

# **Short Term Assignment Forest and Fire Management Specialists Kingdom of Jordan Fall 2012**

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts on the use and prevention of fire and general forest area management in protected areas to work with in-country partners and assess the use of fire as a potential management tool at the forest reserves operated by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan.

**BACKGROUND:** DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance on a reimbursable basis to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise. The program is currently operating in approximately twenty countries on a wide variety of natural and cultural resource management issues with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided funds to DOI's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) to implement this project, named the Jordan Parks Project. The project is closely coordinated with the Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority whose Chairman reports directly to the Prime Minister of Jordan. The Jordan Parks Project aims to encourage economic growth via development of the Kingdom's cultural and natural tourism sites—for instance Petra Archaeological Park, Wadi Rum Nature Reserve, Aqaba Marine Park, and a number of other protected areas.

DOI-ITAP's key partners in Jordan include:

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), a non-government agency that manages the majority of protected areas in Jordan
- Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) and its management entity Siyaha, a tourism development project in Jordan

**ASSIGNMENT:** ITAP is seeking two experts on the management of forest areas and fire management in protected areas to advise managers in Jordan on these issues. The work would include assessing current management practices and use of fire, working with management staff to determine priority issues and objectives, building management capacity via short-term mentoring, and developing recommendations for future work by both ITAP and protected areas staff.

**SCHEDULE:** This assignment is expected to cover a two week period in late fall 2012. Team members would travel together. The dates of the assignment are heavily dependent on the availability of the chosen candidate. The technical assistance will be provided in Wadi Rum Nature Reserve in southern Jordan.

**PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES:** All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP and/or our in-country counterpart. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers and U.S. Embassy staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the individual will provide the DOI-ITAP managers a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions. NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

**COSTS:** DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). **The salaries of the team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment,**

**including pre- and post-trip obligation. No stipends or other compensation is available for retiree candidates.**

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have demonstrated experience managing forest protected areas and developing plans for the prevention and management of fire in protected areas;
- Have extensive experience developing the skills of protected area managers ;
- Be knowledgeable about working with gateway communities and areas with multiple interested stakeholders;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Arabic language proficiency (an asset but not a requirement);
- Previous international experience is desirable, particularly experience with management planning in other countries.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

**If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary.**

**Employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement are required to have supervisory approval prior to submitting an application.**

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience, related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to Colleen Castle (202-208-5160, [colleen\\_castle@ios.doi.gov](mailto:colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov)) and Marc Weitzel (805-671-9746, [marc\\_weitzel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov)) with the subject: "Jordan Protected Areas Management".
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **August 15, 2012**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Colleen Castle or Marc Weitzel

**NPS applicants** should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro ([rudy\\_dalessandro@nps.gov](mailto:rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov)) in the NPS Office of International Affairs. **All NPS applicants must have the approval to apply from their Associate Director or Regional Director.**

**All BLM applicants** should also copy their applications to Olivia Sierra ([osierra@blm.gov](mailto:osierra@blm.gov)) in the BLM Office of International Affairs.

## **Application Process**

The entire selection process may take several weeks. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, email or letter. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**