

**OUTREACH NOTICE**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
***Salmon-Challis National Forest***  
***Challis-Yankee Fork R.D.***  
***Forestry Aid and Forestry Technician***

The Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest will shortly be filling seasonal fire positions. The purpose of this Notice is to inform interested individuals prior to filling the position.

***About the Position***

***Series/Grade:*** Forestry Aid - Fire General GS-3, Forestry Technician - Handcrew GS-4, Forestry Technician - Engine GS-4

***Title:*** Forestry Aid - Fire General, Forestry Technician – Handcrew and Forestry Technician - Engine

***Locations:*** Challis and Clayton, Idaho

***Tour of Duty:*** June 03 thru September 30

***Housing:*** There is government quarters available at the Yankee Fork Work Center and limited government quarters in Challis.

***Duties:*** Serves on crews performing duties in fire prevention and suppression. Performs prescribed burning crew duties in order to reduce fuel hazards and disease, while protecting wildlife. Lays or directs hose in the use of water. Moves dirt, chops brush, and fells small trees to build fireline using various hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, and McLeods to control spreading wildland fire and/or to prepare lines prior to controlled burning. Chops, carries, and piles logging slash. Searches out and extinguishes burning materials by moving dirt, applying water by hose or backpack pump. Patrols fireline to locate and extinguish sparks, flare-ups, and hot spots that may threaten loss of control of the fire. Cleans, reconditions, and stores simple fire tools and equipment. Employees will perform basic duties in support of fire, timber, silviculture, recreation, wilderness, or research programs, projects, or activities. *These positions are primary fire positions and taking and passing the Work Capacity at the arduous level is a condition of employment.*

**TO APPLY:**

If you are interested, the vacancy announcement for this position is posted on the U.S. Government official website for employment opportunities at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) vacancy announcement.

- Forestry Aid - Fire General GS-3, OCRT-462-3-FIRE-DT
- Forestry Technician - Handcrew GS-4, OCRT-462-4-HANDCREW-DT
- Forestry Technician - Engine GS-4, OCRT-462-4-ENGINE-DT

Any Questions or you are interested in these positions please contact:

Dan Bartel  
Zone AFMO  
Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District  
H/C 63 box 1669 Challis, Id 83226  
208-879-4110

By e-mail: [dhbartel@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhbartel@fs.fed.us)

**or**

Bill Blount  
Zone FMO  
Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District  
208-879-4123

## **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 Forest Office is located in Salmon, Idaho. There are currently seven 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 Districts, visit the website - [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/)

## **Challis, Idaho (www.challisidaho.com)**

**The City:** Challis, Idaho is located a mile high 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:** Challis has a variety of shops and services including: grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, pharmacies, florists, veterinarians, autoparts, ranch supplies, sporting goods stores, bars, hardware and lumber stores, video rentals, gas stations, and other businesses that specialize in antiques, jewelry, photo developing, clothing, furniture, artwork, appliances, and gifts. There is a full-service bank, a credit union, a Post Office, and a public library. For more information about the area, log on to the website - [www.challisidaho.com](http://www.challisidaho.com).

Media include the local weekly newspaper and two regional newspapers delivered daily. Cable TV is available in the city and many county residents use satellite receivers. Semi-local radio transmits from Salmon, Idaho, which includes Challis news. With an external antenna, several Southern Idaho FM radio stations can be received.

**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. The school district is accredited and has an 2A rating for athletics. Extracurricular activities include interscholastic sports, music, and various interest activities such as an Academic Team, an Envirothon Team, and Frontier League sports. Each school has an up-to-date computer lab and there are computers in each classroom.

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

**Housing:** There are four motels in Challis and several bed and breakfast lodgings. Housing prices range from \$50,000 to over \$100,000. Several real estate offices are available. Mobile home parks provide additional accommodations. A fair selection of rental properties are usually available.

**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 Forest Service has an exercise room, and there is also a commercial body building 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 world-famed 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.

***Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!***