



# Outreach Announcement

# FIRE HIRE 2026

## Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest will soon begin filling permanent positions in the Fire and Aviation Management program. The jobs listed below will be open in [USAjobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) **August 22 – September 23, 2025**. FIRE HIRE is the Forest Service hiring process for permanent fire positions. This process allows applicants to apply with a single application to multiple duty locations. Pay close attention to duty station selections.

All FIRE HIRE-specific announcements can be searched in USAJOBS by keyword **26-FIRE**. Applicants may also search by City, State (duty location).

Forests may immediately backfill positions that become vacant during the hiring process. Applicants are encouraged to apply for all positions and duty locations in which they are interested, even if they are not currently vacant, as positions may become vacant throughout the FIRE HIRE process.

Applicants are highly encouraged to **reach out to the program contacts** listed below to show interest.

### Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Fire & Aviation Management Contacts

CONTACT NAME	PROGRAM/OFFICE	PHONE #	EMAIL	DUTY LOCATION
Joe Sampson	Supervisor's Office	406-491-0884	<a href="mailto:Joseph.sampson@usda.gov">Joseph.sampson@usda.gov</a>	Dillon, MT
Eric Riener	Supervisor's Office	406-396-0724	<a href="mailto:Eric.riener@usda.gov">Eric.riener@usda.gov</a>	Dillon, MT
Monica Thomas	Anaconda Job Corps	406-546-0695	<a href="mailto:Monica.thomas@usda.gov">Monica.thomas@usda.gov</a>	Anaconda, MT
Kevin Smith	Butte Ranger District	406-491-0202	<a href="mailto:Kevin.j.smith@usda.gov">Kevin.j.smith@usda.gov</a>	Butte, MT Whitehall, MT
Aaron Knudson	Dillon Ranger District	775-846-3056	<a href="mailto:Aaron.knudson@usda.gov">Aaron.knudson@usda.gov</a>	Dillon, MT
Richard Griffin	Wisdom Ranger District	406-925-1951	<a href="mailto:Richard.griffin@usda.gov">Richard.griffin@usda.gov</a>	Wisdom, MT Wise River, MT
Jim King	Madison Ranger District	406-682-4253	<a href="mailto:James.king@usda.gov">James.king@usda.gov</a>	Ennis, MT
Jerod Russell	Pintler Ranger District	208-946-6803	<a href="mailto:Jerod.russell@usda.gov">Jerod.russell@usda.gov</a>	Philipsburg, MT
Randy Gilbert	Wise River Helitack	406-925-3779	<a href="mailto:Randy.j.gilbert@usda.gov">Randy.j.gilbert@usda.gov</a>	Wise River, MT
Claire Smith	Dillon Dispatch Center	406-683-3992	<a href="mailto:Claire.smith@usda.gov">Claire.smith@usda.gov</a>	Dillon, MT

## Current Vacancies on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

POSITION	GRADE	ANNOUNCEMENT #	CONTACT	DUTY LOCATION
Fire Prevention Tech.	GW 6/7	26-FIRE-P1VA-PREV2-67DH	Jerod Russell	Philipsburg, MT
Helitack Senior Firefighter	GW 4/5	26-FIRE-P1VA-HTKSRFF-45DH	Randy Gilbert	Wise River, MT
Helitack Squad Leader	GW 6/7	26-FIRE-P1VA-HTKSQLR-67DH	Randy Gilbert	Wise River, MT
Hand Crew Senior Firefighter	GW 4/5	26-FIRE-P1R146-IHCHCRW-45DH	Monica Thomas Kevin Smith Jerod Russell Kevin Smith	Anaconda, MT Butte, MT Philipsburg, MT Whitehall, MT
Hand Crew Squad Leader	GW 5/6	26-FIRE-P1R146-HCREW-56DH	Monica Thomas Kevin Smith Kevin Smith	Anaconda, MT Butte, MT Whitehall, MT
Hand Crew Assistant Supervisor	GW 6/7	26-FIRE-P1VA-HCREWT2-67DH	Kevin Smith Richard Griffin	Whitehall, MT Wisdom, MT
Engine Senior Firefighter	GW 4/5	26-FIRE-P1R146-ENGSRFF-45DH	Aaron Knudson Kevin Smith Jerod Russell Richard Griffin	Dillon, MT Butte, MT Philipsburg, MT Wisdom, MT
Assistant Fire Engine Operator	GW 5/6	26-FIRE-P1R146-AFEO-56DH	Aaron Knudson Kevin Smith Richard Griffin	Dillon, MT Whitehall, MT Wise River, MT
Fire Engine Operator	GW 6/7	26-FIRE-P1R146-FEOH-67DH	Aaron Knudson Jim King Kevin Smith Richard Griffin	Dillon, MT Ennis, MT Whitehall, MT Wise River, MT
Fuels Technician	GW 6/7	26-FIRE-P1R146-DFUEL-67DH	Aaron Knudson Richard Griffin	Dillon, MT Wisdom, MT
Senior Fuels Technician	GW 8	26-FIRE-P1R146-FFUELS-8DH	Aaron Knudson Jim King Jerod Russell	Dillon, MT Ennis, MT Philipsburg, MT
Initial Attack Dispatcher	GW 4-7	26-FIRE-P1VA-IADIS-4567DH	Claire Smith	Dillon, MT
Assistant Dispatch Center Manager	GW 8/9	26-FIRE-P1R1-DISPCM-89DH	Claire Smith	Dillon, MT

