



Vacancy Announcement

U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)

Fire Engine Operator (FEO), GW-0456-06/07
Lead Forestry Technician (AFEO), GW-0456-05/06
Dozer Assistant, GW-0456-06

Single Vacancies – PERMANENT Opportunities

Permanent Fire Hire FY26 Phase 3: March 10 through March 19, 2026



"Lake Tahoe from Mt. Tallac" Photo Credit: Jonathan Cook-Fisher

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit—located in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada is seeking to fill positions in our Suppression Organization. We have 4 Permanent Opportunities available (1 FEO, 2 AFEO's, and 1 Dozer Assistant). For more information on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/laketahoebasin/working-with-us/careers>.

This notice and the vacancies in USAJobs are in effect from **3/10/2026 to 3/19/2026**. For information related to the technical aspects of these positions, please contact Mike Wintch, District/Zone Fire Management Officer, at michael.wintch@usda.gov

Apply on USAjobs.gov using the following vacancy announcement numbers:

- **26-FIRE-P3VA-FEOH-67DH (FEO; South Lake Tahoe, CA)**
- **26-FIRE-P3VA-AFEO-56DH (AFEO; South Lake Tahoe, CA)**
- **26-FIRE-P3R5-FDZER-6DH (Dozer Assistant; South Lake Tahoe, CA)**

The Process and Timeline

March 10, 2026 — Vacancy announcements will be activated in [USAJobs](https://www.usajobs.gov).

March 19, 2026 — Application deadline, 11:59 Eastern standard time. Apply through www.usajobs.gov. Applicants are encouraged to apply for multiple locations (only where they would accept a position if offered), even if positions for certain locations in which you are interested are not listed as vacant. Vacancies may occur during the hiring process and could be filled during Selection Week.

April 10 – 27, 2026 — Supervisory Reference Checks will occur these weeks. Please ensure your references are notified of this and they are available at the email address (preferred), or phone number provided on your application.

April 13 – 27, 2026 — Interviews for GW-9/WL/WG-10 and all Supervisory positions will begin.

April 13 – 27, 2026 — Selections. Representatives from each forest will make recommendations for hiring. Candidates selected will be notified by a Forest Service representative by phone. Those not selected should check their USAJobs account for status updates. During the selection weeks candidates will be given 4 hours to respond to voicemails or emails from the recommending officials. It is highly encouraged to be available via phone during this time.

Mid-July 2026 — First possible effective date.

Note: Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) and Forest Service – Fire Program Management (FS-FPM) qualifications must be met at the time of selection. If you are selected, you may be required to submit an updated IQCS record or signed certified task book as proof of attainment of IFPM requirements prior to final verbal offer.

A current copy of your IQCS Master Record will be required for most positions in this outreach because of these qualification requirements.

Direct Hire Authority:

These positions will be 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. Before a certificate is issued to the selecting official, the resume is reviewed to ensure you meet the basic qualification requirements. A rating will not be used; veteran's preference does not apply due to the existence of the Direct Hire authority for this position.

Who May Apply:

Applications will be accepted from any U.S. citizen.

How to Apply:

Please print and read the entire announcement and all the instructions in USAJOBS before you begin. **Ensure you completely read and address specialized experience in your resume as denoted in “how you will be evaluated”.**

You must complete the application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the cut-off date or closing date of the announcement. Assistance is available during business hours (normally 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). Applying online is highly encouraged. If applying online poses a hardship, please contact FS HRM Contact Center Phone: 877-372-7248 Option 2 well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages with supporting documents must be received no later than noon on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing. This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Please contact FS HRM Contact Center if you require this for any part of the application and hiring process.

Step 1 – Create a Login.gov account

If you already have an account, skip to Step 2). You must create a login.gov account to sign in to USAJOBS. The service login.gov offers secure and private online access to government programs. To create a login.gov account, visit <https://www.login.gov/help/>

Step 2 – Create a USAJOBS account

(If you do not already have one) at www.usajobs.gov. It is recommended that as part of your profile you set up automatic email notification to be informed when the status of your application changes. If you choose not to set up this automatic notification, then you will have to log into your USAJOBS account to check on the status of your application.

Step 3 - Create a Resume with USAJOBS or upload a Resume into your USAJOBS account.

You may want to customize your resume to ensure it documents duties and accomplishments you have gained that are directly related to this position in order to verify that qualifications are met. In addition, your resume must support your responses to the online questionnaire (you may preview the online questionnaire by clicking on the link at the end of the How You Will Be Evaluated section of the job announcement).

