

OUTREACH NOTICE
Tongass National Forest
Thorne Bay Ranger District

Prince of Wales Island Zone
Recreation Planner
GS-401-7/9

The Thorne Bay Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest will be recruiting shortly for one Recreation Planner position to be located on Prince of Wales Island in Thorne Bay, Alaska.

Position Title: Recreation Planner; GS-401-7/9

Tour of Duty: Permanent, full time

Duty Station: Thorne Bay, Alaska

Description of Duties:

The Thorne Bay Recreation Planner coordinates their program of work with a parallel position on the Craig Ranger District to the south. Together the Thorne Bay and Craig Districts comprise the Prince of Wales Island Zone. Forest Service Recreation facilities on Prince of Wales Island include two campgrounds, 19 rental cabins, hiking trails, canoe routes, and an active cave and karst interpretive program.

At full performance the recreation planner makes or recommends basic recreation use planning and management decisions based on evaluations of recreation areas and activities related operations. The position recommends potential sites or areas for additional recreation use and planned development, assists other resource specialists by analyzing the impacts of planned activities on recreation values. The recreation planner plans and oversees construction of recreation trails, parking areas, trailhead facilities, and new access roads in consultation with engineering personnel, compiles material and supply estimates for recreation facilities, maintenance, and operation, and drafts action plans for carrying out management decisions. The position recommends and executes annual work plans for the recreation resource.

The Thorne Bay recreation planner supervises recreation facility and trail maintenance and construction crews as well as seasonal cave interpreters.

The position provides information to the public regarding Forest Service management practices, rules, and regulations relating to the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) areas, coordinates OHV enforcement efforts with other local agencies. Ensures compliance of OHV operations with federal laws, reporting all known violations of law or regulation by completing appropriate forms. Develops and modifies operating plans for OHV areas as necessary. Other duties include inspection of recreation uses and

other land uses for compliance with terms of use permits, assisting in the preparation of environmental analysis reports including impact of proposed recreational sites on other resources such as soil, water, timber, range, and wildlife. The recreation planner evaluates conventional, well-established programs (e.g., condition of recreation facility surveys, deferred maintenance reporting, evaluating conditions found and recommending basic management decisions based on these evaluations), and ensures that assigned forest project areas meet program requirements outlined in agency program criteria, standards, specifications, and technical information.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the GS-401 series as covered by the Professional and Scientific position standards. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook Manual is available for review at any federal personnel office OR on the Internet at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm>.

Qualifications and time-in grade requirements must be met within 30 calendar days of the closing date of the announcement.

For information on the position:

Contact Person: Marcia Gilles, Thorne Bay Ranger District

Phone Number: (907) 828-3203

Fax: (907) 828-3309

Email address: mgilles@fs.fed.us

If you are interested in the position, please complete the attached form and fax or email your response to Marcia Gilles at the above contact points by close of business June 17, 2005.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

**Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District
Respond by June 17, 2005.**

Position Title/Series/Grade: Recreation Planner: GS-401-7/9.

Duty Station: Thorne Bay, Alaska.

I am interested in this position and will check <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> for the announcement, or I will call the contact person.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ E-Mail: _____

Are you currently a Federal employee: YES ___ NO ___

Current position title (series/grade) location: _____

Type of appointment you are currently under (if applicable): _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc)

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

Duty Station and the Island(s)

The Zone

The Public Services staff group (Recreation, Heritage, Lands, and Minerals) for the Thorne Bay and Craig Ranger Districts has been “zoned” since the implementation of the Tongass’ Unification Plan in 1999. Employees in this group, some stationed in the community of Thorne Bay and some in Craig, combine their efforts in the management of facilities and programs on both Districts. The zone encompasses a little over two million acres, which support a variety of recreation, mining, subsistence, special forest products, and timber activities. Four of the island’s communities, Klawock, Craig, Kasaan, and Hydaburg, are the sites of traditional Alaskan Native (Haida in the south and Tlingit in the north) villages. A tribal government exists in each of these communities and represents tribal members.

