the Supervisory Forester (position currently vacant) for the Forest Development unit of the DRMP Forest Management Section.

The Mescalero Apache Reservation is located in the sky-islands of south-central New Mexico, with elevations ranging from 5,400 feet and rising to 12,003 feet at the peak of Sierra Blanca. Total land area of the reservation is approximately 460,678 acres and spans seven community types, including Chihuahuan desert, grassland/oak woodland, piñon-juniper, Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, spruce-fir and alpine community types. This broad range of community types provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, which also supports a big-game hunting program through the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino. The Tribe also operates a Ranching Enterprise, raising grass-fed beef. There are many varied recreational opportunities offered within the Sacramento Mountains of southern New Mexico.

This position description may not include all of the listed duties, nor do all of the listed examples include all tasks which may be found or assigned to this position.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Prepares hazardous fuels reduction projects on a daily basis, using an interdisciplinary team approach to project development, which will consider other natural resource objectives, such as enhancing livestock grazing, protecting cultural resources, enhancing water quality, optimizing forest productivity and water yield, and restoring wildlife habitat.
- Implements technical guidance and standards for hazardous fuels reduction, including identification of strategic areas for placement of fuel breaks, reconnaissance of other contributing factors (such a dwarf mistletoe), and development of Mechanical Fuels Treatment (MFT) plans. Will coordinate efforts with the Timber Sales program, where overstory removal is needed to meet fuels objectives. Monitors program adequacy and effectiveness through regular on-the-ground inspections, to determine compliance with established policies, standards and program objectives. Initiates corrective action as needed.
- Maintains annual thinning schedules that provide for both summer and winter operational ground, in order to maintain year-round work for the Thinning Crew.

- Will work directly with both the Marking Crew and Thinning Crew Supervisors to ensure proper implementation of marking and cutting guidelines that are developed.
- Will coordinate with Crew Supervisors to oversee field staff supplies and materials to monitor when additional materials must be ordered, to help ensure continuous daily work for the crews.
- Will oversee field staff supplies and materials to monitor when additional materials must be ordered, to help ensure continuous daily work for staff.
- Provide updates for DRMP Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database and Forest Management Dashboard developed to maintain tracking records of treatment areas, including location, acreage, treatments implemented, and funding agency.
- Coordinates Tribal forestry projects/activities with other Federal, State and local agencies including the US Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and NM Forestry Division.
- Provide presentations, as requested by Project Officers, funding agencies and Tribal leadership, to demonstrate work being accomplished by the Forest Management Section. Presentations will be both in the field and at meetings, and may involve preparation of PowerPoint presentations, as well as associated handout materials and reports.
- Attends seminars, conferences, workshops, courses and other training required to maintain applicable knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Ensures that all safety and compliance requirements are met.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry or a closely related Natural Resources field is required
- Experience in using/applying Forest Vegetation Simulation (FVS) programs preferred.
- Previous experience in hazardous fuels reduction is preferred.
- Must be able to work in an interdisciplinary team environment, with professional, technical staff interacting closely. Ability to resolve issues, partner with others and develop solutions that create win-win situations for the Tribe.
- Must be proficient in use of various computer software programs. Good working knowledge using Geographic Information Systems is required.
- Must possess valid State driver's license and meet Tribal insurance standards, since Forester will be required to travel independently to various project areas to monitor project layout and crew accomplishment, as well as attend meetings and training sessions.
- Must successfully pass a pre-employment drug/alcohol screen and background investigation.
- Hiring will comply with "Tribal Preference Hiring" Ordinance 06-02.

Tribal preference and Native American Indian preference shall apply to all positions.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Skill in providing leadership to, supervising, training, and evaluating assigned staff.
- Skill in preparing reports and correspondence.
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain professional relationships with individuals of varying social and cultural backgrounds and with co-workers at all levels.
- Ability to carry out instructions furnished in verbal or written format.
- Ability to work independently and meet strict time lines.

Physical Demands

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; and stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl. The employee frequently is required to stand; walk; and talk or hear. The employee occasionally is required to sit; and taste or hear. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.

Work Environment

Work is primarily performed outdoors where exposure to natural weather conditions and various dusts and mists may occur. Prolonged standing and walking may be on steep, uneven, or unstable ground. Situations where 8-inch work boots, safety goggles, gloves, protective face shields, or hardhats are needed may occur. Evening, weekend, and/or holiday work will be required. Extended hours and irregular shifts may be required.

Please submit an Application for Employment and resumé to Myra Lapaz at the Human Resources Department, 575-464-9273.