

# OUTREACH NOTICE

## Region 6 - Pacific Northwest

Vacancy Period: November 30 - December 7

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### Job Title

**GS-04 Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression)**

Series/Grade/Tour: GS-0462-04; Temporary 1039

**GS-05 Forestry Technician (Helitack)**

Series/Grade/Tour: GS-0462-05; Temporary 1039

Region 6 Rappel Bases are anticipating filling multiple 1039 temporary seasonal Rappel positions for the 2016 fire season at the following duty stations: **Blue Mt. Rappellers (La Grande, OR.), Central Oregon Rappellers (Prineville, OR.), Malheur Rappel Crew (John Day, OR), Siskiyou Rappel Crew (Grants Pass, OR.), Sled Springs Rappel Crew (Enterprise, OR.), and Wenatchee Valley Rappellers (East Wenatchee, WA).**

This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of these upcoming opportunities and inform interested candidates about the application process and deadline.

Applicants must apply to the appropriate vacancy during the open period of November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 7<sup>th</sup>. The GS-04 will be flown under the "Suppression" vacancy announcement and the GS-05 will be flown as "Helitack" specifically. The vacancy numbers have not been made available yet. We anticipate them coming out in Mid-November. **It is critical that interested applicants contact the programs that they wish to work for and establish communications.** Applications will be reviewed and jobs will be offered during the Region 6 consolidated seasonal hiring event beginning in February 2016.

**Leader's Intent:** Region 6 Rappel Bases are searching for well-qualified wildland fire fighters interested in becoming an aerial delivered firefighter. This notice contains information to help you apply for temporary Rappel positions within Region 6 in the United States Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Rappel positions are not entry-level firefighting positions. All applicants must pass medical, physical, and firefighting work experience requirements to be considered for these positions. Candidates must be in top physical condition and capable of performing arduous duties.

Applicants seeking employment at the GS-04 level must meet the minimum 90 days of wildland fire experience. To qualify at the GS-05 level candidates must be qualified as a FFT1, have taken and passed S-290, and have 12 months of qualifying experience at the GS-04 level. However, due to the quantity of applicants, quality candidates are encouraged to have a minimum of 3-4 years of fire experience with a diverse background of work experience on an organized crew such as hotshot, helitack, engine, smoke jumping and Type 2 Initial attack crews, possess leadership experience, and have a safety conscious attitude.

**Position Description:** This position serves as a helicopter rappeller within a Rappel Program located in Region 6.

Rappeller duties can be extremely arduous and hazardous. Rappellers must be in excellent physical condition as well as possess a high degree of mental alertness. The job often involves prolonged periods when smoke, heat and short supplies of food and water can take their toll on physical stamina. The physical well-being of each rappeller on an assignment depends on the ability of individuals to pull their own weight.

To become qualified as a Helicopter Rappeller, you will be required to successfully complete five weeks of intensive training in rappel operations and fire suppression methods, including an intense physical training regimen.

When candidates report for duty they will be given a physical conditioning and strength test consisting of : 7 pull-ups, 25 push-ups, 1.5 mile run in under 11:00 minutes, and an 85 lb. pack test over 3 miles. Taking and passing the 45 lb. work capacity test at the arduous level is a “condition of employment”.

After successful completion of the initial physical conditioning test, the intense training begins and much more will be required of the trainees during the following five weeks. One of the most demanding physical requirements of the job is the gear pack-out. Rappellers gear and tools weigh an average of 85 - 110 pounds per person. Rappellers must be able to carry this gear to the nearest trail, road or helispot after suppressing the fire. The distance can be up to ten miles or more. During training, rookie rappellers are required to demonstrate their ability to pack their gear a distance of three miles in a timed event.

In addition to the physical requirements, rookie rappellers must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the various aspects of helicopter rappelling and other rappeller related tasks during the training period. Trainee performance is continually evaluated during the training period and to become a qualified rappeller, rookie candidates must perform up to the required standards during the National Rappel Academy to include ground training, mock-ups, and live rappels. Candidates can expect to be challenged mentally and physically during all phases of the training.

If you are interested in applying for the 2016 season you will need to go to <https://www.usajobs.gov/> to create an account as well as an applicant profile. Search for and apply to the appropriate vacancy announcement. These announcements will open on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** and close on **December 7<sup>th</sup>** so applications must be submitted during those dates to be considered. For more information on the hiring process or the announcement numbers for particular crews please contact the hiring official associated with that crew.

**Read the entire application carefully. Applications that are incomplete or inaccurate may not be considered for these positions.**

<b>Employment Period:</b>	<i>Approximately May 4th to October 1st</i>
<b>Entry Level Grade and announcement numbers:</b>	<i>GS-0462-04 – To be determined... GS-0462-05 – To be determined...</i>
<b>Where to apply and Recruitment Period:</b>	<i>Applications must be submitted in <a href="https://www.usajobs.gov/">usajobs</a> from <b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b> thru <b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b> to be considered for the 2016 season.</i>
<i>Blue Mountain Rappellers Duty Location: La Grande, OR. <a href="http://www.bluemountainrappellers.com">www.bluemountainrappellers.com</a></i>	<i>Kyle Johnson-Hiring Manager WK: 541-975-5445 <a href="mailto:Jconnall@fs.fed.us">Jconnall@fs.fed.us</a></i>
<i>Central Oregon Rappellers Duty Location: Prineville, OR. <a href="http://www.centraloregonhelitack.com">www.centraloregonhelitack.com</a></i>	<i>Adam Kahler – Hiring Manager WK: 541-416-6840 <a href="mailto:akahler@fs.fed.us">akahler@fs.fed.us</a></i>
<i>Malheur Rappel Crew Duty Location: John Day, OR. <a href="http://www.malheurrappelcrew.com">www.malheurrappelcrew.com</a></i>	<i>Joey Fansler – Hiring &amp; Training Manager WK: 541-620-0083 <a href="mailto:jdfansler@fs.fed.us">jdfansler@fs.fed.us</a></i>
<i>Siskiyou Rappel Crew Duty Location: Grants Pass, OR. <a href="http://www.siskiyouappellers.com">www.siskiyouappellers.com</a></i>	<i>Dan Quinones-Base Manager WK: 541-471-6847 <a href="mailto:dquinones@fs.fed.us">dquinones@fs.fed.us</a></i>
<i>Sled Springs Rappel Crew Duty Location: Enterprise, OR. <a href="http://www.sledspringsrappellers.com">www.sledspringsrappellers.com</a></i>	<i>Griff Williams – Base Manager WK: 541-426-5660 <a href="mailto:gewilliams@fs.fed.us">gewilliams@fs.fed.us</a></i>
<i>Wenatchee Valley Rappellers Duty Location: East Wenatchee, WA <a href="http://www.wenatcheevalleyrappellers.com">www.wenatcheevalleyrappellers.com</a></i>	<i>Travis Will Hiring Manager WK: 509-884-2492 <a href="mailto:twill@fs.fed.us">twill@fs.fed.us</a></i>