The Island(s)

Prince of Wales Island (POW) is the largest island in southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago. It measures approximately 130 miles from north to south and is about 40 miles wide at its widest and three miles at its narrowest. There are thousands of miles of coastline. To the west of Prince of Wales Island, but also part of the POW Zone, are hundreds of smaller islands. These include Kosciusko, Marble, Tuxekan, Heceta, the Maurelles, Baker, Lulu, Dall, Suemez, Sukkwan, Long, and the Barrier Islands to mention but a few. Southeast Alaska is certainly a land of islands and the POW zone encompasses islands of every description.

But POW, owing primarily to the extensive timber development of recent decades, has a very accessible interior as well. Over 1,600 miles of publicly accessible roads open up two-thirds of the island to travelers and local residents for recreation, subsistence and other uses. Development of the road system has significantly changed the way forest users view and use the opportunities and resources on the island. Road improvements and paving are underway on several interconnecting island roads.

Communities

The permanent population of POW is approximately 5,500. Seasonal workers and visitors add to the numbers in summer months. Nine year-round communities (Whale Pass, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Thorne Bay, Kasaan, Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg, and Hollis) on POW are connected by the road system. Port Protection and Point Baker, located on the northwest corner of POW, are not connected to the road system. Edna Bay is located off the road system on the southwestern tip of Kosciusko Island. A scattering of floathouses and remote cabins on private lands account for a small fraction of the population.

Craig, the largest community on POW with a population of about 2,000 is located on the island’s west coast at the western terminus of the island’s first paved highway. Administrative offices and housing for the Craig Ranger District are located in Craig. The town, historically a local center of the commercial fishing industry, sports a (nearly) full service grocery store, a two year-old high school complex, a well-established middle and elementary school, and a medical clinic. The Craig Aquatic Center, with 25-meter pool, workout room, and sauna was completed several years ago. Seven miles north of Craig is the community of Klawock, a traditional Tlingit community, which also supports a K-12 school adjacent to the city totem park, a full-service grocery store, and a health clinic.

Thorne Bay, on POW’s east coast, 40 miles northeast of Craig by paved road has a population of about 700. Over the past 50 years the town has grown from a Forest Service administrative site and logging camp to a full service community. Thorne Bay, like many southeast Alaskan communities is in the process of adjusting to a changing and diversifying economy. The Thorne Bay School serves K-12 and has excellent

recreational facilities. The community supports the headquarters for the Southeast Islands School District. Thorne Bay hosts the annual Prince of Wales Island Logging Fair. The town is the home of the Island News, POW's weekly newspaper.

Opportunities

Prince of Wales Island offers a unique mix of marine, aquatic, and terrestrial recreation opportunities. This is a wet place with up to 135 inches of rainfall per year; more snow in the higher altitudes (up to 3,700 feet) and more rain near the coast. The climate and the island setting provide excellent opportunities for sea kayaking and boating. The winter months, often stormy and wet, are punctuated by brief episodes of spectacular lighting, sunbeams, and rainbows, and offer ample time for reflection and indoor pursuits. Many people live or vacation on POW to take advantage of the world-class fishing opportunities, both in the island's streams and in the ocean. The extensive road system of POW provides an opportunity unique in southeast Alaska. Many points of interest, once accessible only by boat or floatplane, are now accessible by car.

Prince of Wales Island has been a center of cave exploration, management, and research since the late 1980s. More than 600 significant solution and littoral caves have been mapped and evaluated on the POW Zone. El Capitan Cave, on the Thorne Bay District, has been developed for guided underground tours. Recently the district also completed a Karst Ecosystem interpretive boardwalk and trail at Beaver Falls Cave.

The changing economy of POW and the local communities and the diverse cultural and ethnic mix of the population provide a challenging and exciting range of possibilities for resource managers on and around the National Forest. Forest Service staff and specialists are working extensively with city, tribal, agency, and other partners. It's an exciting time in southeast Alaska!

Information about Prince of Wales Island can be found at
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/pow/index.shtml>.

and

<http://www.princeofwalescoc.org>