

## **“Jamming on the Job” Episode 2: Prescribed Fire Manager**

[MUSIC: PBS KIDS music]

**PBS KIDS Announcer:** From your friends at PBS KIDS.

[A tour bus zooming down the open road.]

**Andrés:** Vamos amigos, it's time to go.

**Christina:** Get ready BoomBox, we have a show.

[Music: Jamming On The Job theme song]

**Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox (singing):**

Jamming on the Job

Ja, Jamming

Jamming on the Job

Wooh Ooh

I'm Christina,

Y yo soy Andrés

And we play music

All over the states

We jam and learn

With people who

Work in jobs

They love to do!

If we get stuck

Or something goes wrong

An expert helps us

And we write a song!

[BoomBox beats]  
Hey...Go BoomBox...¡Vamos!

Jamming on the Job  
Ja, Jamming  
Jamming on the Job  
Wooh Ooh

**Andrés:** Hey Jam Fam!

**Christina:** We just arrived in Florida, the Sunshine State! And this is the city of Tallahassee!

**BoomBox:** TALLA-TALLA-TALLAHASSEE!

**Christina:** There are big buildings spread all around, and there's a ton of green space, too! We're heading just outside of the action of downtown.

[Tour bus zooms.]

**Christina:** Tallahassee is the capital of Florida and it's known for its rolling hills!

**Andrés:** Woah! Definitely feeling those! Whoo!

[The bus comes to a stop. Engine turns off. Christina and Andrés get off the bus. Birds chirping.]

**Christina:** This is it! This is where we're having our concert tonight. Let's get everything set up!

**Andrés:** Jam Fam, this is... uh, pretty much a big field with a stage in the middle. Wait, is tonight's concert outside?!

**Christina:** It sure is! It's a beautiful day, families will be able to set up

picnic blankets on the soft green grass and eat snacks while we jam!

**Andrés:** Oh! Speaking of snacks, I picked up this key lime pie at the last gas station. It's the official dessert of Florida! Let's dig in! Mmm! ¡Qué rico!

**Christina:** Uh, not so fast Andrés. [Andrés: Huh?] Let's save the pie for after the concert. We need to focus!

**Andrés:** Ah. Focus?

**BoomBox:** FOCUS! FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS.

**Christina:** We have to unload the microphones and the guitar from the car and plug everything in—

**Andrés:** But look at this pie! Golden brown crusty edges, a fluffy white creamy center, cute little slices of lime for decoration...

**BoomBox:** YUM, YUM, YUM...

**Andrés:** Yum yum yum

**Christina:** It *is* beautiful! And we can have some later. But we're here to play a concert and we gotta set things up right now!

**Andrés:** Ah... tienes razón. Hit it BoomBox!

**Christina:** ¡Atención, Jam Fam!

**Christina and Andrés:** Shake out your hands...

[wiggle sound]

**Christina and Andrés:** Stretch up high!

[cartoon stretch sound]

**Christina and Andrés:** Touch your toes...

[Ding!]

**Christina and Andrés:** Let's get ready for the show!

**Christina:** Alright! The guitar is in its spot, the microphones are all plugged in...

**Andrés:** Christina. Mira arriba. Look at the skyline...

**Christina:** I've been looking at it all morning! Blue skies, puffy white clouds, and a plume of dark smoke coming out of the forest over there! Wait... a plume of dark smoke?! That wasn't there before!

**Andrés:** No! It wasn't, Christina! And smoke could mean... ¡fuego! Oh no! Is something on fire?! Do we need to get out of here? Do we need to cancel the show? Oh no!

**Christina:** Uh, I don't think we need to cancel just yet... Uh, let's find out where this smoke is coming from and what exactly is going on.

[Christina looks up some information on her phone.]

**Christina:** Ok, got it! Here's the number for the Florida Forest Service. I bet they can help.

**Andrés:** ¿Vas a llamar?

[Transitional music, phone ringing.]

**Christina:** Alright, so I have information! Apparently, the fire isn't dangerous. In fact, they started the fire on purpose! It's something called a

“prescribed burn.” Someone over there named Leslie is willing to show us and explain more.

**Andrés:** Wow, ¡vamos!

**Christina:** Let’s load back into the tour bus, gang! We’ve got a brand new friend to meet and a brand new job to learn about!

**Andrés:** Jam Fam, you are coming, too! We’ve got a job to jam on!

**BoomBox:** WE’VE GOT A JOB... TO JAM ON!

[Tour bus starts back up and zooms off, then comes to a stop.]

