POSITION EVALUATION STATEMENT

Proposed Title, Series, Grade: Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-06

Position Number: DX05700

Background: This Standard Position Description (SPD) was developed by an Advisory Work Group made up of a team of fire subject matter expert and classification specialist and is representative of fire planning work performed. The major duties listed in the SPD were identified through a thorough analysis of the 0456 Wildland Firefighter standard.

References: Position Classification Standard for Wildland Fire Management, 0456, June 2022.

Series & Title Determination: The 0456 Wildland Fire Management series is a single-grade interval series that includes classes of position which involve technical and specialized work on the protection of forest or range lands and resources from fire. This series includes general fire management work which is preparatory to the assumption of technical or specialized assignments, and which is accomplished as a part of specialized functional fire management programs including forest, and range fire prevention, presuppession, suppression, post-suppression, fire research, and other specialized work relating to fire management programs.

The PCS is divided into three parts. Part I contains occupational information applicable to Federal work covered by the PCS without regard to pay plan or classification system. Part II provides the grading criteria for positions classified in accordance with GS grade definitions. Part II- Grading Information, is further broken down into *Part 1* (grade level criteria for Wildland Firefighting Positions), and *Part II* (grade level criteria for Fire Mangement Officer Positions). Part III includes explanatory material about the developement of the PCS.

This is an agency Standardized Position Description (SPD) and serves as a Wildland Firefighter (Aviation) organizationally located within a wildland fire management program within one of the four bureaus of the Department of the Interior.

The primary purpose of the position is to provide direct support of fire suppression at established airtanker/SEAT bases utilizing aerial firefighting resources. Works with base managers to direct personnel, provide briefings and training for support personnel, assist in implementation of NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO), local Airtanker/SEAT Base Operations plans, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, other local operating plans that may pertain to the base of operations. Assists with contract administration and documentation as directed for aircraft and National Long-Term Fire-Retardant Contracts.

The basic title for positions that involve technical and specialized work on the protection of forest or range lands is *Wildland Firefighter*. The prescribed a parenthetical title of *Aviation* will also be applied, which describes work involves performing wildfire related work involving operating and maintaining unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), mixing, and loading of aerial fire retardant to fixed wing aircraft, coordinating and monitoring parking of aircraft and base operations, coordinating incident airspace, managing incident air traffic while coordinating with

ground resources engaged in wildland fire suppression and prescribed fire activities. Therefore, this position is appropriately assigned to the 0456 series and titled as a ***Wildland Firefighter (Aviation).***

Grade Determination: The 0456 PCS is written in a narrative format describing the Nature of Work and Level of Responsibility for each grade covered by the standard. The classification factors include: (1) guidelines; (2) complexity; (3) personal contacts/purpose of contacts; and (4) supervision received. Part I, Fire Management Position Illustrations of the PCS (under Part II, Grading Information) provides illustrative grade level criteria for nonsupervisory positions in grades GS-3/4/5/6/7, 9, and 11. The grade level information provides a summary of the grade level, followed by specific illustrations of duties and responsibilities characteristic of the grade described loosely in terms of the classification factors identified above. Illustrations vary by grade level and may be described in in terms of specialty areas such as Aviation, Fuels.

Nature of Work

GS-06 Wildland Firefighters direct suppression operations, make work assignments, solve work problems, review work, and make fire reports. Assume responsibility for directing the operation and use of special tools and equipment, and make decisions as to when, where, and how equipment can be utilized to the greatest advantage. They determine the strategy to be used in suppressing fires, assume responsibility for the proper care and maintenance of tools, equipment, and gear. GS-06 firefighters are frequently assigned responsibility for supervising a crew of subordinate Wildland Firefighters in performing building and ground maintenance work; keeping mess halls and barracks in a neat and orderly condition; servicing and maintaining tools, equipment, and automotive vehicles; mixing borate; performing special work assignments; and participating in special forestry projects.

Like the GS-06 the incumbent performs as functional leader in various aviation, ground support, and logistical activities related to airtanker and retardant base operations and all other fixed wing operations that may be used at designated base. This may include set up and teardown of airbase operations, maintaining, repairing and operating batch mixers, blenders, tanks, and related components including pumps, valves, and hoses. Ensures National long-term fire retardant or wildland fire chemicals meet lot acceptance and quality control standards, and contract specifications utilizing refractometer, marsh funnel and/or other scientific equipment such as Micro-Motion Meters or other types of flow meters and liquid measurement. Also ensures airtanker/SEAT aircraft do not exceed aircraft capabilities and limitations. Like the GS-06 oversees and/or directs airbase personnel as assigned that are operating in NWCG position qualifications pertaining to Airbase or Fixed Wing base positions. Ensures personnel and equipment needs for ramp operations, staffing, and other logistical needs are communicated with Base Manager. As directed, the incumbent assists in some of the duties of the base manager or SEAT manager roles. Duties involve training to perform specialized duties related to management of an airbase, including Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT), fixed wing base management principles and guidelines, contract administration, incident and accident response and reporting, and supervisory and workforce development principles and guidelines. The GS-06 is fully met.

Level of Responsibility

At the GS-06 Wildland Firefighters work under general supervision, follow standard procedures and practices, and perform their work assignments with limited supervision or guidance. Plan and carry out recurring work without detailed instructions and plans, schedules, and completes inspections and reports. Incumbent often functions independently in the field, relying on his/her own experience, expertise, and judgment. The supervisor reviews reports, and checks work on the basis of meeting program objectives and on the effectiveness of overall operations. Completed work is reviewed for adherence to guidelines and established policy and safety objectives.

Like the GS-06 the supervisor assigns project work in terms of overall objectives and priorities with instructions on new projects or major changes. The incumbent independently facilitates the air base and retardant program for the unit. Plans, schedules, and completes inspections and reports, and works independently, relying on expertise and judgment. Resolves work problems, without reference to the supervisor, in accordance with standard policy and regulations, applicable precedents, and previous training. Informs supervisor of progress or situations which may affect the aviation program, or the end users. Like the GS-06 completed work is reviewed for adequacy in meeting objectives and priorities, with conformance to overall requirements, technical adequacy, and adherence to policy guidelines in supporting the mission and programs of the aviation program. The GS-06 is fully met.

FINAL CLASSIFICATION: Both Nature of Work and Level of Responsibility are evaluated at the GS-06 level; therefore, the position is properly classified as ***Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-06.***