



**The Salmon-Challis National Forest is outreaching to fill a GS-301-11 South Zone Fire Management Officer (FMO) position for the Challis-Yankee Fork, Middle Fork, and Lost River Districts, with a duty station of Challis or Mackey, Idaho.**

Interested candidates should contact the current South Zone FMO, Bill Blount for more information. This vacancy announcement will be using the “open continuous roster” process, which means an announcement for those interested in FMO positions is open continuously on USAJobs, and you should apply now. *We anticipate requesting a referral list on March 2, 2015, so please have your application completed by March 1, 2015.*

**Government housing may be available**

<b>DUE DATE TO RESPOND:</b>	March 1, 2015
Vacancy Announcement Numbers:	15-FIREOCR-301DZFM OH-911DP 15-FIREOCR-301DZFM OH-911G
Name of Contact:	Bill Blount, South Zone FMO
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Mailing address:	Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District HC 63 Box 1669, Challis, Id 83226

**About the Position**

The incumbent will serve as the FMO on the South Zone of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The South Zone is made up of the Lost River, Middle Fork, and Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger Districts which totals approximately 1.7 million acres. The incumbent will be responsible for coordinating and directing fire management program operations, to include the technical and/or analytical work involved with wildland fire management and prescribed fire operations.

In addition, the South Zone is a highly complex unit which averages approximately 40 fires a year and generally experiences at least one Type 1 or 2 incidents a year. The zone includes a significant amount of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area, which provides numerous opportunities to manage long duration fires under a wide range of management options and considerations. In addition,

the position will supervise a staff consisting of two assistant fire management officers, three Type 6 Engine modules, one type 3 helitack foreman, and two- five person initial attack modules, and one cache manager. The incumbent will also be required to perform the administrative and human resource management functions relative to the staff supervised. This position will be heavily involved in interagency cooperation and coordination efforts with other Federal, State, and local fire management agencies.

This position meets the definition of the Unit Fire Program Manager for Forest Service Fire Management Program (FS-FPM), as designated by WO Fire Management. Therefore the incumbent must meet the qualifications specified in the Qualifications Standards and Guide prior to October 1, 2013, or later if extended by the Agency.

Participation in fire-fighting duties commensurate with qualifications is expected.

This is a secondary firefighter position under 5 USC 8336 (c) Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and 8412 (d) Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS). Prior wildland firefighting experience is required.

### **About the Forest**

**The Salmon-Challis National Forest** covers over 4.3 million acres in east-central Idaho. The Forest is bordered by the Bitterroot Range of the North Central Rockies on the east, and to the west includes over 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Rugged and remote, this country offers adventure, solitude and breathtaking scenery. The Forest also contains Mt. Borah, Idaho's tallest peak and the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The area is a highly desired destination for hunting, fishing, white-water rafting and the many other popular recreational pursuits. The Forest features diverse, rough topography, geologic conditions, and miles of streams with anadromous fish spawning habitat creating a highly complex land management situation. The Supervisors Office is located in Salmon, Idaho. There are currently six administrative units on the Forest: Salmon-Cobalt, Challis-Yankee Fork, Lost River, Middle Fork, North Fork and Leadore Ranger Districts. For more information on the Forest or the Districts, visit the website - [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/)

**Check us out on the web at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnf/home>**

### **About the Area**

#### **Challis**

**The City:** Challis, Idaho ([www.challisidaho.com](http://www.challisidaho.com)) is located along the Salmon River Scenic Byway at an elevation of 5,253 feet in the mountains of central Idaho. The city has a population of approximately 1,000 and is the seat of Custer County which has a population of 4,300.

**History:** The Challis area was originally home to the Shoshone-Bannock people. In the 1820's, fur-trapping parties came in search for beaver pelts and other early settlers were traders, cattlemen and ranchers. In 1873 gold was discovered, unleashing a mining boom that spanned almost three decades. Although many of these mining camps eventually became ghost towns, Challis remained and continues to prosper from the rich mineral resources.

