

OUTREACH

Temporary Bureau of Land Management Positions – Summer 2012 BLM, Gunnison Field Office, Gunnison, Colorado

Range Technician GS-0455-4/5/6 (range and vegetation monitoring)

Duty Station:

Gunnison Field Office (Gunnison, Colorado)
Southwest Colorado District Office (Montrose, Colorado)

Hiring Official: Brian St. George, Field Manager

Primary Contacts:

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The Gunnison Field Office is recruiting for two rangeland management technicians during the 2012 summer field season. Work assignments would primarily include vegetation monitoring in sagebrush and riparian habitats, as well as collateral duties working with other specialists in the office (range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and hydrology) to complete seasonal work assignments. Applicants for this position should have training or a strong interest in plant identification. Applicants must be physically able to hike through rugged and uneven terrain in a variety of weather conditions. Experience operating 4-wheel-drive vehicles on primitive roads and map navigation would be a plus. Schedules are flexible, and work would be available between May 15 and September 30.

The Gunnison Field Office manages approximately 585,000 acres of land, primarily in Gunnison County, from just west of the Continental Divide on the east to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison on the west, and from just north of Silverton, Colorado on the south to Crested Butte, Colorado on the north. The Field Office adjoins three National Forests (Gunnison, Uncompahgre, and Rio Grande) and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park/Curecanti National Recreation Area. Elevations range from 7,600 feet near Blue Mesa Reservoir to over 14,000 feet on several peaks south of Lake City. Vegetation ranges from rolling hills of big sagebrush and open stands of Ponderosa pine on the lower and mid elevations, to dense stands of aspen, fir, and spruce on the higher elevations, to alpine tundra on the high tables and peaks. Primary programs in the office include wildlife habitat management, recreation, livestock grazing, and some limited forestry and hard rock mining. The average summer high temperature is 80 degrees, with overnight temperatures in the 30's and 40's all summer.

Population centers within the field office area include: Gunnison (5,800), Crested Butte (1,500), Mt. Crested Butte (800), Lake City (400), and a number of smaller unincorporated communities. Gunnison, Colorado is a full service community, with

an outstanding hospital and several medical clinics; an airport; a wide array of shopping; several day-care centers and full pre-K through 12 schools; Western State College; and numerous public recreation areas (pool, recreation center, library, ice skating rink, parks, museum, observatory, art centers, golf courses). The economy of the area is primarily dependent on outdoor recreation based tourism, education, and ranching. The Gunnison Basin is a destination area for mountain biking, skiing, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, backpacking, "14ing", rock-climbing, boating, and off-highway motorized vehicle use. During the summer, Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte, Lake City, and Gunnison are home to a number of events, such as the Gunnison Sage-grouse Festival, Cattlemen's Days, the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, Rage in the Sage run/bike/climb, the Gunnison River Festival, Uncorked Wine and Music Fair, People's Fair, USA Pro Cycling Challenge, Crested Butte Music Festival, Gunnison Car Show, 24 Hours in the Sage, Vinotok, and the Crested Butte Film Festival, as well as weekly farmer's markets and music events. Normal rental rates in Gunnison run about \$300-400 per month. Limited government housing is available at a rate if about \$125 per month.