Step 4 - Click "Apply Online"

Follow the prompts to complete the Occupational Questionnaire and attach any additional documents that may be required. You can update your application or documents anytime while the announcement is open. Simply log into your USAJOBS account and click on "Application Status." Click on the position title, and then select "Update Application" to continue.

The following documents must be submitted to constitute a complete application package. It is your responsibility to ensure that all required documents are received within the required timeframes. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, delays in the mail service etc. Failure to submit required, legible documents will result in elimination from consideration.

- **Resume** that includes the following information: 1) job information for which you are applying; 2) personal information; 3) education; 4) work experience with dates worked in following format MM/DD/YEAR; and, 5) other qualifications (including IQCS Master Record).
- **College Transcripts** if education is required for meeting basic qualifications and/or you are substituting education for specialized experience. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application, however, if selected, an official college transcript will be required.
- **CTAP/ICTAP documentation** if separated from Federal service or pending separation based on a reduction in force (RIF) or other management workforce reduction action. Proof of eligibility must include a separation notice or Certificate of Expected Separation, SF-50 that documents the RIF separation action or most recent SF-50 (that is not an award), and latest performance appraisal (dated within the last 18 months) or a statement advising why one is unavailable.
- **IQCS Master Record** showing your training and qualifications for the position. If an IQCS Master Record is not available, some form of documented proof of training and qualifications will be needed for most positions.

NOTE: 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.

Agency Contact Information:

HRM Contact Center

Phone: 877-372-7248 Option 2

TDD: 800-877-8339

Email: HRM_Contact_Center@usda.gov Agency Information: USDA Forest Service

Do not mail in applications. See instructions on How to Apply.

Things to keep in mind when applying:

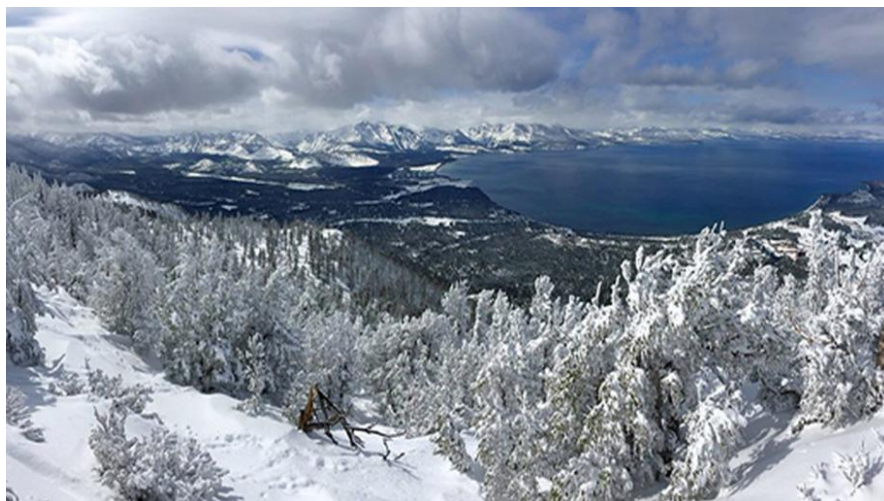
- Vacancy Announcements on USAJobs will give examples of the specialized experience for each position advertised. Ensure your resume matches the listed specialized experience requirement in plain language. **This should be listed under a work experience that shows title, series, grade and time period performed so that HR can properly credit.**
- Ensure all required documents listed in the vacancy announcement are attached to your application.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to apply for positions. The USAStaffing system closes all announcements at midnight Eastern on closing date.
- Print and read the entire vacancy announcement to ensure you have included all required information and documents.
- Ensure you have a current IQCS Master Record (For Fire Positions Only)

Other places to have questions answered or get further information:

- USA Jobs YouTube Videos: [How to Apply for Federal Jobs](#)
- Region 5 Fire Hire [Region 5 - Fire Hire](#)

About the Forest:

Over 78% of the area around the lake is public land managed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. Totalling over 154,000 acres, this land includes beaches, hiking and biking trails, wilderness, historic estates and developed recreation areas such as campgrounds and riding stables. The Forest is managed to provide access for the public and to protect the natural resources of the area. We hope you will join us in ensuring that the lake and surrounding lands will be even more beautiful and healthy in the future than they are today.



For current and upcoming Forest Service job opportunities, scan the following QR Code to visit the Employment Outreach Database:



Thank you for your interest!

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

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