POSITION EVALUATION STATEMENT

Proposed Title, Series, Grade: Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-07

Position Number: DX05800

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 perform limited assignments to assist with management of the air base in support of wildland fire suppression activities. The incumbent supports management and administration of various contracts; provides support of various types of aircraft utilizing the base; and assists with management of the Airtanker/SEAT base, building and facilities.

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

At the GS-7, Wildland Firefighters are assigned responsibility for directing fire prevention programs and functions in moderately complex fire management programs. They perform duties described at GS-5 and, in addition, perform substantially the full range of duties such as: Plan and execute fire prevention programs. Serve as instructors and participate in or conduct fire prevention training for fire personnel. Develop course outlines and fire prevention plans. Negotiate with and secure signed cooperative agreements and contracts with logging operators, sawmills, industrial concerns, ranches, railroads, and construction companies, etc. Performs frequent inspections of industrial operations to ensure compliance with regulations and agreements. Make thorough and detailed interior and exterior inspections of major resorts, cabins, year-round residences, and summer homes to ensure that Federal, State, and local fire, building, and health laws, regulations, and ordinances are being followed. Check buildings and areas under Federal permit for conditions of buildings, presence of fire hazards, and sanitary and other conditions, prepare reports of findings, and initiate action to correct deficiencies. Frequently, GS-7 Wildland Firefighter (Prevention) may supervise and train one or more Wildland Firefighters and inspect and report on the work performance and effectiveness of fire prevention programs.

Like the GS-07 applies direction and advice to maintain overall efficiency, safety and security of ground and aviation operations. In the absence of the air base manager, serves as a point of contact with airport management, contractor's representatives, public affairs, and various federal, state, and local entities, pertaining to aviation operations at the base. Participates in planning, scheduling and monitoring of all flights and resources utilizing the air base. The GS-07 is fully met. Like the GS-07 coordinates with other air bases to identify needs, and to administer contract requirements. Assists and advises manager in day-to-day administration of contracts, contract obligations are a significant amount of department programmed funds. Conveys compliance and non-compliance of contract specifications to the COR or PI. Like the GS-07 oversees the mixing and loading of fire chemicals to ensure that individual aircraft weight limitations are not exceeded, and effective product is delivered. This may include full-service retardant contract crew, vendor operator, or agency personnel. Applies retardant quality assurance standards, testing, policy and standards. Coordinates with airport management and agency hazardous materials specialists to meet environmental requirements for retardant storage, containment,

spills, wash down, and hazardous materials remediation. Oversees the mixing and loading of fire chemicals to ensure that individual aircraft weight limitations are not exceeded, and effective product is delivered. This may include full-service retardant contract crew, vendor operator, or agency personnel. Applies retardant quality assurance standards, testing, policy and standards. Like the GS-07 leads aviation firefighting personnel by directing their activities when supporting suppression actions associated with wildland fires or by serving as a situational leader on an airbase by directing the work of a small crew of aviation firefighters or vendors. The GS-07 is fully met.

Level of Responsibility

At the GS-07 level the Wildland Firefighter works under the general supervision. Supervisors outline program objectives, assign special studies to be undertaken, and approve work plans for the year which establish duties and functions, work assignments, and operating policies and procedures. Supervisors furnish help and assistance on difficult or unusual problems. Their work is reviewed periodically for overall adequacy, compliance with operating policies and procedures, and effective accomplishment of broad program objectives. Personal work contact at this level are frequent and continuing with influential groups such as public organizations, civic groups, and community officials. Contacts frequently cover wide geographical and functional areas and involve relationships with groups having varying interests. Person-to-person work contacts with private landowners, special-use permittees, employees and officials of other agencies (Federal, State, and local), youth groups, civic leaders, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, industrial operators, utility companies, and others are for the purpose of promoting the fire prevention program and securing cooperation in and support of programs and their agency's policies. At the GS-07 level Wildland Firefighters make recommendations and decisions relating to the issuance of notices of violations to correct emergency conditions; action to take on hazardous conditions which are not corrected voluntarily; immediate corrective action required to eliminate hazardous conditions; closing down industrial operations which are in violation of fire regulations; the type of warnings to issue; methods, plans, and procedures to improve the overall fire prevention program.

Like the GS-07 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-07 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. Like the GS-07 contacts are initiated and maintained at the local, State/Regional, and National level with multiagency aviation managers and officers, contractor's representatives, multiagency dispatchers, fire management personnel, other federal, state, and local officials, cooperators, airport authorities, media, vendors, and the general public. The purpose of personal contacts is to plan and coordinate work efforts and operations; to provide aviation services and support; to administer contracts and agreements; to

provide and direct training; and to obtain or provide technical assistance and direction. Like the GS-07 monitors and assesses aviation operations and base activities for compliance with established policy, guidelines, and regulations to ensure safe, efficient, and cost-effective aviation operations. Provides airtanker/SEAT base support of wildland fire activities. Applies multi-agency policy, agreements, and protocols to ensure effective interagency aviation operations. Applies direction and advice to maintain overall efficiency, safety and security of ground and aviation operations. The GS-07 is fully met.

FINAL CLASSIFICATION: Both Nature of Work and Level of Responsibility are evaluated at the GS-07 level; therefore, the position is properly classified as ***Wildland Firefighter (Aviation), GS-0456-07.***