**Christina:** Jam Fam, we made it! We’re in a field right next to a forest...

**Andrés:** And just through the trees I can see where the prescribed burn is happening! ¡Es fuego!

**Leslie:** Well hello there! I’m Leslie.

**Christina:** Hi! So nice to meet you. I’m Christina!

**Andrés:** Yo soy Andrés. Y te presento a BoomBox, our magical music machine.

**BoomBox:** HI, I’M BOOM B-BOOM BOOM BOOM B-BOOMBOX.

**Christina:** And we also have the Jam Fam, the listeners of our podcast, along with us too! Say, “Hey,” Jam Fam!

**Leslie:** Hi Jam Fam! Nice to meet all of you! Welcome to Lake Talquin forest and welcome to our prescribed burn. I’m the prescribed fire manager. I’m in charge here! I’m going to give you these hard hats and fire resistant jackets to wear while I show you around. We require everyone who comes

by our prescribed burns to wear PPE.

**Andrés:** Personal protective equipment!

**Leslie:** That's right! We're at a safe distance from the fire, but we like to be extra, extra safe at all times, so we ask everyone to wear PPE if they visit!

**Christina:** Can we record some sounds while we talk?

4 **Leslie:** Sure, record away!

**BoomBox:** RECORDING FIRE, FOOTSTEPS, HARD HAT... SAMPLES RECORDED!

[BoomBox records and remixes the sound of fire, footsteps, and hard hats.]

**Christina:** Whoa! I can see the fire over there through the trees. [sniffs]  
And it smells like fire, too. Oh! Are those firefighters over there?

**Andrés:** ¡Mira! Son bomberos.

**Leslie:** They are! The team today is made up of three firefighters, one park ranger and me!

**Andrés:** Huh.

**Leslie:** It's a small burn, just about the size of a city block, so we have a small but very mighty team! We really have to focus!

**Christina:** Focus!

**Andrés:** Focus!

**BoomBox:** FOCUS! FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS.

**Andrés:** And you're sure we're all safe over here? From the fire?

**Leslie:** We are! Part of my job is to keep the fire very controlled, which includes deciding exactly what areas to burn. [Andrés: Huh.] You see this creek right here?

**Christina:** Uh-huh! Yeah, I see it.

[Sound of the creek.]

**Leslie:** I picked this spot for our burn so that the creek water could act as a natural firebreak.

**Andrés:** Ah, kind of like a boundary to stop the fire!

**Leslie:** That's right! The fire can't go past the creek!

**Andrés:** So, why exactly are you burning part of the forest?

**Leslie:** Believe it or not, these prescribed burns help the forest stay healthy! [Christina: Huh.]

**Andrés:** What do you mean?

**Leslie:** A healthy forest is full of animals and plants that all work together to survive. Here's one way I like to break it down.

**BoomBox:** BREAK IT DOWN!

**Leslie:** Yes! If big, shady trees grow in too thick, they block the sunlight that some of the smaller bushes need to grow. [Andrés: Okay.] Many animals in the forest rely on the small bushes for food. So by clearing out some of the big shady trees, we help the smaller bushes stay healthy, and the animals can keep eating! [Andrés: Mmm.]

**Christina:** Where do the animals go when the fires are burning?

[Andrés, BoomBox, Leslie and Christina walk through the forest.]

**Leslie:** Most animals will instinctually run away, [Andrés gasps] but we always keep a special eye out for animals who might have been injured. The real action happens after the burn though. The deer like to come lick the ashes!

**Christina:** Huh!

**Leslie:** And the turkeys love to eat dead bugs!

**Andrés:** Wow.... So, if you weren't here to clear the forest for the animals, would the forest just get overgrown?

**Leslie:** A lot of the time, a forest does this on its own. [Christina: Ohh.] There are *natural* fires that keep the forest balanced. But they can be unpredictable. These prescribed burns are a safer way to keep the forest healthy, and a safe way to prevent natural fires from getting dangerous and out of control, like some of the wildfires that we hear of and see.

**Christina:** What an important job! And it sounds... tricky.

**Leslie:** It is! That's why it's a job that can only be done by trained professionals. It takes a lot of planning to get ready for a burn. As I mentioned, it also takes a lot of focus.

