

Outreach Notice

**Wildland Firefighter Apprentice
Forestry Technician
GS-0462-03/04/05
Tahoe National Forest**

Job Details:

Title: Wildland Firefighter Apprentice

Series: 0462

Grade: GS-03/04/05

Respond By Date: 09/05/15

The Tahoe National Forest is currently outreaching for approximately 12 Wildland Firefighter Apprentice positions. These positions are permanent seasonal; at the GS-03 and GS-04 level: guaranteed 13 pay periods a year; at the GS-05 level: guaranteed 18 pay-periods a year. After completion of the Apprentice program and placed in a permanent position of record at the GS-462-05 Senior Firefighter level, employees will be converted to a permanent full-time tour of duty. This position is developmental to the full performance GS-462-05 grade level (Wildland Senior Firefighter). Applicants will be eligible for non-competitive promotion to the GS-05 without further competition upon meeting OPM qualifications, satisfactory work performance, and supervisory recommendation.

Selections will start being made during the week of November 02, 2015. Please provide accurate phone numbers on your application where you can be reached during that time.

Duties: Work on a hand crew, engine crew or helicopter crew performing duties in wildland fire suppression, fire prevention and fuels reduction. Wildland fire suppression activities include building fireline with hand tools, establishing fireline hose lays, controlling wildland fire, and cleaning / maintaining firefighting equipment. Fire prevention work includes sign placement, patrolling and fire prevention presentations. Fuels reduction activities include line construction for prescribed burning operations, cutting and piling brush and slash for pile burning, and planned use of fire in prescribed fire operations.

NOTE: YOU MUST SPECIFY THE DUTY STATION, Nevada City, CA WHEN YOU APPLY. Duty assignments may be filled at the following locations: Truckee Ranger District, Sierraville Ranger District, American River Ranger District and Yuba River Ranger District.

To be considered for these positions, apply through usajobs.gov website (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>). Applicants must apply no later than September 11, 2015. Up to 12 positions may be filled. Applicants can start applying August 12, 2015 to the following vacancy announcement number, 15-FIRE-R5FALL-WFAP-345 which is posted in the USAJobs website.

Job Location (s):**Forest: Tahoe National Forest**

The Tahoe National Forest is 850,000 acres located in the north central Sierra Nevada Range between Lake Tahoe and the Sacramento Valley. The land rises from an elevation of 1,500 feet in the Sierra foothills on the west to 9,400 feet along the rugged ridges of the Sierra Crest. Interstate 80 and Highway 49 crisscross the Forest and offer year-round access. The forest has served as the gateway to the Pacific since the first pioneers crossed the plains in search of the riches of the California gold fields in the 1840s. This history is still much in evidence, as local communities have retained the flavor and character of their Gold Rush origins. The Forest is truly one of multiple uses. Timber and biomass harvest continues to be viable in the Gold Country. It is also a very important recreation forest. Wilderness and Wild River uses, Western States Trail, off-highway vehicle use, hiking, camping, fishing, rafting and kayaking are popular local activities. Mining is still popular today with about 1500 active claims on the Forest. Water issues are also becoming increasingly important as rivers that originate in the Forest provide water to local communities as well as the Reno, Sacramento and Southern California areas.

Yuba River Ranger District Duty Locations:**Nevada City, CA:**

Considered one of the most desirable places to live in California, Nevada City and its companion city Grass Valley, offers the amenities of a much larger community, as well as a rural setting. Numerous medical services including a full service Hospital, a community college and several live theaters are also available. Western Nevada County has a population of about 50,000 although the incorporated area of Nevada City is 3,000 and Grass Valley is 10,000+. Housing prices range from \$250,000 to \$650,000. Apartment / House rentals range from \$800.00 and up. Pines, oaks, and maples as well as numerous reservoirs and streams surround these attractive foothill towns. The average rainfall is about 55 inches. An occasional snow occurs during the winter, but does not remain long. Summers range from 85 - 100 degrees. Within less than 30 minutes commuting distance are the communities of Colfax, Cedar Ridge, Penn Valley, Lake of the Pines and Alta Sierra. Within approximately 45 minutes commuting distance are the communities Auburn and Downieville. Truckee is approximately a 1 hour drive (in good weather) over the Sierra Crest from Nevada City. The Tahoe NF is located in the north central Sierra Nevada Range between Lake Tahoe and the Sacramento Valley. The land rises from an elevation of 1,500 feet in the Sierra foothills on the west to 9,400 feet along the rugged ridges of the Sierra Crest. Interstate 80 and Highway 49 crisscross the Forest and offer year-round access. The forest has served as the gateway to the Pacific since the first pioneers crossed the plains in search of the riches of the California gold fields in the 1840s. This history is still much in evidence, as local communities have retained the flavor and character of their Gold Rush origins. The Forest is truly one of multiple uses. It is also a very important recreation forest. Winter skiing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking and camping are popular local activities. Mining is still popular today with about 5,000 claims. Early day land grants to railroads have accounted for a checkerboard ownership pattern throughout most of the Forest. Although mostly owned by private timber companies, this extent of private land offers growing challenges in the form of a developing urban/rural wildland interface. Water issues are also becoming increasingly important as rivers that originate in the Forest provide water to local communities as well as the Reno and Sacramento areas.

