Forestry Technician

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

**Overview**

**Open & closing dates**
- 11/03/2017 to 11/17/2017

**Salary**
- $26,150 to $32,844 per year

**Pay scale & grade**
- GS 03 - 05

**Work schedule**
- Full-Time

**Appointment type**
- Permanent

**Locations**

Many vacancies in the following locations:

- Buffalo Creek, CO
- Canon City, CO
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Fairplay, CO
- Lake George, CO
- Monument, CO
- Morrison, CO
- Pueblo, CO
- Salida, CO
- Springfield, CO
- Steamboat Springs, CO
- Walden, CO
- Woodland Park, CO
- Yampa, CO
- Boise, ID
- Challis, ID
Council, ID
Elk City, ID
Grangeville, ID
Idaho Falls, ID
Island Park, ID
Kooskia, ID
McCall, ID
Orofino, ID
Potlatch, ID
Salmon, ID
Twin Falls, ID
White Bird, ID
Elkhart, KS
Darby, MT
Stevensville, MT
Sula, MT
Sparks, NV
Cave Junction, OR
Chemult, OR
Chiloquin, OR
Gold Beach, OR
Hines, OR
Jacksonville, OR
John Day, OR
Klamath Falls, OR
Powers, OR
Prairie City, OR
Prospect, OR
Roseburg, OR
Tiller, OR
Waldport, OR
Cedar City, UT
Logan, UT
This job is open to

The public
U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S., and excepted service employees.

Announcement number
18-FIRESPRINGWFAP-345DP-RV1

Control number
483586700

Duties
Summary
Who May Apply: US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.
This position serves as a Wildland Firefighter Apprentice on various wildland fire crews with responsibility for the operation and maintenance of specialized tools or equipment. The incumbent will be assigned into one or more types of positions within the wildfire program where the individual’s specialized skills are required at one or more locations throughout the forest service.

As part of the Wildland Firefighter Apprentice Program, if selected, you may be subject to random mobilization that could last up to six months in order to develop the knowledge, skills and requirements of the position.

Information about the Wildland Fire Apprentice program can be found at: [www.wfap.net/index.html](http://www.wfap.net/index.html)

These are permanent positions with varying tours of duty and may include weekend work. Tours of duty are full-time seasonal (guaranteed minimum 6 months/13 pay periods of full-time employment).

The USDA Forest Service has legislative authority to recruit and fill Permanent (Career/Career-Conditional), Temporary, and Term Appointments under the USDA Demonstration Project. Under this authority, any U.S. citizen may apply.

Pay rates vary depending on location. See the OPM website at [http://www.opm.gov/](http://www.opm.gov/) for additional information on pay rates.

This position is being concurrently announced under Merit Promotion Announcement Number [18-FIRESPRINGWFAP-345G-RV1](http://www.opm.gov/). Current or former Federal employees may apply to both announcements, but should be sure to apply to the Merit Promotion Announcement in order to avoid losing consideration since different referral criteria apply to each type of announcement. Disabled veterans, candidates with 3 or more years of active duty military service, and candidates eligible for special hiring authorities may apply to the Merit Promotion Announcement if they meet the criteria outlined in the announcement and submit supporting documentation.

**Responsibilities**

Serves as an apprentice fire fighter on a wildland fire crew performing fire suppression and/or fuels management duties under adverse conditions or climate, fuels and terrain.

Performs various aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding and mop-up. Driving engines to fire locations, frequently over unimproved roads. Starting pump engine, priming pump, adjusting engine speed and pump valves, laying hose and using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustment in effective use of water and additives. Loading helicopter personnel and cargo considering methods, weight distribution, necessity for securing, total weight, etc. and completes manifests of personnel and equipment being transported to the fire or other work site.

Performs wildfire suppression support as directed within training and physical and other duties as assigned. Duties listed are at the full performance level.

**Travel Required**

Occasional travel - Occasional overnight travel may be required for fire suppression or fire related assignments.

**Supervisory status**

No

**Promotion Potential**

05

**Who May Apply**

This job is open to...

US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

Questions? This job is open to 1 group.