**Christina and Andrés:** Focus!

**BoomBox:** FOCUS! FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS.

**Leslie:** (Laughs) That's...that's right! In order to help me stay really focused, before every prescribed fire I create a burn plan.



**Andrés:** A burn plan?

**Leslie:** Yeah! First I have to figure out which part of the forest needs a prescribed burn. Then, I study maps and learn as much as I can about the soil and the terrain in the area, to try to predict how the fire will behave. [Andrés: Huh.] And I have to check the weather forecast, too. We want the wind to be blowing in the direction of the area that we're burning. It's one of the ways we're able to control the burn.

**Christina and Andrés:** Wow!

**Leslie:** Oh, and the firefighters need to be sure to focus when they're using a special tool called a drip torch.

[Sound of drip torch.]

**Leslie:** That's how they make small fires in the areas that I've marked off on the map.

**Christina:** So there are machines and special tools... and you keep track of how they're all being used?

**Leslie:** Yes! I make tons of lists, especially when I'm working on a burn plan. I have to stay organized and keep track of lots of details.

**Christina:** Oh! We make lists when we're planning our tours!

**Leslie:** Oh neat! Sounds like we have a lot in common. On the day of the burn we make sure everything in the area is clearly marked. We set up signs so everyone knows it's a prescribed burn, set on purpose, and that they shouldn't get too close.

**Andrés:** And then you do the actual burning?

**Leslie:** That's right. That's what's happening right now.

[Crackling burning sounds.]

**Leslie:** The team is completely focused, they can't be distracted even for a moment or we could lose control of the fire. [Andrés gasps] Plus they need to play close attention in order to stay safe. After everything is finished burning, we do our "mop-up." Sometimes we have to go in with our firetruck to make sure things are extra extinguished, but not always.

**Christina:** Being a prescribed fire manager is a big job!

**Leslie:** It is! After a burn, we always talk about what went well and what could have gone better to make sure we're always doing our best. Like I said, it's all about focus.

**Christina and Andrés:** Focus!

**BoomBox:** FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FO-FO-FOCUS!

**Christina:** Do you ever take breaks?

**Leslie:** Well, I do take breaks. Actually, taking breaks is one of the ways I'm able to stay focused for so many months. It's all about taking the right breaks at the right time, like I always make sure I have dinner with my family every night! But when I'm at the office or out in the forest on a burn, I'm laser focused until the job is done!

**Andrés:** Wow! You are like a forest superhero!

**Christina:** How'd you learn to do all this?

**Leslie:** I had to go through lots of special training in order to become a prescribed fire manager here at the Florida Forest Service. I went to school and studied forestry because I knew I wanted to take care of forests. Have you ever been camping?

**Andrés:** ¡Sí! ¡Nos encanta acampar!

**Leslie:** Well, I grew up camping with my mom and dad and my two little brothers. I remember watching my parents safely and carefully build our campfires! My mom taught me how to be respectful and curious about the forest, [Andrés: Mmm.] and now I get to help our community do the same!

**Andrés:** Respectful and curious, I like that! Do you spend every single day in the forest?

**Leslie:** Well, when I first started out, yes. But not as much any more. These days, I'm usually in my office creating the burn plan.

**Andrés:** And how long does it take?

**Leslie:** It depends, but it can take a few months! [Christina gasps]

**Andrés:** That's a long time!

**Leslie:** It *is*. But you wanna know something? I love the part of planning that involves thinking through everything you might need or want and writing it all down. It's one of my favorite parts of my job, and it was one of my favorite things to do as a kid, too.

**Christina:** So cool! Oh but that reminds me, we have our own job to focus on! We have a concert tonight!

**Leslie:** Oh right! The concert! Some of the team is planning on bringing their families. I'll be there with my wife Gena and our kids!

**Andrés:** Great! But wait! Is it safe for us to have our concert? With the burn and everything?

**Leslie:** Ohh, I'm happy to report, it's totally safe for you to have your

concert! We do everything we can to make sure the smoke from our burns stays far away from the community. Also, this burn is almost done. They usually don't last more than a day.

**Christina:** But what if families see the smoke on their way to the venue? And get worried?

**Leslie:** Remember, these are much different than the natural fires or the harmful wildfires you see on the news. Families in this area are actually used to prescribed burns. It's pretty common! [Christina: Ohhh.]

**Andrés:** Wow. And we had no idea! Did you know about prescribed burns, Jam Fam?

**Christina:** Leslie, you've given us a lot of great ideas for a new song. If we want to get it done in time for today's show, we'd better... focus!

**Andrés:** Focus!

**Leslie:** Focus!

**BoomBox:** FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FO-FO-FOCUS!

**Leslie:** See you tonight! Bye!

[Transitional music. Sound of the tour bus zooming back to the venue. Sound of the crowd at the outdoor venue.]

**Andrés:** Good evening Tallahassee!

**Christina:** ¡Buenas noches!

**Andrés:** ¡Yo soy Andrés!

**Christina:** ¡Y yo soy Christina! Y les presentamos a...

**Christina and Andrés:** BoomBox!

**BoomBox:** BOOMBOX

[Crowd cheers.]

**Andrés:** We have a brand new song for you tonight, inspired by a new friend we made today, who has a very cool job.

**Christina:** Make some noise for Tallahassee's own: Leslie, the prescribed fire manager!

[Crowd cheers.]

**Leslie:** [from her picnic blanket in the audience] Ohh! You all are too kind!

**Andrés:** Yeah, Leslie! Tallahassee, this is "Fire Manager." Hit it BoomBox!

**BoomBox:** UNO... DOS... TRES...

**Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox (singing):**

I know what you're thinking  
There's fire! Oh, there's smoke! (hot, hot)  
But everything is planned here  
It's under control (hot, hot)

The fire is prescribed  
Sometimes that's what the forest needs  
To keep it in balance  
Oh yeah, to keep it healthy

I'm a fire manager  
A prescribed fire manager (hot, hot)  
We set the forest blazing

To make the forest safer

[Music]

(hot, hot)

I have to be careful

I stay focused on the job

I cannot play around with fire

Because it's really hot!

I need my attention

On where the fire, wind and smoke is

I need to concentrate

And always keep my focus

Because I'm a fire manager

A prescribed fire manager

I'm a fire manager

A prescribed fire manager (hot, hot)

We set the forest blazing

To make the forest safer

[Music]

(hot, hot)

I'm studying the forest

I'm looking at the maps

Which way is the wind blowing?

I'm ready to make a plan (hot, hot)

I focus on every detail

It's important to what we do

I have to think of safety

When I'm managing my crew

Because I'm a fire manager  
A prescribed fire manager (hot, hot)  
I'm a fire manager  
A prescribed fire manager

Prescribed fire manager

[Song ends. Applause.]

**Christina:** Whoo! (laughs) Yes! Everybody make some noise for Leslie!  
Leslie, come on up here and take a bow!

[Crowd cheers.]

**Christina:** Leslie, thank you so much for sharing part of your work day with us!

**Andrés:** And for working so hard to keep the forest and the community safe.

**Leslie:** I feel so lucky to get to do what I do. And being up here on stage is giving me a little taste of the job you get to do, and it's pretty fun too! Rock and roll!

[Christina and Andrés laugh. Crowd cheers. Music.]

**Andrés:** Wow, what a great show! I love how our new song turned out! Did you like it, Jam Fam?

**Christina:** Me too! And I think Leslie liked it also. Now that the show's over, we can shift our focus.

**Andrés:** Focus!

**BoomBox:** FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FO-FO-FOCUS!

**Christina:** I'm feeling kind of hungry...

**Andrés:** Are you thinking what I'm thinking?!

**Christina:** The key lime pie!

**BoomBox:** IT'S TIME FOR THE KEY LIME, KEY LIME PIE!

**Andrés:** ¡Ay, pastel de limón! Mmm, perfect timing for a pie break! I'll go get it!

**Christina:** And after we focus on that, I'm going to make a list of things we learned today. And then I'm going to make a list of the things we need to do tomorrow. Jam Fam, do you like to make lists, too?

**Andrés:** Speaking of lists, how about a list of the people who helped make this episode of our show?

**Christina:** Great idea, Andrés. I think BoomBox can take care of that. Hit it!

[BoomBox drops a beat.]

**BoomBox / Pierce Freelon** [rapping]:

Jamming on the Job

Is hosted by Andres Salguero and Christina Sanabria

With beats by me — BoomBox

Also known as Pierce Freelon

Three Grammy nominees we wrote these songs and

Carly Ciarrocchi wrote this episode

Leslie was played by Joey Schaljo

Terence Bernardo did sound design

Daniel Rinaldi he did the mix

David Huppert and Isaac Klein produced yeah

Durham is our location



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Ah-ah, PBS KIDS.

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[Music fades.]

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