

## Tips for Applying for Forest Service Wildland Fire Jobs

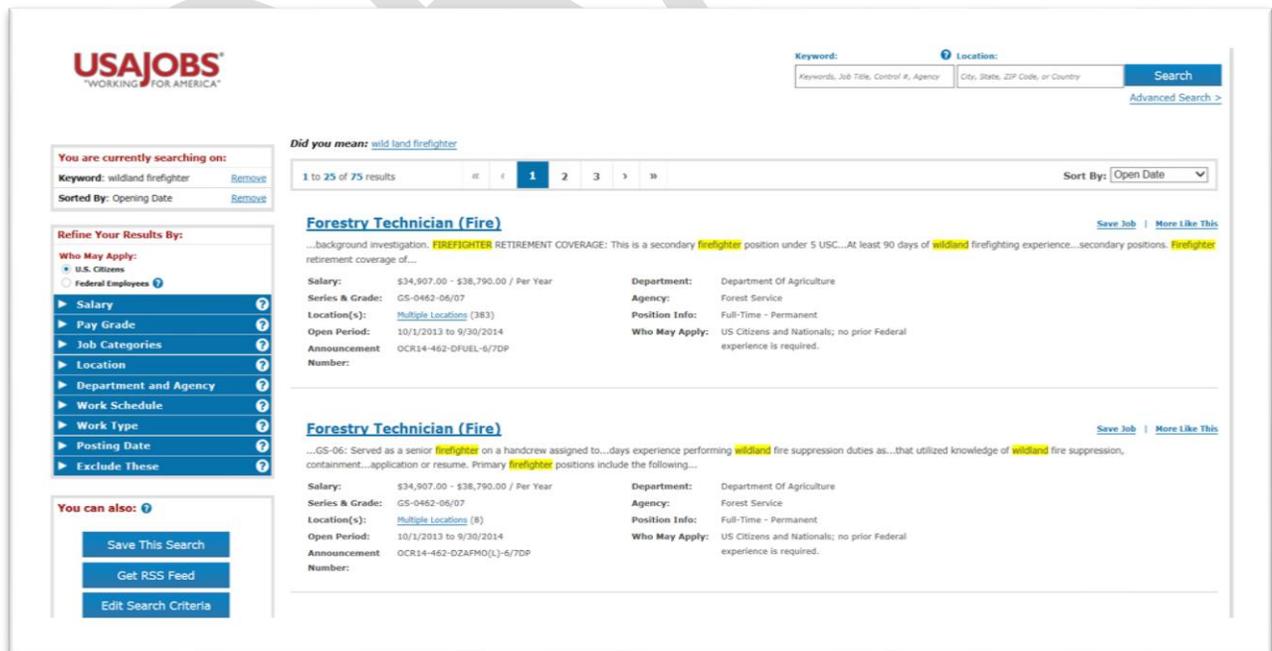
There are several options you can pursue to get a Forest Service firefighting job. The first step is to set up an account at USAJOBS at <https://www.usajobs.gov/> where you can upload your resume, college transcripts, DD-214, and other documentation. USAJOBS has specific instruction on “How to Apply” for each position. The following information is intended to help individuals find which particular jobs they might wish to apply for.

Once you have a USAJOBS account, you can begin a job search. In the keyword box, enter **wildland firefighter**.



The screenshot shows the USAJOBS search page. The USAJOBS logo is at the top center. Below it, there are two input fields: "Keyword:" with the text "wildland firefighter" and "Location:" with a placeholder "City, State, ZIP Code, or Country". There are two radio buttons for "U.S. Citizens" (selected) and "Federal Employees". A blue "Search" button is to the right, and a link for "Advanced Search >" is below it. At the bottom, there are links for "Individuals with Disabilities", "Veterans", "Students and Recent Graduates", and "Senior Executives".

This will bring up the vast majority of wildland fire jobs, from entry-level to fire management officer, from all federal agencies.



The screenshot shows the USAJOBS search results page. The USAJOBS logo is at the top left. The search criteria are shown at the top right: "Keyword: wildland firefighter" and "Location: City, State, ZIP Code, or Country". A "Search" button is to the right, and a link for "Advanced Search >" is below it. The results are displayed in a table format. The first result is "Forestry Technician (Fire)". The second result is also "Forestry Technician (Fire)".