**Climate:** Challis enjoys a dry, warm climate during the summer and fall months with daily highs averaging between 75 to 95 degrees, and nightly lows from 45 to 60 degrees. The climate in winter is ideal for snow sports, the lowest temperatures averaging from 14 to 25 degrees with occasional sub-zero readings. Annual precipitation averages around 7 inches.

**Shopping and Services:** The Challis community has a full variety of shopping and business services in addition to specialty shops. There is a full-service bank, a credit union, a Post Office, and a public library.

Challis has a Mayor and City Council form of government with elected County Commissioners. The local newspaper, *The Challis Messenger*, is published weekly. For more information about the area, log on to the website - [www.challisidaho.com](http://www.challisidaho.com).

**Medical:** The Challis Area Health Center has x-ray and laboratory facilities, an emergency room, ambulance and Life-Flight helicopter capabilities. Additional medical services are provided by specialists who regularly visit the clinic. There is a physician assistant, a dentist, an optometrist, and two chiropractic doctors. The area has 24 hour 911 and EMT service. Several hospitals are located within 60 to 200 miles.

**Schools:** Present enrollment is about 500 students. Teacher/student ratios are 1:23 in the elementary school and 1:16 at the junior/senior high school. Each school has an up-to-date computer lab and there are computers in each classroom. The school district is accredited and has a 2A rating for athletics. The school offers numerous sports, music and academic extracurricular activities.

**Transportation:** There is a small airport with charter flights available. Three major airports are within 200 miles.

**Housing:** Housing maybe available for this detail. There are four motels in Challis and several bed and breakfast lodgings. Housing prices range from \$60,000 to over \$200,000. Several real estate offices are available. Mobile home parks provide additional accommodations. A rental properties are typically limited.

**Churches:** Challis has an active church community with several churches representing a variety of denominations.

**Entertainment and Activities:** The Challis Arts Council, a non-profit organization, sponsors professional high-quality artistic events for the community. The city park is an excellent facility with tennis courts, picnic pavilion, playground equipment, amphitheatre, horseshoe pits and ball field. There is a nine-hole golf course, and a bowling alley with league play available for all ages and also an additional game area. The community supports a popular Farmer's Market during the summer. The Forest Service has an exercise room, and there is also a commercial gym business. The privately-owned Challis Hot Springs, approximately seven miles from Challis, offers year-round swimming in two pools with a natural flow from the hot springs.

**Recreation for Salmon and Challis Areas:** The Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, federally protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers, are renown for white-water rafting, kayaking, floating and jet boating. Outfitter and guide services are offered and both Salmon and Challis serve as gateways to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, encompassing 2.4 million acres, the

largest wilderness in the United States outside of Alaska. The primitive mountain area provides spectacular and abundant hunting (white-tailed and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bear, moose, and cougar). Many species of game birds and also waterfowl can be found. Fishing (trout and steelhead) is open virtually all year. Miles of groomed trails and routes are prepared for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling while down-hill skiing, ice fishing and other winter fun can be enjoyed nearby. Challis also is within 120 miles of the Sun Valley Ski Resort. Salmon and Challis offer hiking and wilderness walks, camping and picnicking, rock hounding, prospecting, bird watching, photography, hot springs, back-country air tours, guest ranches, mining ghost towns and museums, all adding to the immense opportunity for pleasure and adventure to be had by avid sportsmen and casual outdoor enthusiasts alike.

**Mackay:** <http://mackayidaho.com/>

Mackay sits at an elevation of 5,891 feet and at the last census reported a population of 680. The climate of Mackay ranges from lows of -20°F to highs of +30°F in the winter and from lows of 30°F to highs of 100°F in some areas in the summer. Mackay has a fairly dry climate, typical of high desert bordering alpine areas. The average annual total precipitation is 9.8 inches and average annual snowfall is 33.5 inches.

There is a high school, elementary school, several churches, library, medical clinic, grocery store, lumber store, general store, plus several restaurants, bars and motels. Mackay has a 9-hole golf course, RV park, and campgrounds. Housing is inexpensive and available compared to many communities. It hosts events such as the Mackay rodeo, the A.B.A.T.E. motorcycle rodeo, several golf tournaments, Custer County Fair, Free Mackay Barbeque, RMEF banquet, and the Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering.