

## **2012 SCEP Recruitment at Spokane SRM meeting.**

### **BLM Job Outreach Notice**

1 - Student Trainee (Rangeland Management Specialist); GS-499 / 3, 4, or 7.

Hines, Oregon 97738. Burns District, 3-Rivers Field Office.

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Position descriptions are attached.

Websites for the Burns District and Harney County include:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/about.php> <http://www.harneycounty.com/>

The Burns BLM consists of the 3-Rivers and Andrews/Steens Field Offices, which are part of the Burns District Office. The Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ), which includes the BLM, FS, and F&WS, conducts firefighting and prescribed burning on the Emigrant Ranger District (Malheur National Forest), Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and Burns BLM. The Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC), a joint Oregon State University and USDA - ARS facility, is located south of Burns, with the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range consisting of approximately 16,000 acres is located 35 miles west of Burns. Burns BLM works collaboratively with these and other federal, state, and county agencies in Harney County.

Burns BLM has ongoing and planned, cooperative, landscape scale vegetation management projects designed to maintain or improve sagebrush-steppe habitat function and other resource values. Other state and federal agencies provide financial and technical support for participating private land owners. BIFZ conducts broadcast and pile burning each year. EOARC conducts research on the projects. BLM also works closely with private land owners, the county and state on noxious weed control. Burns coordinates with EOARC and other research entities to study noxious weed management, including work on biological control agents.

Almost all of 3-Rivers' land is in grazing allotments. 3-Rivers is about 1.7 million acres in area with 199 allotments and 138 grazing permits. Most of the allotments have allotment management plans (AMPs), pastures, and grazing systems. Each RMS has a complexity and geographic mixture of allotments and permittees/lessees. The range program is well integrated with the other biological resource programs, including weeds, fuels, and riparian. Burns has established monitoring of range, vegetation, wildlife, and riparian resources, which occurs periodically on all allotments. These programs work together with fuels, fire, and forestry on the landscape scale vegetation projects. In addition to Range Management Specialists, the wildlife, fisheries/riparian, and botany specialists are also responsible for several grazing allotments.

Burns was established in 1889. The community of Hines formed southwest of Burns. The two towns are now nearly indistinguishable. Together they have a population of about 4,500. Burns/Hines is a conservative small town in the northern Great Basin. It is about two hours east of Bend, two hours west of Ontario, and only three hours west of Boise. Burns has a hospital, K-12 schools, access to some college courses, two supermarkets, several local and chain stores, and a mixture of restaurants. Each town, the county and state provide law enforcement. Each town has a fire department.

Hunting and fishing are very popular in the area and attract a lot of visitors. The Harney Basin is a closed basin, so salmon are not present; however, there is excellent trout fishing in the Blue Mountains, Steens Mountain, and the rivers that flow into the Harney Basin. Reservoirs across the Harney Basin provide a combination of cold water and warm water fisheries. Other recreation and outdoor activities center on the Steens Mountains (40 miles south), the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (20 miles south), and the Bend area (130 miles west), which has skiing, mountain biking, ATVing, fishing, boating, the Cascade Mountains, The High Desert Museum, and Newberry Volcano National Monument.

The Burns BLM and 3-Rivers Resource Area will provide the SCEP with a working knowledge of BLM, what is required to be an RMS in Eastern Oregon, assist financially with tuition, and provide an opportunity for a permanent job with the BLM following graduation. The selected person will train and gain work experience by working with rangeland management specialists and other natural resource professionals performing duties pertaining to natural resource management. As the incumbent's experience and skill increases, they will be given more responsibility and more independence.

Duties may include:

1. Conduct range monitoring, utilization, trend, compliance, and rangeland health assessments. Monitor the status of grazing allotments.
2. Conduct census counts on various species, monitor riparian status and water quality, monitor vegetation management and fire rehabilitation treatments.
3. Work with resource specialists surveying and controlling noxious weeds, laying out and conducting vegetation management treatments, laying out and constructing range improvements.
4. Allotment/permit responsibilities. Preparation of allotment evaluations and allotment management plans. Learn about NEPA.