**Job family (Series)**

[0462 Forestry Technician](https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/?j=0462)

**Requirements**

**Conditions Of Employment**

https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/483586700
• You must be a US Citizen or US National.
• Males born after 12/31/59 must be Selective Service registered or exempt.
• Primary firefighter retirement covered position.
• Subject to a negative drug test prior to entrance on duty.
• Must meet IFPM qualifications.
• Position requires a Work Capacity Test (WCT).
• May require a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)
• Willing to live/work in remote locations (volatile/unpredictable).
• Must meet Maximum Entry Age (MEA) requirements.
• Successful completion of a one-year probationary or trial period.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must be 18 years of age.

Initial appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of training.

DRUG TESTING: This is a Testing Designated Position (TDP). Selectee must submit to a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment and random testing thereafter. Final appointment and continued employment is conditional on negative results for illegal drug use.

WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for Wildland Firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT at the ARDUOUS level is a “condition of employment.” The Arduous fitness (Pack) test requires completing a three (3) mile hike within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your physician and begin training immediately if applying for this position.

Physical Fitness Statement: You are being deployed to a challenging physical environment. You may encounter extremely dusty conditions, significant air pollution, high elevations, lack of potable water, food and waterborne diseases, and communicable diseases. You will need to walk distances of a half-mile or more, run and step up to 2 feet while wearing a helmet and body armor that together weigh a minimum of 30 pounds. Medical care will be limited.

This position may require the selectee to possess a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) and therefore, is a Testing Designated Position (TDP) under the Department of Transportation (DOT)/Forest Service Alcohol and Controlled Substance Testing Program. Applicant tentatively selected for this position will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use unless they currently occupy a TDP under the DOT/Forest Service Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program. Final appointment is conditional on a negative drug test. This announcement constitutes 30 days advance notice for testing requirements.

Qualifications
You must possess the Basic Requirements identified below to be considered eligible for this position. Transcripts must be provided if qualifications are based on education above the high school level. Your application or resume must clearly show that you possess the appropriate experience requirements. Specialized experience is defined as experience that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled and has equipped you with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service Programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional, philanthropic, religious, spiritual, community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

GS-03: Six months of general experience that demonstrates the applicants ability to perform the work of the position that provided familiarity with subject matter or processes of the occupation; or successful completion of 1 year of study above high school that included at least 6 semester hours/9 quarter hours in a combination of courses such as range management or conservation, agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, engineering, biology, mathematics, or other natural or physical sciences.

GS-04: Six months of general experience and six months of specialized experience; or successful completion of 2 years of study
above high school that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of courses such as forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science. No more than 3 semester hours in mathematics is creditable; or combinations of successfully completed post-high school education and experience. The education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work. Examples of qualifying general experience are: Performed farm/ranch labor, such as feeding/tending livestock or general maintenance of farm/ranch facilities; worked in a greenhouse, nursery or landscaping e.g., planting, moving, watering, and tending plants; animal caretaker in a laboratory, zoo or pet store; volunteer work at a park, hospital, community sports league, local fire department, etc. Examples of qualifying specialized experience are: Performed a limited variety of manual tasks to accomplish fuels reduction work and suppress wildland fires using a variety of hand and power tools; At the instruction of a crew leader, patrolled fire line to locate and extinguish sparks, flareups, and hot spot fires that might threaten developed fire lines; At the instruction of a crew leader, moved dirt, chopped brush, or felled small trees to build fire line using various hand tools and power saws to control spreading wildland fires and to prepare lines prior to prescribed burning.

GS-05: One year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-4 grade level; or successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor’s degree (a) with major study in forestry, range management, agriculture, or a subject-matter field directly related to the position, or (b) that included at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science. No more than 6 semester hours in mathematics is creditable; or combinations of successfully completed post-high school education and experience. The education must have been obtained in an accredited college or university and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work. Examples of qualifying specialized experience are: Observed, recorded, and preserved evidence of cause of fires; Patrolled areas of controlled fires to mop-up by searching out and extinguishing any remaining burning material. Served on a specialty crew (hotshot, helitack, engines, etc.) to suppress the full range of difficult and complex fires.

SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTORS

- Primary firefighter positions include the following age requirements: Under age 37 -OR- less than age 37 after subtracting the months of Federal Service worked in a primary or secondary firefighter/law enforcement position -OR- a veteran preference eligible, older than age 37 and is requesting a waiver to the maximum age requirement.
- To qualify at the GS-05 journey worker level, the applicant must have successfully completed Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1). A copy of the Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) master record (or equivalent training document - Red Cards are not acceptable) which contains documented proof of certification or attainment of this requirement must be attached to application.

In order to be considered for this position, copies of your Incident Qualification and Certification System (IQCS) Master Record (or equivalent training documents) which contain documented proof of the certification or attainment of the IFPM Selective Placement Factor for this position MUST be attached to your application. Red cards are not acceptable documentation. Currency Requirement: Required to maintain currency once hired into the position. Currency of NWCG qualifications is not required for selection. If not currently qualified, the applicant must provide documented evidence that they have been fully qualified in the past, and are able to regain currency within one year of being hired. Failure to provide this documentation will result in disqualification.

To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all requirements as of the closing date of the announcement.

Education

APPRENTICE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

There are conditions of employment for this position. The selected applicant must complete the provision of the National Apprenticeship Standards. These conditions of employment may change during the term of the apprenticeship as approved by the National Interagency Joint Apprentice Committee (NIJAC).

National Apprentice Standards can be found at

https://www.nafri.gov/wfap/docs/2016/1NationalStandardsWithSignatures.pdf
Conditions of employment include:

1. Formal Classroom training consisting of the Wildland Fire Academy (Foundational and/or Core academies depending on grade at time of hire) provided by the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program at various locations throughout the United States and other required training.

2. 3,000 hours of on-the-job training as well as completion of the Competency Checklist.

3. Successful completion of a minimum 120 hours of Elective Subject Area instruction provided by the home unit.

4. All class work must be completed at the identified passing level.

Selected applicants who do not meet these conditions of employment may be subject to removal from position.

Additional information

We may select from this announcement or any other source to fill one or more vacancies.

If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is not guaranteed.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION AND FINGERPRINT CHECK: Selection and retention in this position is contingent on a successfully adjudicated FBI National Criminal History Check (fingerprint check) and a background investigation.

Direct Deposit – Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to a financial institution of your choice.

E-Verify: Federal law requires agencies to use the E-Verify system to confirm the employment eligibility of all new hires. If you are selected as a newly hired employee, the documentation you present for purposes of completing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-9 on your entry-on-duty date will be verified through the DHS 'E-VERIFY' system. Under the system, the new hire is required to resolve any identified discrepancies as a condition of continued employment.

Government housing may be available.

Forest Service daycare facilities may be available.


To exercise selection priority for this vacancy, CTAP/RPL/ICTAP candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors. CTAP/ICTAP eligibles must meet the agency’s definition for a quality candidate as provided in the How You Will Be Evaluated section of this announcement to be considered.

Bargaining Unit Status: Eligible - Coverage is dependent upon unit location.

This may be a bargaining unit position represented by the National Federation of Federal Employees, IAMAW.

This position is eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements.

How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated in accordance with the category rating procedure as defined in the USDA Demonstration Project Plan. Applicants who meet the basic minimum qualification requirements established for the position will be placed in the Eligible category. Eligible applicants will be further evaluated against criteria for placement in the Quality category. This evaluation is based on the level of your experience, education, and/or training as determined by your responses to the Assessment Questionnaire. Applicants with veterans’ preference are listed ahead of applicants who do not have veterans’ preference within each category.

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your rating may be lowered to more accurately reflect the submitted documentation. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.
Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the "Apply Online" button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: https://fs.usda.ntis.gov/cp/?event=jobs.previewApplication&jobid=0CE91700-BA88-4D7D-9742-A81F010E5B96

Background checks and security clearance

Security clearance

Other

Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in the mail service, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) supervisor’s phone number and whether or not the supervisor may be contacted for a reference check; 5) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit [http://www.naces.org/members.htm](http://www.naces.org/members.htm). All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veterans preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veterans preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veterans preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.
- If claiming 10-point veterans preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans preference see [http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/](http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/)

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:

You MUST submit a copy of your transcript if you want to substitute your education for experience. If you claim qualifications based on education, and do not submit a transcript, your education will not be used in making a qualification determination and you may be found "not qualified".