**You are currently searching on:**  
Keyword: wildland firefighter  
Sorted By: Opening Date

**Refine Your Results By:**  
Who May Apply:  
U.S. Citizens  
Federal Employees

**You can also:**  
Save This Search  
Get RSS Feed  
Edit Search Criteria

**Did you mean:** wild land firefighter

1 to 25 of 75 results

**Forestry Technician (Fire)**  
...background investigation. **FIREFIGHTER** RETIREMENT COVERAGE: This is a secondary **firefighter** position under 5 USC...At least 90 days of **wildland** firefighting experience...secondary positions. **Firefighter** retirement coverage of...  
Salary: \$34,907.00 - \$38,790.00 / Per Year  
Series & Grade: GS-0462-06/07  
Location(s): Multiple Locations (383)  
Open Period: 10/1/2013 to 9/30/2014  
Announcement Number: OCR14-462-DFUEL-6/7DP  
Department: Department Of Agriculture  
Agency: Forest Service  
Position Info: Full-Time - Permanent  
Who May Apply: US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

**Forestry Technician (Fire)**  
...GS-06: Served as a senior **firefighter** on a handcrew assigned to...days experience performing **wildland** fire suppression duties as...that utilized knowledge of **wildland** fire suppression, containment...application or resume. Primary **firefighter** positions include the following...  
Salary: \$34,907.00 - \$38,790.00 / Per Year  
Series & Grade: GS-0462-06/07  
Location(s): Multiple Locations (8)  
Open Period: 10/1/2013 to 9/30/2014  
Announcement Number: OCR14-462-DZAFMO(L)-6/7DP  
Department: Department Of Agriculture  
Agency: Forest Service  
Position Info: Full-Time - Permanent  
Who May Apply: US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

After you get an initial list of vacancies, you can refine your search using several filters, such as **Pay Grade**. Most entry-level temporary firefighting jobs are at the GS-2 to GS-4 grade levels. It generally takes a minimum 90 days of wildland firefighting experience and certain firefighting qualifications to qualify for higher grade levels, as well as permanent or permanent seasonal GS-4/5 **Senior Firefighter** positions.

The screenshot shows the USAJOBS search results page for the keyword "wildland firefighter". The search is refined by "Pay Grade" (Grades 3, 4, and 5 are selected) and "Job Categories" (Location, Department and Agency, Work Schedule, Work Type, and Posting Date are expanded). Three job listings are visible:

- Forestry Technician (Helitack)**: Salary \$27,990.00 - \$31,315.00 / Per Year. Series & Grade: GS-0462-04/05. Location(s): Multiple Locations (78). Open Period: 10/18/2013 to 9/30/2014. Announcement Number: OCR14-462-HLTKSRFF-4/SDP.
- Forestry Technician (hotshot/handcrew)**: Salary \$27,990.00 - \$31,315.00 / Per Year. Series & Grade: GS-0462-04/05. Location(s): Multiple Locations (326). Open Period: 10/21/2013 to 9/30/2014. Announcement Number: OCR14-462-IHC/HCREW-4/SDPA.
- Forestry Technician (Fire Engine Operator)**: Salary \$27,990.00 - \$27,990.00 / Per Year. Series & Grade: GS-0462-04/05. Location(s): Multiple Locations (331). Open Period: 12/1/2013 to 9/30/2014. Announcement Number: OCR14-462-ENGSRFF-4/SDP.

You can also narrow your search by listing only certain **Locations** that you are interested in. You can also filter by **Department or Agency** to see only Forest Service vacancies.

The screenshot shows the USAJOBS search results page for the keyword "wildland firefighter". The search is refined by "Department and Agency" (Department of Agriculture and Forest Service are selected). Two job listings are visible:

- Forestry Technician (hotshot/handcrew)**: Salary \$27,990.00 - \$31,315.00 / Per Year. Series & Grade: GS-0462-04/05. Location(s): Multiple Locations (326). Open Period: 10/21/2013 to 9/30/2014. Announcement Number: OCR14-462-IHC/HCREW-4/SDPA.
- Forestry Technician (Fire Engine Operator)**: Salary \$27,990.00 - \$27,990.00 / Per Year. Series & Grade: GS-0462-04/05. Location(s): Multiple Locations (531). Open Period: 12/1/2013 to 9/30/2014. Announcement Number: OCR14-462-ENGSRFF-4/SDP.

