

OUTREACH NOTICE
USDA Forest Service
Salmon-Challis National Forest
North & South Zone Fire Organizations
Forestry Technician Lookout
Reply Due: January 29th, 2014

The North & South Zone Fire organizations on the Salmon-Challis National Forest may be filling seasonal fire lookout positions. The purpose of this Notice is to inform interested individuals prior to filling the position.

About the Position

Series/Grade: Forestry Technician - lookout GS-4

Title: Forestry Technician – lookout

Locations: North Fork, ID; Salmon, ID; Challis, ID; Clayton, ID; Mackay, ID (Remote lookout to be determined at later date)

Tour of Duty: Seasonal appointment, approximately June 1st, thru September 30th. Length of appointment can change dependent upon seasonal conditions.

Housing: Employee will be housed at the lookout.

*The number of available positions is unknown at this time. However, interested applicants are encouraged to submit the *outreach response form*, located at the end of this *outreach notice*, to the address found under *how to apply*. Applicants can also submit the *outreach response form* via e-mail.

Duties: Serves as a remote lookout in the detection of wildland fires. Assists fire dispatch through operation of radios, telephones and other necessary equipment to exchange information for fire weather and other forest suppression activities. Reports smoke and fire location, estimated size, and other pertinent information. Reads simple weather instruments and reports wind direction, wind speed, temperature, humidity, and fire behavior information as needed. Keeps dispatcher and fire officials informed of current conditions. The employee will also be responsible for performing minor maintenance and upkeep on the lookout and communicating maintenance needs to supervisor.

Due to the remoteness of the lookout, the employee must be independent and physically capable of performing work such as carrying fire wood, drinking water, and other supplies up stairs and into the lookout. The employee must also maintain a supply of food, drinking water, and necessary personal items for 14 consecutive days. The

following is a list of lookouts on the Salmon-Challis National Forest that are typically staffed during fire season. Positions may be available at one or more of these locations.

- Ruffneck Peak lookout (9,407' elev.) L-4 cab was built in 1932 and is located in the Frank Church River of No Return Wildness 21 miles northwest of Stanley. Ruffneck lookout is only accessible by trail and is four miles from the road.
www.firelookout.com/id/ruffneck.html
- Pinyon Peak lookout (9,942' elev.) R-4 frame cab was built in 1930 and is located 34 miles west northwest of Challis Idaho.
<http://www.firelookout.com/id/pinyonpeak.html>
- Twin Peaks lookout (10,394' elev.) R-6 flat cab was built in 1964. It is the highest active fire lookout in the Pacific Northwest.
<http://www.firelookout.com/id/twinpeaks.html>
- Stein Mountain Lookout (8,555' elev.) Developed in 1917 with a log cabin, the present 10' concrete base topped with an R-6 flat cab, built in 1958 on the far west end of the ridge, is staffed in the summer.
<http://www.firelookout.com/id/steinmtn.html>
- Longtom Lookout (8,168' elev.) Constructed in 1977 with the current 10' concrete base with R-6 flat cab, located 1/2 mile south of the summit.
<http://www.firelookout.com/id/longtom.html>
- Middle Fork Peak (9,127' elev.) Established in 1929 with a cabin, a 10' concrete base with R-6 flat cab was constructed in 1962, and is staffed in the summer.
<http://www.firelookout.com/id/middleforkpeak.html>

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 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/

About Salmon, Idaho (www.salmonidaho.com)

The City: Salmon is the heart of the Salmon River Valley, surrounded by three mountain ranges, situated at the junction of Idaho State Highway 28 and U.S. Highway 93, and at the forks of the Lemhi and Salmon Rivers. The city has a population of approximately 3,100 and is the seat of Lemhi County which has a population of 8,000. The main industries are ranching, mining, timber and recreation. Salmon is known as the "White Water Capital of the World" serving as the hub of personal and outfitter, jet boat and rafting river activities. At 4,000 feet elevation, the surrounding terrain varies greatly from rolling, arid hills to steep, forested slopes. For more information about the city and area, visit the website: www.salmonidaho.com

Climate: Salmon 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.