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from [schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/).
Failure to provide all of the required information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

**Benefits**

A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding.

- Benefits for federal employees
- Healthcare insurance
- Pay and leave

The Federal Service offers a comprehensive benefits package. Explore the benefits offered to most Federal employees at: [https://www.usajobs.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees](https://www.usajobs.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees)

FIREFIGHTER RETIREMENT COVERAGE: This is a primary/rigorous position covered under the special retirement provisions of 5 USC 8336(c) for the Civil Service Retirement System and of 5 USC 8412(d) for the Federal Employees Retirement System. This position is subject to a Maximum Entry Age (MEA) requirement which has been set at age 37. Applicants must be under age 37 prior to their appointment date for entry into this position. An applicant’s entry age may be adjusted based on credit for past primary/secondary service which is otherwise creditable for retirement. Temporary primary/rigorous service will only be credited if performed prior to January 1, 1989 (temporary service performed beginning 1/1/89 or later is not creditable for retirement). Applicants who are entitled to veteran’s preference are eligible to request a waiver to the maximum age requirement. In instances where the maximum entry-age is waived, the corresponding mandatory retirement age for these individuals will also be higher because it will be reached after 20 years of coverage under special retirement provisions for the entitlement to an immediate enhanced annuity.

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

**How to Apply**

Please view [Tips for Applicants](http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs-jobs-applicant-tips.pdf) – a guide to the Forest Service application process.

Please read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

Applying online is highly encouraged. We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday - Friday). If applying online poses a hardship, contact the Agency Contact listed below well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages must be complete and submitted no later than noon ET on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis; contact the Agency Contact to request this.

To begin, click "Apply Online" and follow the instructions to complete the Assessment Questionnaire and attach your resume and all required documents.

**NOTE:** You must verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency’s staffing system. Applicants may combine all like required documents (e.g., all SF-50s) into one or more files and scan for uploading into the application. Each file must not exceed 3MB. Grouping like documents into files will simplify the application process. Documents must be in one of the following formats: GIF, JPEG, JPG, PDF, PNG, RTF, or Word (DOC or DOCX). Uploaded documents may not require a password, digital signature, or other encryption to open.

**Agency contact information**

[https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/483586700](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/PrintPreview/483586700)
HRM Contact Center

Phone
1-877-372-7248, option 2
(tel://1-877-372-7248, option 2)

TDD
1-800-877-8339

Fax
1-866-338-3718

Email
fsjobs@fs.fed.us
(mailto:fsjobs@fs.fed.us)

Learn more about this agency
(#agency-modal-trigger)

Address
USDA Forest Service
Do not send in mail. Refer to the How to Apply section for instructions.
Albuquerque, NM,
United States

A career with the Forest Service will challenge you to manage and care for more than 193 million acres of our nation's most magnificent lands, conduct research through a network of forest and range experiment stations and the Forest Products Laboratory, and provide assistance to State and private forestry agencies.

It's an awesome responsibility - but the rewards are as limitless as the views.

USDA is a great place to start or continue your career. USDA is ranked as one of the top 10 "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" by the Partnership for Public Service (http://bestplacetowork.org/BPTW/rankings/overall/large (http://bestplacetowork.org/BPTW/rankings/overall/large)). Rankings are based on employee feedback regarding satisfaction with their work experience.

Next steps
Your application will be reviewed to verify that you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for the position prior to issuing referral lists to the selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Log in to your USAJOBS account at https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login (https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login) to check your application status. We expect to make a final job offer approximately 40 days after the deadline for applications.

Fair & Transparent
The Federal hiring process is setup to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

- Office of Equal Opportunity (http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/internal_eeo/index.cfm)

Reasonable Accommodation Policy
Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a Case-by-Case basis.
A reasonable accommodation is any change in the workplace or the way things are customarily done that provides an equal employment opportunity to an individual with a disability. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) must provide reasonable accommodations:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

**Disability Employment - Reasonable Accommodations**
[https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/]

- **How to contact an agency**
  [https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/agency/contact/]

**Legal and regulatory guidance**

- **Financial suitability**

- **Social security number request**

- **Privacy Act**

- **Signature & False statements**

- **Selective Service**

- **New employee probationary period**
  [https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/]