



OUTREACH NOTICE
MCCALL SMOKEJUMPER BASE
Region 4
Payette National Forest



Job Title: Forestry Technician (Smokejumper)
Series/Grade/Tour: GS-0462-05; Temporary 1039

The McCall Smokejumper base is anticipating filling several 1039 temporary seasonal smokejumper positions for the 2020 fire season. Upon successful completion of rookie training the incumbents are subject to work assignments locally, throughout Region 4, in any other Forest Service Region, and for other government agencies concerned with managing forest and range lands throughout the United States. The duty station is McCall, Idaho and government housing is available.

This outreach notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants and those interested in the application procedures and deadline.

Position Description: This position serves as a trainee smokejumper within a nationally shared resource smokejumper program, located at the McCall Smokejumper Unit, Fire Branch, within the Payette National Forest.



Smokejumping duties can be extremely arduous and hazardous. Smokejumpers must be in excellent physical condition as well as possess a high degree of emotional stability and 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 smokejumper on an assignment may depend on the ability of individuals to pull their own weight.

To become qualified as a smokejumper you must satisfactorily complete six weeks of intensive training in parachute jumping, physical conditioning, and fire suppression techniques. Previous parachute training either in the military or sport jumping is not required nor advantageous.

When candidates report for duty they will be given a physical conditioning and strength test which consists of completing the minimum standards of 7 pull-ups, 25 push-ups, 45 sit-ups, and a 1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes or less. Prospective candidates should understand that these are the minimum requirements and much more will be expected of them both physically and mentally over the course of the following six weeks. Any person who cannot meet these minimum physical requirements will be terminated from the smokejumper program.

One of the most demanding physical requirements of smokejumping is the gear pack-out. Smokejumper gear and tools weigh an average of 110 pounds per person. Smokejumpers must be able to carry this gear to the nearest trail, road, or helispot after suppressing the fire. Pack off distances can be over ten miles. During the training, smokejumper trainees are required to demonstrate their own ability to pack this gear a distance of three miles in 90 minutes or less. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the smokejumper program.

In addition to the physical requirements, smokejumper trainees must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the various aspects of parachute jumping and other smokejumper related tasks during the training period. Trainee performance is continually evaluated during the training period and those persons who cannot perform up to the required standard of proficiency will be terminated from the program and placed in another job, if available.

Many training jumps are conducted during the initial training period, beginning with the simplest terrain and progressing into more difficult terrain. After successful completion of the training, trainees will be placed on the jump list and be available for fire assignments.

Fire suppression training includes classroom and field instruction in fireline construction, holding (under varied conditions of topography, fuels, fire weather, and fire behavior), first aid and safety, and use of hand and power tools. The trainee will suppress wildland fire using a variety of hand and power tools such as the pulaski, shovel, chain saw, and mcleod. The trainee will move dirt, chop brush and logs, fell trees and snags, apply water by hose or back pump, etc. to build fire line and control spreading wildland fire. The trainee will care for and maintains tools, equipment, jump gear, and parachutes. Travel to fire assignments may include parachute jumping, foot travel, truck, bus, etc., and fire action may vary from individual efforts to serving as a member of specialized crew such as interregional fire crew.

The trainee may be assigned to other resource management activities such as recreation, timber, or reforestation when not performing fire suppression duties.

McCall Base Manager Leaders Intent: The McCall Smokejumper Unit is searching for well-qualified wildland fire fighters interested in becoming Smokejumpers. This notice contains information to help you apply for temporary Smokejumper positions with the McCall Smokejumpers, Payette National Forest, Intermountain Region, United States Forest Service.

Smokejumper positions are not entry-level firefighting positions. All applicants must meet specific medical, physical, and firefighting work experience requirements to be considered for these positions. Candidates must be in top physical condition and be capable of performing arduous duties. Any physical problem that may impair efficiency or endanger fellow workers will disqualify the applicant.

Applicants must meet the minimum 90 days of wildland fire experience and have 12 months of qualifying experience at the GS-04 level. However, due to the quantity of applicants, quality applicants are encouraged to have at a minimum 3-5 years of fire experience with a diverse background working for resources such as hotshot, helitack, engine, or type 2 initial attack crews, be qualified to the FFT1 and ICT5, possess leadership experience, and have a safety conscious attitude.

