

Umatilla National Forest

Briefing Paper – September 2007



Tupper Work Center - Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp

BACKGROUND: The Umatilla National Forest is in the process of developing a Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp. We are working in partnership with state and federal agencies, as well as the Morrow County School District and potentially the Hermiston School District. The week-long camp will be conducted at the Tupper Work Center which is located on the Heppner Ranger District. The work center is in a forested setting, approximately 35 miles from the community of Heppner. Up to sixteen students will be accepted into Career Camp. This year's Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp will be held the week of October 21-26, 2007.

PRIMARY GOALS:

- Stimulate the interest of junior/senior class students in fire management, fire ecology or other natural resource careers.
- Reach out to a wide-diversity of students and provide them with a hands-on training session that gives them a clear understanding of career opportunities with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Help students develop skills in preparing job applications and communicating with prospective employers to improve their abilities to be successful in a competitive job market.
- Provide an opportunity for colleges and universities to provide information to students on their programs in fire management, fire ecology or other natural resource programs.
- Connect graduates of the Career Camp with potential employers in the Northwest. The Umatilla National Forest is setting a goal to hire up to 4 successful candidates for the 2008 season.

We believe that the Umatilla National Forest Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp will contribute to meeting the 2007-08 Morrow County School Board goals by:

1. Providing an opportunity for a co-curricular activity that will be educational and stimulating involving fire and fuels management
2. Create a chance for students to explore a new career option involving opportunities to learn more about career placement and further education at the college level, simultaneously providing an opportunity to improve interview and application skills

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OVERVIEW:

Each year the Umatilla National Forest fire program hires 50-60 temporary or seasonal employees to work on hand crews, engine crews, rappel crews, in a fire lookout, or in a dispatch center. Eighty percent of our permanent workforce comes through the portal of our seasonal workforce so this camp is an excellent opportunity for students who are seeking a challenging career in the outdoors.

Presentations to the senior classes are planned for September 18-20th 2007 at Irrigon, Riverside, and Heppner High Schools, respectively. This year's Fire and Fuels Career Orientation Camp will be held the week of October 21-26, 2007.

Students will be given a brief presentation followed by a Question and Answer session. Opportunities to meet with recruiters will be provided to interested students following the presentation. Depending on interest and school schedules the sessions will last approximately 30-45 minutes. Aspects of fire and fuels management, as well as information on activities pertaining to Career Camp will be discussed.

Brochures, applications, and letters to parents with information about Career Camp will be provided to interested candidates. The Forest Service will work with school officials to set up the process for selection to meet school educational objectives (i.e. applications, interviews).

We anticipate that this program will run a minimum of 3 years and propose to meet with the junior class students in the spring of 2008 to give them an overview of the Career Camp. Outgoing seniors who participated in Career Camp will be used to help recruit for Fall 2008 Career Camp.

Curriculum for the week will include:

Fire Management and Fire Ecology

- Fire suppression activities (pump use, hose-lays, etc.)
- Prescribed fire activities

Career Placement and Hiring Practices

- Student Temporary Employment Program
- Student Career Experience Program and fire apprentice programs,
- State, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service seasonal employment opportunities

Further Education Opportunities

- University and community college programs offering degrees in fire-related programs.
- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities will be discussed.