Downieville, CA:

Downieville California is a small town on scenic Highway 49 in Gold Country. Downieville is situated at the confluence of the Downie River and North Fork of the Yuba River. The town of Downieville (population 350) has many recreation opportunities including cycling, off-road motorcycling, and kayaking, hiking, and gold panning. Fishing for planted rainbow trout and for German browns also is an attraction. With an elevation of about 3000 feet, winters are mild and summers are pleasant.

Camptonville, CA:

Camptonville, California, is a small town on scenic Highway 49 in Gold Country. The town of Camptonville (population 400) has a volunteer fire department, a K-8 grade school, a post office, a part time restaurant, two churches, and a small mini market. With an elevation of about 2,500 feet winters are mild and summers are pleasant. Many employees live in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area (population 40,000) located 25 miles south. Nevada City/Grass Valley is a full service semi-urban area, offering many elementary schools, high schools, restaurants, shopping centers, churches, grocery stores, movie theaters, etc. From Grass Valley it is approximately 90 miles to Reno, Nevada- 60

miles to Sacramento; and 150 miles to San Francisco. Lake Tahoe and abundant skiing opportunities are about 70 miles to the east.

Soda Springs, CA:

Located just off interstate 80, approximately 14 miles west of Truckee, CA and 45 miles west of Reno, NV, this small resort destination offers very few amenities. The majority of the homes are summer cabins. There are more amenities and housing opportunities in Truckee and Reno.

American River Ranger District Duty Location:

Foresthill, CA.

The duty station is in the mountain community of Foresthill, located approximately 17 miles east from Auburn and Interstate 80. Home prices in Foresthill start at approximately \$165,000 and rent prices range from approximately \$600/month on up. In addition, trailer pads are available at the Forest Service trailer park. Government barracks may be available. Foresthill is a beautiful community dating back to the California Gold Rush. It is located at approximately 3100' elevation on the Foresthill Divide between the North and Middle Forks of the American River. It is surrounded on the south and west by the Auburn State Recreation Area, on the north by BLM Lands, and on the east by National Forest. The American River Ranger District is distinguished with a portion of Granite Chief Wilderness, the North Fork American River, Placer County Big Trees, and the northern most grove of Giant Sequoias. The area is also known for its beauty, rafting, hiking, horseback riding, mining and logging activities. There are 2 grocery stores, daycare facilities, a post office, an elementary, middle school and high school, bank, hardware store, 4 restaurants, 2 gas stations, park with softball diamonds and a pool available, with much more available in Auburn. Sierra Community College is a 45-minute drive away and UC Davis and CSU Sacramento are within commuting distance. Housing in Foresthill is primarily rural flavored and home values in the Foresthill area range from 180,000 to 400,000. Auburn has both rural and urban settings and home values range from 200,000 to 440,000.

