



The Watershed Research and Training Center

PO Box 356 98 Clinic Avenue Hayfork, CA 96041
Office (530) 628-4206 Fax (530) 706-5418 www.thewatershedcenter.com

Job Outreach - Prescribed Fire Operations Specialist

The Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) is seeking a **Prescribed Fire Operations Specialist** to continue the development and management of our innovative work in cooperative prescribed fire planning, capacity building, and implementation in Trinity County, California. Major responsibilities will include burn planning, risk management, coordinating training opportunities, working with WRTC's fuels crew on burn unit preparations, leading cooperative burns, and fostering partnerships.

The successful candidate will be challenged to design and implement cooperative prescribed fire projects that foster resilient ecosystems, optimize local workforce development and landowner benefits, and protect communities from wildfire. Expect opportunities to advance your career, build professional skills and networks, and contribute to important community and conservation outcomes in the world-renowned Klamath Mountains bioregion, across Northern California, and beyond.

Required Qualifications: The applicant must have a minimum of 5 years wildland and prescribed fire experience, minimally qualified as Firefighter Type 1. Must be physically fit, and able to pass the arduous work capacity test. The applicant must be able to demonstrate leadership experience.

Desired qualifications and skills: The applicant will preferably be qualified at the Single Resource Boss level. If not already qualified, the successful candidate will be put on a developmental track toward becoming a skilled and experienced CARX and/or RXB2 burn boss. Aspiring individuals will be supported in advancing their professional qualifications with funding support for training and individualized personal development. A degree in a relevant natural resources management field would be beneficial.

Current fire management program activities and responsibilities: This position will operate under supervision of the Co-Directors of Fire Management. At the state level, WRTC serves as a major leader in prescribed fire policy reform, participates actively in the Governor's Forest Management Task Force and Prescribed Fire Workgroup, and leads a cooperative prescribed fire capacity-building initiative known as Cal-TREX. Within Northern California, WRTC serves as the fiscal agent for the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council and sponsors a range of networking, trainings, and workshops. In Northwest California, WRTC is working with local partners on an "all hands/all lands" burn initiative to share resources across the region. At the local level, WRTC fosters, develops, and leads a cooperative prescribed fire program on private lands in Trinity County, California, with over 3,000 acres currently under burn plans. This position will serve in leadership roles at the local level, with some spill-over into the regional and statewide initiatives.

The [Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership](#) is a Trinity County-wide initiative to expand the use of prescribed fire on both public and private lands through diversified workforce development, strategic burn planning, public engagement, and cooperative burn implementation. Major partners include WRTC, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, US Forest Service, CAL FIRE, several volunteer fire departments, private contractors, and private landowners. The position will be expected to host and lead the Trinity Integrated Fire Management Partnership, and expand into new areas throughout Trinity County. Work is currently focused in and around the Hayfork Valley and Weaver Basin, and there are exciting opportunities for cooperative burning in Mad River, Ruth Lake, Lewiston, Big Bar and Burnt Ranch.

The successful candidate will meet with landowners, scout properties, develop burn plans, apply for permits, work with WRTC's fuels crew on burn unit preparations, and coordinate burn implementation during available windows. Coordination of burns involves securing applicable permits, arranging for workforce and equipment needs, and leading burn-day logistics with support from the Co-Directors of Fire Management. This position will serve in a leadership role on private land burns that WRTC leads. The position will also be expected to plan cross-boundary burns, and to serve in a supporting role on cooperative burns on federal lands.

This successful candidate will work with the Co-Directors of Fire Management to establish and maintain an effective and reputable training program, focused on empowering and increasing the skillsets of under-represented prescribed fire practitioners throughout the western United States. The successful candidate will serve as a lead instructor and cadre member for a variety of NWCG courses and live fire training events. The successful candidate will also be responsible for helping with local and non-local [Prescribed Fire Training Exchange \(TREX\) events](#). These TREX events range from classic TREX events (10-14 day events operated as Type III incidents), to short cooperative trainings (1-3 days events), to sustained capacity-building technical support (burn planning, basic training, leadership of small cooperative training burns, prescribed burn association development, etc.).

Other Considerations:

- The position will be required to become a California State Qualified Burn Boss (CARX), once the certification is available (anticipated for Spring 2021).
- This position will be responsible for working with the Co-Directors of Fire Management in fire program evaluation and strategic planning over time to ensure the effectiveness of our investments and to contribute to adaptive management.
- This position will be responsible for contributing to funding proposals to partner agencies and foundations to help secure future funding support for the program and position, with support from the Co-Directors of Fire Management and the Grants Specialist.
- This position will require written reporting in support of grant compliance, and some preparation of popular articles and social media posts in support of public engagement and communications priorities.
- WRTC, and the fire management program, are dedicated to working on the advancement of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice issues. The successful candidate, with support and training, will be expected to be a leader of culture change.

About the organization: The Watershed Research and Training Center is a national leader in advancing the practice of land stewardship through integrating fire and fuels management, forestry, and community development. WRTC focuses on building local workforce capacity, innovative partnerships, and mobilizing communities to take leadership in the management of their natural resources. Learn more at: www.thewatershedcenter.com. The Watershed Research and Training Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Wages and benefits: This is a full-time, salary-exempt, position. Annual salary ranges from \$55,000 to \$60,000 based upon qualifications and experience. Our benefits package includes health, dental, vision and employer retirement contribution.

To apply: Please submit a cover letter and resume to Miller Bailey at firemanagement@thewatershedcenter.com by **January 15th 2021**. For more information, please email or call Miller at 619-358-3903.