Below each job listed, you will see a summary that shows, among other things, **Series and Grade**, **Location(s)**, **Open Period**, and **Who May Apply**.

**FORESTRY TECHNICIAN (Fire Suppression)** [Save Job](#) | [More Like Thi](#)

...purpose of the position is **wildland** fire suppression/management/control, as a **firefighter** on an engine, hotshot...aviation module. Other **wildland** fire related duties might...saws, to control spreading **wildland** fire. Lays or directs hose...

<b>Salary:</b>	\$13.55 - \$13.55 / Per Hour	<b>Department:</b>	Department Of Agriculture
<b>Series &amp; Grade:</b>	GS-0462-04/04	<b>Agency:</b>	Forest Service
<b>Location(s):</b>	Westfir, Oregon	<b>Position Info:</b>	Full-Time - Temporary
<b>Open Period:</b>	7/28/2014 to 8/1/2014	<b>Who May Apply:</b>	US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.
<b>Announcement Number:</b>	14-TEMP110618-059476KR-DT		

Regarding **Series and Grade**, all USFS, NPS, and BIA firefighter jobs are under the GS-462, Forestry Technician series. BLM firefighter jobs are in the GS-455 Range Technician series.

As for **Location**, many positions are on “Open and Continuous Recruitment” announcements (OCRs), and don’t list specific job locations. Instead, they will list **Multiple Locations**. The **Announcement Number** will also begin with **OCR**.

**LEAD FORESTRY TECHNICIAN (FEO)**

...utilized knowledge of **wildland** fire suppression, containment...or resume. Primary **firefighter** positions include the...primary or secondary **firefighter**/law enforcement position -OR...Core R Fire Behavior. To receive...

<b>Salary:</b>	\$34,907.00 - \$34,907.00 / Per Year	<b>Department:</b>	Department Of Agriculture
<b>Series &amp; Grade:</b>	GS-0462-06/06	<b>Agency:</b>	Forest Service
<b>Location(s):</b>	<a href="#">Multiple Locations</a> (559)	<b>Position Info:</b>	Full-Time - Permanent
<b>Open Period:</b>	12/1/2013 to 9/30/2014	<b>Who May Apply:</b>	US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.
<b>Announcement Number:</b>	OCR14-462-AFEO-6DP		

Clicking on the **Multiple Locations** link will only give you a list of locations where that particular type of position *may* open, but not how many, or when. Hiring managers can request **Referral Lists** (lists of qualified candidates) that applied to their location any time during the **Open Period** dates.

To find if, when, and where there are USFS firefighting vacancies in a position you find in USAJOBS, you’ll need to go to the Forest Service “**Outreach**” page at <https://hrm.gdci.com/outreach/Default.aspx>. Select **0462 – Forestry Technician** in the drop-down box labeled **Series** and do a **Search**. This will show *all* Forestry Technician vacancies, such as those in timber and recreation, so you’ll need to sort through the **Job Titles** to find firefighting vacancies.

In the following example, there are two “Lead Forestry Technician” positions with “Engine Operator” in the title that look similar to the “Lead Forestry Technician (FEO)” position in the USAJOBS posting shown above.

**Outreach Notices**

To search for outreach notices, enter search criteria into one or more of the fields provided and click "Search". Click on a row to show details.

Series:

Grade:  Type:  All  Temporary  Permanent  Term Location:   Virtual

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**Forest Service Outreach Notices**

Posted	Ref. List Pull	Job Title	Series	Grades	Locations
07/17/2014	08/07/2014	LEAD FORESTRY TECHNICIAN, FIRE ENGINE OPERATOR(AFEO)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06	
07/17/2014	08/07/2014	District Fuels Technician	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06/07	
07/16/2014	08/06/2014	Forestry Technician (Engine Operator)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06	
07/14/2014	08/05/2014	Lead Forestry Technician (Hotshot / Hand crew)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06/07	
07/14/2014	08/04/2014	Forestry Technician - Timber Sale Administrator (2 positions)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	08/09/10	
07/14/2014	08/04/2014	Forestry Technician (Sale Administrator)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	08/09/10	
06/26/2014	07/21/2014	Forestrv Technician -	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06/07	

If you click on the **Job Title** for each position, they will expand to show additional information.

**Outreach Notices**

To search for outreach notices, enter search criteria into one or more of the fields provided and click "Search". Click on a row to show details.

Series:

Grade:  Type:  All  Temporary  Permanent  Term Location:   Virtual

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**Forest Service Outreach Notices**

Posted	Ref. List Pull	Job Title	Series	Grades	Locations
07/17/2014	08/07/2014	LEAD FORESTRY TECHNICIAN, FIRE ENGINE OPERATOR(AFEO)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06	
		<b>Units:</b> R10 - Chugach National Forest			<b>Appointment Term:</b> Permanent
		<b>Bargaining Unit Status Position:</b> Yes			<b>Contact:</b> <a href="#">Bobette S Rowe</a> 907-288-7732
		<b>Announcement:</b> OCR14-462-AFEO-6DP, OCR14-462-AFEO-6G Open Continuous Recruitment (OCR)			
07/17/2014	08/07/2014	District Fuels Technician	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06/07	
07/16/2014	08/06/2014	Forestry Technician (Engine Operator)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06	
		<b>Units:</b> R2 - White River National Forest			<b>Appointment Term:</b> Permanent
		<b>Bargaining Unit Status Position:</b> Yes			<b>Contact:</b> <a href="#">Justin D Conrad</a> 970-328-5940
		<b>Announcement:</b> OCR14-462-AFEO-6G&DP Open Continuous Recruitment (OCR)			
07/14/2014	08/05/2014	Lead Forestry Technician (Hotshot / Hand crew)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	06/07	
07/14/2014	08/04/2014	Forestry Technician - Timber Sale Administrator (2 positions)	0462 - FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	08/09/10	

In this case, notice that they both the same **Announcement number** as the "Lead Forestry Technician (FEO)" position listed in the USAJOBS example "OCR-14-462-AFEO-6DP." (Note: the "DP" at the end signifies that this is open to any U.S. citizen or National. A "G" signifies that the announcement is only open to current permanent Federal employees with competitive status, reinstatement eligibles, persons with disabilities, VEOA/VRA eligibles, certain military spouses, 30% or more disabled veterans, former Peace Corps or VISTA volunteers, CTAP/ICTAP eligibles, Farm Service Agency permanent county employees and those eligible for other Special Hiring Authorities.)

A **Referral List** is scheduled to be pulled for the position on the White River NF on 08/06/2014, and the one on the Chugach NF on 08/07/2014. So, anyone interested in those positions need to apply for them in USAJOBS prior those posted dates.

When applying for any position in USAJOBS, you will be required to identify specific **locations** (i.e. town/city and state) that you wish to be considered for. Since none is listed in the above example for either (just the NF name), one would have call the **Contact** persons listed to find out prior to applying.

Several Forest Service Regions do consolidated “**Fire Hiring**” for both permanent and temporary positions. Those announcements can be found on the **Outreach** page when posted, and also at <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/openings-fire.shtml>.

In addition to the above information, instructions specific to USAJOBS in general can be found at [http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/USAJOBS\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/USAJOBS_Instructions.pdf).

Finally, one of the best ways to increase your chances of getting hired is to do some networking. Start with the **Contact** person listed in the announcement. Often times they are also the hiring manager for that position. If you live nearby a Forest Service office, call and ask to speak with the Fire Management Officer about any vacancies they might have, or know about elsewhere (call first, don’t just “drop by”). Even if there is nothing open at the time, you can ask him/her to let you know when a job becomes open.

**FOR VETERANS:** You may be eligible to be hired under a Special Appointing Authority (see guidelines at [http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/vets\\_spec\\_auth.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/vets_spec_auth.shtml)). If you meet the criteria of any of those authorities, be sure to pass that information onto any hiring officials you talk to, and enter all pertinent information on any job applications you submit.

Another option is the Veterans Fire Corps, which is a partnership between the Forest Service, Student Conservation Association, Conservation Legacy, and California Conservation Corps. These groups hire and train veterans in wildland firefighting, and provide work experience in firefighting and fuels management. This prepares veterans for future employment with federal and state wildland fire agencies, and the Veterans Fire Corps has been very successful in helping veterans find fire and other natural resource jobs. To apply for Veterans Fire Corps jobs, go to their website at <http://www.veteransfirecorps.org>.

Clicking the “TO APPLY” link at the bottom of the page will take you to a page with links to the three partners.