Sierraville Ranger District Duty Location:

Sierraville, CA:

The Sierraville Ranger District is located in the Sierra Valley in the mountains of the eastern Sierra Nevada 25 miles north of Truckee and Interstate 80 on State Route 89 North. It is a picturesque area with elevations ranging from about 5500 feet to about 8,000 ft. The area receives quite a bit of snow usually November through April. Reno, Nevada is located about one hour driving time to the east. Lake Tahoe is about 40 miles to the south. The area provides a full range of programs and is known as a premiere winter and summer recreation destination area. Sierraville and the Sierra Valley area are considered very rural with cattle ranches and logging industry to lend to the economics of the communities. The east side of the Sierra is a special place to live and work with magnificent natural beauty and many ways to enjoy it. The area offers excellent summer and winter recreation opportunities. Numerous winter sport recreation areas are located within a 40 mile radius. The area offers the best in alpine and nordic skiing, and snowmobiling. There are many high alpine lakes, reservoirs and rivers. The area also offers excellent opportunities for fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, camping, hiking, biking and horseback riding.

Housing: There is not an abundance of rental housing available in either Sierraville or Truckee area. Rent in the Sierraville area (mostly around Loyalton, Calpine, and Portola) range from \$700 to \$800 per month for a small house. Home ownership around the Sierra Valley starts around \$150,000 and goes up. There is no government housing available at Sierraville.

More reasonable housing, both to rent and buy is available in the Reno, approximately 55 miles from Sierraville. Rent in the Truckee area ranges upward from \$850 a month for apartments with rental houses starting at about \$1200 per month. Home ownership of an average 3BR, 2BA house starts at about \$300,000.

Schools: In the Sierraville area there are four local communities within 30 minutes of Sierraville. They are Truckee, Loyalton, Calpine and Portola. Portola and Loyalton provide high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. Students in Sierraville and Calpine are transported to either Portola or Loyalton schools. Sierra College offers extension courses in Truckee throughout the year. Feather River Community College is 45 minutes to the west in Quincy and the University of Nevada, Reno and the Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno are also within commuting distance.

Shopping: The Sierra Valley area is limited to smaller stores in each community where you can procure the basic supplies. Loyalton and Portola have the most to choose from and have smaller gas stations, book stores, pharmacies, hardware stores and restaurants. There is more shopping in the Truckee area where there is a variety of specialty stores along with the usual businesses you would expect to find such as sporting goods, grocery stores, drug stores, hardware stores, etc. Most shopping needs can be fulfilled in Truckee; however residents most often travel and shop in Reno where the selection is larger and prices can be significantly lower.

Medical Facilities: In Sierra Valley, medical services are available in Loyalton and Portola. Truckee area provides the Tahoe Forest Hospital, a 24 hour facility with many physicians and specialists on staff. There is an emergency room, pharmacy, lab, and surgical facilities in Truckee. Portola also has a small hospital and is available to transport via ambulance and life-flight for specialized care to other regional hospitals located in Reno or Sacramento. Other health care available in the Sierra Valley are dentists, physical therapy offices, eye doctors, and chiropractors.

Truckee Ranger District Duty Location:

Truckee, CA:

The Truckee Ranger District Office is located in Truckee, California on Interstate 80, approximately 35 miles west of Reno, Nevada and 15 miles north of Lake Tahoe. Sacramento and San Francisco are about 100 miles and 200 miles west, respectively. The town elevation varies between 5200 and 7200 feet. The population is nearing 16,000. Daytime summer temperatures are usually in the 70s and low 80s, but can be as high as 100 degrees. Nighttime winter temperatures are normally in the 10 to minus 10-degree range, but have been known to go down well into the minus 20s. For more information about the town of Truckee, visit their website <http://www.townoftruckee.com>.

If you would like to more information about our positions and would like to be notified when the vacancy announcement is posted in USAJobs website, please submit the outreach form to Deirdre Cherry, dcherry@fs.fed.us

For Further Information Please Contact:

Name: Deirdre Cherry – Supervisor’s Office

Phone: (530) 478-6258

Fax: 530-478-6179

Address: Supervisor's Office - 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959

Email: dcherry@fs.fed.us

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

**Wildland Firefighter Apprentice
Forestry Technician
GS-0462-03/04/05
Tahoe National Forest
Duty Location: Nevada City, CA**

If you are interested in applying for this position, please complete this form describing your current status and return it to **dcherry@fs.fed.us**

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NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____ USFS _____ BLM _____ OTHER _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____ PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM
_____ VRA _____ PWD _____ OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL
AUTHORITIES:

_____ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
_____ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
_____ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
_____ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
_____ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
_____ PATHWAYS PROGRAM (i.e. Internships, Recent Grads)
_____ OTHER _____

How did you hear about this vacancy announcement? _____

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy

USDA Forest Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer