

2020 Veterans Employment Outreach



Los Padres National Forest



Wildland Firefighter - Temporary Employment

RESPOND HERE

VRA Candidates who submit an Interest Response will be reviewed and considered for employment on the first of each month, as positions become available

Next Review of Candidates will begin Friday, May 15, 2020

The U.S. Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, is seeking highly motivated men and women interested in a job in wildland firefighting. This outreach is geared towards Veterans who would like to work on the Los Padres National Forest. After responding to the outreach, individuals will be considered for full time, temporary seasonal appointments working on a crew of engines, hotshots, handcrews, heavy equipment, helitack or dispatch. Individuals may be hired through the Veterans Recruitment Appointment (VRA) – Public Law 107-288. [Click Here](#) for more information on the VRA hiring authority.

Minimum Requirements for VRA Authority

1. In receipt of a campaign badge for service during a war or in a campaign or expedition, OR
2. Are a disabled veteran, OR
3. Are in receipt of an Armed forces service medal for participation in a military operation, OR
4. Are a recently separated veteran (within the last 3 years), AND
5. Separated under honorable conditions (this means an honorable or general discharge).

Positions in Fire and Aviation Management

Engine Crews - These teams of two to ten firefighters work with specialized wildland fire engines that carry special equipment to spray water and foam.

Handcrews - These 20-person teams construct firelines around wildfires to control them, burn out fire areas, and mop up after fires.

Hotshot Crews - These are the most highly skilled type of handcrews and are typically assigned to work on the most challenging parts of wildfires. [Click here](#)

Helitack Crews - These firefighters are transported by helicopters to wildfires and also perform logistical support missions.

Several Temporary employment opportunities are available in locations and crews throughout the Los Padres National Forest. Positions are Temporary Seasonal up to 6 months. Forest Service housing may be available and rates will vary. For more information about Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management, view the following links: [Working in Fire-Website](#) & [Firefighting -Video](#)

Examples of Entry Level Training Provided

Basic Firefighter Training

This introductory course is designed to train beginning firefighters. Participants will be introduced to and gain knowledge of the basic incident management organization, firefighting techniques, suppression equipment, safety, strategy, and tactics along with fire behavior. Field exercises will be performed for experiential training. Other (training) subject matter will include:

- Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Basic Concepts of Wildland firefighting
- Preparedness, Incident Command Systems, and Resources
- Watch Out Situations and Look Outs, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES)
- Potential Hazards and Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- Fuel, Topography, and Weather
- Fire Behavior
- Transportation Safety
- Hand Tools
- Firing Devices
- Water Use
- Hazardous Materials
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Optional Knowledge Areas
- Performance Day Requirements
- Suppression, Communication, and Mop-up



Fitness Requirements

Wildland firefighting is a physically demanding job and there is an arduous fitness requirement for employment on a crew. All candidates are required to conduct a “Work Capacity Test,” also known as a [Pack Test](#), requiring you to walk 3 miles in 45 minutes or less with a 45 pound pack.

Many crews will be expected to hike several miles to the fire and begin to dig line or remove fuels (wood and timber) immediately. The physical endurance required is significant and you should be well prepared to work all day and night under hazardous conditions.

[Click Here](#) to watch a video and learn more about what participants can do to prepare for the physical agility test

Hours and Salary

The positions include minimum full time work (40 hours per week) with the possibility of overtime if assigned to a fire incident. The hours on a fire incident are long, up to 16+ hours while actively suppressing or mopping up a fire. This can be for as short as a few days, to multiple weeks. Federal agencies will recruit at the GS-3 to GS-5 rate for new fire recruits, ranging between \$10/hr. to \$15/hr. The number of hours worked are dependent on the number and duration of fire incidents and are impossible to predict, but your take home pay at the end of the fire season can be between \$30,000 and \$40,000 during an active season. Benefits of these long hours are building relationships with hard working men and women, while providing a valuable public service protecting lives and property in California and other parts of the country.

For more information on GS-level and salary information please visit the OPM website: [Click Here](#)

Note: This is a base rate for pay, overtime and many other pay differentials are applied when work requirements exceed your normal work hours. The standard tour of duty is a 5 day/40 hour work week and you will be expected to work weekends and holidays when fire conditions warrant.

About the Forest

The Los Padres National Forest provides Southern California and the Central Coast Area with a variety of terrain, vegetation, and recreational settings. There are 1,257 miles of maintained trails which provide both day-use and extended backpacking opportunities. Much of the forest is roadless, remote and has 10 congressionally designated wilderness areas comprising approximately 875,000 acres, or about 48% of the forest. These include the Ventana, Silver Peak, Santa Lucia, Machesna, Garcia, San Rafael, Dick Smith, Sespe, Matilija and Chumash wildernesses. The forest is divided into five administrative units called “Ranger Districts” with district offices in King City, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ojai and Frazier Park.

How to Apply:

OUTREACH NOW OPEN!

To access and complete the online Outreach Response Form: [Click Here](#)

Along with completing the Online Response, you must email the following to SM.FS.lpfjobs@usda.gov

1. DD-214 Form

2. Government Standard Resume

(To create, view [Government Resume Guide](#) and [Sample Government Resume One](#) or [Sample Government Resume Two](#))

For More Information

To learn more about this great opportunity, please view the website/s below:

Los Padres WWW site – <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf>

Los Padres Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/lospadresnationalforest>

Los Padres Twitter – @LosPadresNF

If you have questions, please contact:

Harold Cook, Veteran Outreach Coordinator at harold.cook@usda.gov or

Cassandra Avila, Fire Admin Assistant at cassandra.avila@usda.gov or

Julissa Gonzalez, Equal Employment Specialist at (805) 680-4559

Email: SM.FS.lpfjobs@usda.gov



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination on all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.