

USDA Forest Service

Forestry Technician (hotshot/handcrew), GS-0462-05

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER:	TEMP-OCR-462-5-HOTSHOT	APPLICATION DEADLINE:	None
JOB LOCATION:	Interagency Hotshot Crew Locations throughout the Forest Service.	WORK SCHEDULE:	Full Time
SALARY RANGE:	\$14.24-\$14.24	OPEN DATE:	9-3-2008
TIME LIMIT:	Temporary, not to exceed 6 Months	WHO MAY APPLY:	US citizens
NUMBER OF VACANCIES:	100		

NOTES:

This is a continuously open recruitment bulletin for the Interagency Hotshot positions located throughout the Forest Service. Positions filled from this announcement will be specifically only for Interagency Hotshot Crews.

Hotshot crews are considered national resources and are utilized for fire suppression efforts throughout the country. For more information about the Interagency Hotshot Crew's please visit

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/hotshots/index.html>.

If interested in Hand crew positions please apply to TEMP-OCR-0462-04-HANDCREW or TEMP-OCR-0462-05 HANDCREW.

Overnight travel may be extensive, in excess of 11 nights per month. Specific information will be provided to candidates at the time of selection.

Positions may be filled as a temporary appointment up to 6 months or as a not to exceed (NTE) 1 year which can be extended 1 additional year.

These are temporary positions with varying tours of duty (work schedule) and may include weekend work. Some positions may have irregular and protracted hours of work. Tours of duty include full-time or less than full-time. Considerable travel may be required.

Relocation expenses (transfer of station) are not authorized.

Wildland Fire Definition:

Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire, wildland fire use and prescribed fire.

1. Wildfire: An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

2. Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

3. Prescribed Fire: Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition.

The Office of Personnel Management has delegated to the Forest Service the authority to make Temporary Appointments under the USDA Demonstration Project for Temporary Employment. Under this project, any U.S. Citizen may apply.

DUTIES:

Serves on crews performing duties in wildland fire suppression. May perform prescribed burning crew duties in order to reduce fuel hazards and disease, while protecting wildlife. May assist with fire dispatch through operation of radios, telephones, and other necessary equipment to exchange information for fire weather and other forest suppression activities.

Lays or directs hose in the use of water. Moves dirt, chops brush, and fells small trees to build fireline using various hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, and McLeods to control spreading wildland fire and/or to prepare lines prior to controlled burning. Chops, carries, and piles logging slash. Searches out and extinguishes burning materials by moving dirt, applying water by hose or backpack pump. Patrols fireline to locate and extinguish sparks, flare-ups, and hot spots that may threaten loss of control of the fire. Cleans, reconditions, and stores simple fire tools and equipment.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

In order to be basically qualified, you must indicate experience in the following:

Experience performing wildland fire suppression duties as a member of an organized fire suppression crew or comparable unit that utilized knowledge of fire suppression techniques and practices under various conditions; AND On-the-line wildland firefighting experience gained through containment, control, suppression or use of wildland fire. This is the type of experience that could typically be met by serving in a temporary, seasonal, or equivalent private sector fire position for no less than a total of three months (90 days). Shorter periods of wildland firefighting experience (e.g. militia, non-fire positions, and rural fire departments) can also be credited, as long as the total amount of this experience equates to no less than three months (90 days).

MINIMUM FEDERAL QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Qualifying experience for the GS-5 level includes one year of specialized experience equivalent to GS-4. Specialized experience is experience which is in or directly related to the line of work of the position to be filled and which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE: Experience requirements may be met by successful completion of a four (4) year course of study leading to a bachelors' degree or the equivalent. Education must include at least 24 semester/36 quarter 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/9 quarter hours in mathematics is creditable.

COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: Equivalent combinations of successfully completed education and experience may be used to meet the experience requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS POSITION

Specialized experience should be documented in the Work History section of the online application. Applicants are encouraged to provide a narrative in the Work History section that describes the duties performed relative to the specialized experience defined for this position. Specialized experience for this position is defined as one or more of the following:

-Performed a variety of wildland fire suppression and/or fuels management duties to suppress wide range fires, such as adapting to a changing work environment, identifying factors of fire behavior and situations which warrant immediate action and operation of specialized fire suppression equipment including radios, chainsaws, portable pumps, hose lays, fusees, and drip torches.

-Served as a firefighter on a specialty crew (hotshot, helitack, engines) and performed all aspects of wildland fire operations including fireline construction, ignition, monitoring, holding, and mop up to suppress a wide range of difficult and complex fires under the most adverse conditions involved with climate, fuels, and terrain.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT FACTS:

Please check Job Posting Information, Summary, for the area of consideration (i.e., Who May Apply), and time limit information.

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 consists of 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 you are applying for this position. This announcement constitutes the required 30 days advanced notice for testing requirements.

Position requires overnight travel 11 nights or more per month.

Date of Availability: Due to the seasonal nature of this position, please provide the dates you are available for employment. Applicants applying on-line may provide this information in the Additional Information section.

BASIS OF RATING: The category rating procedure is used to rank and select eligible candidates. Under category rating, applicants who meet basic minimum qualification requirements established for the position and whose job related competencies have been assessed are ranked by being placed in one of the following categories: Quality, Well Qualified, and Eligible. Candidates placed in the Quality category will be assessed based on Education, High Ability, or Experience. Well Qualified candidates are those who clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements but do not necessarily meet the criteria for the Quality category. Candidates in the eligible category meet basic minimum qualification requirements but do not meet the criteria for the Well Qualified category. Preference eligibles are listed ahead of non-preference eligibles within each category. Drug testing is a requirement for certain positions. See "Other Significant Facts" portion of this announcement for information specific to position being filled.

Applications submitted in postage-paid Government envelopes will not be accepted.

Applications received become the property of the USDA Forest Service and will not be returned.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: The USDA Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the point of contact listed on the vacancy announcement. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

This is a temporary, time-limited appointment. However, an extension of the appointment may be possible without further competition. The appointment may also end early if there is a lack of work or funds.

As a condition of employment, all male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must have registered for the selective service. If selected for this position, the applicant must sign a statement certifying his registration, or the applicant must demonstrate exempt status under the Selective Service Law.

DIRECT DEPOSIT: All Federal employees are required to have Federal salary payments made by direct deposit to a financial institution of their choosing.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE: Generally, preference is granted to veterans who entered the military service prior to October 14, 1976; or served on active duty during the period from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992, and who are otherwise eligible; or who served on active duty during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on the last day of Operation Iraqi Freedom; or who have served in a military action for which they received a Campaign Badge or Expeditionary Medal. This includes the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) awarded to those who participated in Operation Joint Endeavor or Operation Joint Guard. Also, you may be entitled to veterans' preference if you are a disabled veteran; you have received a Purple Heart; you are the spouse or mother of a disabled veteran; or you are the widow, widower, or mother of a deceased veteran. Applicants will be required to provide proof prior to appointment to validate their claim for preference. More detailed information is available on the Main Menu screen under the selection entitled, "Veteran Information."

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Check our website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs> for specific information on the organization and duty location of positions, the promotion potential, the bargaining unit status, the availability of Forest Service affiliated day care facilities, and government housing.

OPEN CONTINUOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: This is a continuously open vacancy announcement for multiple locations throughout the Forest Service. The number and location of positions to be

filled will be dependent upon individual unit needs. Availability of government housing, federal day care facilities, and bargaining unit status will vary by location. Pay rates vary depending on location. See the OPM website at www.opm.gov for additional information on pay rates.

To receive consideration for this position, you must meet all qualification requirements as of the date a certificate of eligibles is issued.

To ensure that you receive consideration, applications submitted through the on-line application process must be received by 11:59 p.m. eastern time the day before a certificate of eligibles is issued. A scannable bubbledot application package submitted by mail must be received at the time a certificate of eligibles is issued.

To give applicants an idea of positions filled previously and to assist applicants in selecting locations, a listing was created to view on our website www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs. When there are no applicants for locations, the search area will be broadened when generating certificates of eligibles to include locations in the closest city nearby. To obtain more information about the US Forest Service and individual locations, go to www.fs.fed.us (a search can be done by State or by Name). We encourage applicants to contact supervisors at the chosen locations for specific information.

To ensure continued interest and availability, applicants will be notified via e-mail reminding them to re-certify their application every 60 days.

Some positions have other conditions of employment not specified in this announcement. Applicants will be notified of any specific requirements at the time a tentative job offer is made.

TEMPORARY OPEN CONTINUOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: Typically, positions are expected to work from April through September. There may be some positions that start earlier and/or end later. Applicants are encouraged to apply early in the recruitment process. The first certificate of eligibles will be issued to the hiring unit no sooner than five working days after the opening date of the announcement. Additional lists will be issued upon request from the hiring unit. Some positions will have varying work schedules and will involve working weekends or irregular work hours. Considerable travel may be required.

ARDUOUS FIRE POSITIONS: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age to be employed in a position performing hazardous duties.

An initial pre-employment medical examination is required for arduous fire positions in the U.S. Forest Service. Failure to meet any of the required medical qualifications will be considered disqualifying for employment. Units in the following locations of California, Southern Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Southwest Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico will not be subject to these medical requirements until 2009.

Applicants may choose up to nine (9) different location codes.

HOW TO APPLY: In order to determine if you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for this position, please submit the following information:

1. Experience/Employment Information:

a. Apply On-Line at www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html. This online application process allows applicants to submit employment information that can be printed for personal use and saved and/or edited on the website for future use. The application process contains all the data elements that are required for resumes submitted for federal employment and may be submitted electronically.

OR

b. Apply by Scannable Questionnaire: This Questionnaire requires completion of a scannable form. You must request the instructions and form and submit the scannable application form and supporting documentation by mail. A facsimile of the scannable form cannot be accepted.

2. Eligibility Information:

It is highly recommended that the following documents be electronically attached to your application to verify your eligibility, basic qualifications, and to validate answer choices:

(1) DD-214/SF-15 to verify veterans' preference claim and/or eligibility for VRA or VEOA appointments is required. Applicants claiming preference based on service performed after October 14, 1976, must specify on the application the Campaign Badge upon which they are basing their claim. Veterans who fail to submit a DD-214 with their application will not be granted veterans preference. Copies of DD-214 should be attached to the AVUE profile or faxed to 253-573-9869.

(2) Transcripts (official or unofficial), diplomas, or certificates of training are required if education is used to meet basic qualifications requirements. If education is a basis for meeting qualification requirements, transcripts are required. Failure to submit this documentation can result in disqualification for position. Transcripts should be attached to the AVUE profile or faxed to 253-573-9869.

(3) Notice of Expected Separation or other proof document if requesting priority placement consideration under the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP). CTAP and ICTAP candidates must meet the criteria for for the Well Qualified or Quality categories in order to be considered.

TO REQUEST A SCANNABLE FORM: Please refer to the contact name and phone number listed in this vacancy announcement.

Contact Information:
ASC HCM 877-372-7248 fsjobs@fs.fed.us