If you lack the recommended fire experience you may want to consider applying for a position on an Interagency Hotshot Crew or a district engine, helicopter, or fire suppression hand crew. These crews receive valuable training and experience in fire suppression work. There are numerous crews located throughout the United States with the majority being in the west. For information contact your local job service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or National Park Service office, or check out the Office of Personnel Management website at www.usajobs.opm.gov under current openings for the GS-0462 job series.

Interested?

If you are interested in applying for the 2020 fire season go to <https://www.usajobs.gov/>. Once there you will need to create an account and an applicant profile. Once your account and profile are created, search the keyword “smokejumper” to see current open announcements. The GS-05 temporary smokejumper announcement will open **September 16th, 2019 and close September 30, 2019**. For more information on the process or the announcement number please contact Nate Giles - (208) 634-0381 - nathan.giles@usda.gov or Jeff Schricker - (208) 634-0380 - jeff.schricker@usda.gov. We plan to request a certificate for referral early winter 2019.

If you wish to apply to other USFS smokejumper bases, you may use this same vacancy announcement. When applying you will want to select all the bases you are interested in having consider your application.

Selected applicants should receive an offer of employment mid-winter 2020.

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

Employment Period:	<i>Approximately May 6 to September 13</i>
Entry Level Grade:	<i>GS-0462-05 Salary Range (\$16.27/hr.)</i>

More Information

Location Information: The McCall Smokejumper Base is located at the McCall Municipal airport and supports 70 smokejumpers. It is one of seven Forest Service Smokejumper Bases located in the western U.S. that support fire suppression and natural resource management activities. The Payette National Forest spans 2.3 million acres of rugged, timbered and remote land in west-central Idaho, and is bordered by two of the deepest canyons in North America—the Salmon River Canyon on the north and the Hells Canyon of the Snake River on the west. The topography is characterized by rough mountains, deep canyons, mountain meadows, rivers and streams, high mountain lakes, and wilderness. One can easily access hot, desert-like areas as well as heavily-forested alpine regions through an extensive system of Forest roads and trails. The Forest has 5 ranger districts which offer a wealth of year-round recreation and tourism opportunities. The Supervisor’s Office, McCall, and Krassel District offices are located in McCall, Idaho. New Meadows, Council, and Weiser, Idaho are home to the other three forest district offices. The Payette National Forest web page is at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/payette>. The Payette National Forest intranet page is at: <http://fsweb.payette.r4.fs.fed.us/>

Community Information: McCall, located in Valley County, is 100 miles north of Boise on State Highway 55. The primary employment base comprises the recreation industry and government agencies. At an elevation of 5,000 feet, the town is located on the south shore of beautiful glacier-formed Payette Lake. A resort and second home destination area the population increases from 3,000 in the “shoulder” seasons to 10,000+ in the peak summer & winter recreation season. Median home prices are in the \$220,000-290,000 range and rentals are \$800+ per month.

McCall is a popular destination for tourists, summer homeowners, and summer and winter recreationists. Snow falls November through April. The total annual snowfall average is ten feet, but less than five feet typically remains on the ground at any given time.

Recreational opportunities include fishing in tributaries of the Salmon River and in high mountain lakes, alpine and Nordic skiing at two ski areas and elsewhere on the Forest, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, etc. McCall is rated the number two snowmobile destination in Idaho and is famous for its winter carnival and snow sculpture contest. The Little Ski Hill, located five minutes from McCall, is known for its youth ski programs and Nordic skiing. Brundage Mountain Ski Area is located between McCall and New Meadows. Ponderosa State Park, adjacent to McCall, provides public access to nature trails, groomed Nordic ski trails that are lit at night, swimming beaches, campsites, interpretive programs and a visitor's center.

All of the usual services are available in McCall, including a 12 bed hospital, 11 local physicians, regular visiting specialists from Boise, physical, occupational and speech therapies, two eye clinics, and four dental offices. Public schools include elementary, middle school (6th-8th), and high school. Most extra-curricular activities are included through the school system.

Additional community information can be found at: <http://www.mccall.id.us/>