Shopping and Services: Salmon is a self-contained community with a full variety of shopping, business, medical, and professional services. In addition to basic services, there are a variety of specialty shops and art galleries. Salmon also has nursing and residential care facilities, hospice, Child Development Center and a spectrum of social services. Most service clubs and associations are represented. The public library offers computer and other services, and there are two internet access providers.

Salmon has a Mayor, City Council, City Administrator form of government, with elected County Commissioners, and is under the protection of the City Police, County Sheriff's Department and local Fire Station.

Utilities that serve the city are the Idaho Power and Light Company and the Century Telephone of Idaho Inc.

Media include an AM/FM radio station, satellite and cable TV and the weekly Recorder-Herald newspaper.

Medical: The City of Salmon has a local 30-bed community hospital affiliated with the major hospital of Missoula, Montana, and provides Life-Flight helicopter, EMT, Search

and Rescue units, physicians, dentists, optometrists, and also specialist affiliations with the Western Montana Medical Clinic.

Schools: A good variety of pre-schools and day-care centers are available in addition to the elementary, junior and senior high schools. The schools offer numerous extra-curricular activities and sports, and strive for quality education with creative, athletic, and scholastic achievements.

Transportation: Cart Bus Transportation is provided for seniors and other citizens, in-city as well as to larger, distant communities. Taxi service is available. The Salmon Valley Airport provides scheduled commuter flights and charter services, is equipped with an instrument landing system and can accommodate executive jets and other small aircraft. Major commercial airports are located within 160 miles.

Housing: There are five motels in Salmon and various bed and breakfast accommodations in the surrounding vicinity. Housing prices range from approximately \$50,000 to over \$150,000. Monthly rental for a typical three-bedroom home runs around \$700. Several real estate offices are available, some with national affiliations. There are also mobile home parks and two in-city campgrounds.

Churches: Salmon has an active church community, a Christian book and gift store, school, and fourteen churches representing a large variety of denominations.

Entertainment and Activities: A wide assortment of entertainment is provided by various organizations throughout the year. The Salmon Arts Council provides high-quality artistic events for the community presenting a wide range of performers in music, theater, and dance, visual art shows and sales, artist workshops, artist-in education residences and other programs for the local schools. Other celebrations include Fourth of July Salmon River Days, Lil' Britches Rodeo, Lemhi County Fair and Idaho Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Salmon also has numerous restaurants, Movie Theater, and a fitness center. Recreation facilities include a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, bowling alley, baseball diamonds and an outdoor community swimming pool.

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

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 are renowned 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 primitive mountain area provides spectacular 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. 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.

HOW TO APPLY:

1 – Complete the attached OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM and submit to Jim Edgren and / or Dan Bartel **no later than January 29th, 2014** (mailing address & e-mail address below). ***It is very important to include your complete contact information, including e-mail address, on the form. We will need to contact you with the appropriate job announcement number and duty station location(s) once this becomes available. You will not be able to apply without this information.***

2 – Create a profile in USAJOBS. USAJOBS is the website the Forest Service uses to do all their hiring. After you have created a profile, you can begin the application process by creating and / or attaching resumes, references, or other similar documentation you may wish to include. The web address for USAJOBS is: <https://www.usajobs.gov/> ***You should not wait to receive the job announcement number and duty station location to start this process.***

3 – You will be contacted using the information you submit on the *outreach response form* with the specific job announcement number and duty station locations once this information becomes available to us. You will then need to access your profile in USAJOBS and apply to this specific job announcement and select the appropriate duty station(s).

If interested in working at Pinyon Peak Lookout, Twin Peaks Lookout or Roughneck Peak Lookout, please submit your completed *outreach response form* to:

Dan Bartel – South Zone AFMO
Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District
H/C 63 box 1669 Challis, Id 83226
By e-mail: dhbartel@fs.fed.us
208-879-4110

If interested in working at Stein Mountain Lookout, Longtom Lookout or Middle Fork Peak lookout, please submit your completed *outreach response form* to:

Jim Edgren – North Zone AFMO
PO Box 180
North Fork, ID 83466
By e-mail: jdedgren@fs.fed.us
208-865-2713