### Direct Hire Authority

These Wildland Firefighter positions are filled utilizing a Direct Hire Authority. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications, to include any selective placement factor(s), if applicable, will be referred to the selecting official. Preference Eligibility (Veterans Preference), Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act (LMWFA), and traditional rating and ranking of applicants is not applicable within Direct Hire Authority.

## Who May Apply

Applications can be submitted from any U.S. citizen. Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) and Forest Service – Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) qualifications must be met by the time of selection. Most recent IQCS master record and/or signed agency certified task book must be attached to your application.

Applicants may still be referred even if they do not meet IFPM qualifications at the time of application submission, but they will be required to submit an updated IQCS master record and/or signed agency certified task book at time of selection to show they do meet the qualification requirements.

## Transfer of Station and Incentives

Transfer of Station expenses will most likely not be offered for selected candidates in Region 1. Selected applicants may qualify for incentives, in accordance with agency policy.

## Process and Timelines

**August 22, 2025:** Vacancy Announcements OPEN in USAJOBS.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for multiple locations (where they would accept a position if offered), even if positions for certain locations in which you are interested are not currently vacant. Vacancies may occur during the hiring process and could be filled during the selection week.

**September 23, 2025:** Vacancy Announcements CLOSE.

To be considered for these announcements during the centralized FIRE HIRE event, applicants must complete the application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date.

**September 25, 2025:** HR Qualification Review period begins.

Applicants may receive qualification review notices from USAJOBS/HR in this timeframe.

**October 2025:** Reference checks begin (this timeframe is an estimate).

Monitor your email for an automated request to provide references and notify your supervisors they will be getting reference check requests.

**November 2025:** Hiring Managers will begin the hiring process.

All applicants who have applied to the announcements on or before the listed closing date and are found to be qualified will be referred for consideration. Applicants may check the status of their application during this time in USAJOBS.

**November 2025 – December 2025:** Selections occur.

Representatives from each unit will make recommendations for hiring. It is critical to be available via phone and email during this time.

**December 2025 – March 2026:** HRM Processing.

Selected applicants will be processed through onboarding – including personnel security, background checks, drug testing, etc., as required.

**March 2026:** Anticipated effective date (report to duty).

## How to Apply

Thoroughly read the entire announcement and all the instructions before you begin. Address specialized experience in your resume as denoted in “how you will be evaluated.”

Create a USAJOBS account at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). As part of your profile, set up automatic email notification to be informed of status of your application as it changes. Without automatic notification, you must log into your USAJOBS account to check on the status of your application.

Create a resume with USAJOBS or upload a resume into your USAJOBS account. Customize your resume to ensure it documents duties and accomplishments you have that directly relate to the position to verify qualifications are met. Your resume must directly support your responses to the online questionnaire.

Preview the questionnaire at the link at the end of the “How You Will Be Evaluated” section.

## Apply Online

Within the vacancy announcement for which you are applying, click “Apply Online.” Follow the prompts to complete the Questionnaire, to attach documentation, and to submit. Your application and attached documents can be edited anytime while the announcement is open by selecting “Update Application” under “Application Status.”

The following documents are examples of what may be required and/or attached to constitute a complete application package. It is your responsibility to ensure all required documents are current copies, correctly attached, within the required timeframe, and legible. Read the entire announcement for requirements.

- RESUME that includes the following information: 1) job information for which you are applying; 2) personal information; 3) education; 4) work experience, including start/stop dates and hours worked per week; and 5) other qualifications (including IQCS/IQS Master Record). Check supervisor emails to ensure they are correct.
- COVER LETTER outlining their current situation, desired/acceptable location(s), current home and work address, and any additional information to assist the hiring managers in making decisions. Resumes should include document headers with the applicant’s name.
- If a document is resubmitted, it replaces the previous submission, which means the previous document is no longer available to the Human Resources Office. If you are adding to, rather than replacing a previous submission, you must upload both the old document and the new document.
- IQCS Master Record showing your current training and qualifications.
- COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS, if education is required for meeting basic qualifications and/or you are substituting education for specialized experience.