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Subject: National Standard Position Descriptions for Smokejumper Base Managers

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

As mentioned in the memo dated January 9, 2012, new GS-0301 National Standard Position Descriptions for key Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) positions, the newly developed GS-0301 National Standard Position Description (NSPD) for Smokejumper Base Managers was approved in 2011 by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for secondary firefighter retirement coverage. However, use of the new NSPD to fill vacancies was on hold until the applicability of Smokejumper Medical Qualification Standards for non-GS-0462 series could be resolved.

The new NSPDs were developed by a geographically diverse group of Smokejumper subject matter experts to meet staffing needs for the Base Manager positions and were classified in the GS-0301 series to be consistent with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) direction and classification standards for positions at this grade level.

Since that time FAM leadership has determined that active jump status, along with the associated GS-0462 Smokejumper Medical Qualification Standards, is not required for the Smokejumper Base Manager position; however, the selected applicant should possess appropriate knowledge of smokejumping and paracargo operations. As indicated in the Interagency Smokejumper Operations Guide (ISMOG), which replaced FSH 5709.14 in 2005 as agency policy, active jump status is not required for entry into the Base Manager position. If the incumbent maintains the Agency qualifications for parachuting and paracargo operations, they will be required to meet the fitness and medical requirements contained in the ISMOG.

Vacant Smokejumper Base Manager Positions may now be filled using the new NSPD GS-0301-11/12 (FS2118/FS2105) Smokejumper Base Manager. Local units should submit an SF-52 through the 52 Tracker to recruit and fill their vacant positions through use of a single vacancy announcement. The National Fire Employment Team will process the personnel actions to reassign encumbered Base Managers into the new GS-0301 Smokejumper Base Manager NSPD in 2012.

All other Forest Service Smokejumper positions will remain in the GS-0462 series, including the GS-10/11 Assistant Base Manager and the GS-10/11 Manager (Loft, Operations, Training, and Load Master) positions. The classification of subordinate Smokejumper positions in the GS-0462 series is supported by the OPM Classification Standards. Using the GS-0462 series for these positions includes the requirement to meet the Smokejumper Medical Qualification Standards.



Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs
and WO Directors

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Please contact Evans Kuo at ekuo@fs.fed.us or (208) 387-5974 with additional questions.

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