



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER
FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT**

BLM-UPPER COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST



R2 – White River National Forest 2026 Permanent Fire Hire – Phase 3 Outreach



The White River National Forest is seeking to fill several exciting opportunities in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and the beautiful Western Slope!

The White River National Forest, as part of the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR), is seeking to fill the following positions through Phase 1 Fire Hire:

1-Zone FMO, GW-0456-09/11

1- Engine Captain, GW-0456-07/08

1-Fuels Crew Lead, GW-0462-06/07 or 07/08

1-White River WFM Assistant Captain, GW-0462-06/07

1-Initial Attack Dispatcher, GW-0456-4/5/6/7

2-Assistant Fire Engine Operator, GS-0462-05/6

These position announcements will be open from March 10, 2026, through March 19, 2026. Incentives may be considered.



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How To Apply:

Where to Apply: <http://www.usajobs.gov>

Any of the above positions may be filled using alternate grades/position descriptions. Apply to all positions in your preferred duty locations that you may consider.

Tips on navigating USA Jobs can be found here: <https://help.usajobs.gov/how-to>

More information, tips, tricks, and helpful webinars surrounding the hiring process can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r2/fire-aviation>

Outreach Response: Email Eric White, Forest Training and Workforce Development, eric.white@usda.gov to express interest or to request announcement numbers when available.

Questions and Contact Information:

Central Zone FMO

Duty Location: Rifle, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-DZFMOH-911DH

Contact: Brent Davidson, Forest Assistant Fire Management Officer, michael.davidson@usda.gov, 505-288-6821

Type 6 Engine, Supervisory Fire Engine Operator(SFEO)

Duty Location: Silverthorne, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-SFEOH-78DH

Contact: Justin Conrad, East Zone Fire Management Officer, justin.conrad@usda.gov, 970-596-2549

Fuels Crew Lead

Duty Location: Silverthorne, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-SHDCRW-78DH

Contact: Dan Nielsen, Forest Fuels Program Manager, daniel.nielsen2@usda.gov, 970-596-2549

Initial Attack Dispatcher(IADP)

Duty Location: Grand Junction, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-IADISP-4567DH

Contact: Todd Foley, Assistant Center Manager, todd.foley@usda.gov, 970-250-4226

Type 6 Engine, Assistant Fire Engine Operator(AFEO)

Duty Location: Silverthorne, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-AFEO-56DH

Contact: Justin Conrad, East Zone Fire Management Officer, justin.conrad@usda.gov, 970-596-2549

White River WFM Assistant Captain

Duty Location: Rifle, CO

Announcement Number: 26-FIRE-P3VA-HCREWT2-67-DH

Contact: Alex Farinetti, Crew Supervisor, alexander.farinetti@usda.gov, 970-210-6446



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About the Unit:

Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management (UCR)

The UCR is a “Service First” organization made up of Forest Service and BLM employees; responsible for fire management program implementation and incident response for approximately seven million acres of federal, state, county and private lands that spans from the Utah border to the Continental Divide along the I-70 corridor.



Why Join the White River/UCR Team?

Work on the White River National Forest and UCR is diverse, challenging and rewarding. Wildfire suppression and prescribed fire in extensive Wildland Urban Interface; cross-boundary fuels treatment projects; interagency training; and seamless integration between federal agencies, cooperating fire protection districts, local district personnel and a highly engaged public provide but a few of the challenges to be encountered and overcome which will leave the employee feeling accomplished and fulfilled. We believe strongly in learning, mentorship, and employee development and actively encourage and support classroom and field trainings at home and abroad. Opportunities to work on task books in pursuit of professional and personal development abound.



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When the time comes to unplug from work, a leadership structure that fully embraces the work-life balance of their employees will support your experiencing all that beautiful Western Colorado has to offer. World-class skiing at resorts too numerous to fully list such as Aspen, Vail, and Breckenridge, miles upon miles of mountain biking, hiking and cross-country ski trails, pristine rivers and lakes, bountiful hunting grounds, and countless developed and dispersed campsites can be found all across the White River National Forest and will help you get away from it all to recharge and refresh.

All of our duty station locations and many of the surrounding towns offer multiple dining options, a variety of shopping, health care and educational facilities. Many towns in and around the WRNF also host farmer's markets, art exhibits, concerts, festivals, rodeos, and a wide variety of other events. There truly is something for everyone here.

What we are looking for in a candidate

The UCR is looking for enthusiastic, self-motivated, outdoor-oriented people to join our team. The physical setting is stunning, and the work is diverse and challenging. To be successful in this job you must be a self-starter and have a demonstrated track record of leading people in an ever-changing environment. You must be willing to take on challenges and provide innovative solutions to complex problems. Successful candidates must have excellent communication skills and be able to work collaboratively with external partners. We are looking for candidates who can lead a team of dynamic and creative leaders. Applicants should be willing to invest in the coaching, mentoring and development of our employees.

The Program

The UCR is comprised of three zones. The East Zone covers the Eagle/Holy Cross and Dillon Ranger Districts of the White River NF, along with the eastern half of the BLM-Colorado River Valley Field Office. The Central Zone includes the Aspen/Sopris, Blanco, and the Rifle Ranger Districts of the White River NF and the western half of the BLM-Colorado River Valley Field Office. The West Zone has suppression responsibilities for the BLM- Grand Junction Field Office as well as the Colorado National Monument.

In total, the UCR staffs eight engines, two wildland fire modules, one Type 1 helicopter, and one Type 3 helicopter with helitack crew. An air tanker base is located in Grand Junction, and a SEAT reload base is located in Rifle. The Unit regularly hosts 12 smokejumpers in Grand Junction. The UCR responds to about 255 wildfires per year. The Unit exercises the total mobility concept; initial attack resources regularly cross zone boundaries as required to conduct IA operations. During periods of low fire activity, the UCR sends resources and overhead off- unit to wherever they are needed.



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The UCR fuels and topography are diverse. At the Utah Border the fuels are desert type, Pinon-Juniper, Sage-Grass. Topography is canyonlands, mesa, basin and range. Moving to the east with increasing elevation the fuels change to mixed conifer, gambel oak, and aspen vegetation communities, climaxing with mixed conifer to the Continental Divide, topography is steep dissected valleys, heavily vegetated depending on aspect. On active years with severe burning conditions, the unit has experienced multiple Type I & 2 incidents, these historically associated with drought conditions. The fire ground is emerging in complexity with an increase in urban interface/resort communities, Bark Beetle/Aspen mortality and Oil & Gas Industry infrastructure. Prescribed Fire /Fuels projects vary by year, prior to and following the wildland fire season. Grand Junction Dispatch typically hosts over 1000 overhead resources and 300 pieces of apparatus annually.

Location, Location, Location

Silverthorne and Surrounding Community Information

Summit County has a permanent population of approximately 30,000. The larger towns within the county are Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco, and Silverthorne – home of the Dillon Ranger District.

Smaller towns include Keystone, Blue River, Heeney, and Montezuma. All are within commuting distance of the office. All the larger towns are full-service communities.

State-of-the-art medical and surgical services are found at the Summit Medical Center in Frisco. Clinics in the towns also provide a full staff of physicians and family practitioners. Summit County has six elementary schools, a middle school, two high schools, an independent school (grades 6-12), as well as the Summit campus of Colorado Mountain College.

Real Estate in Summit County is very expensive as is the cost of living. However, the quality of life among the high peaks of the Colorado Rockies is excellent with enormous opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural environment. Government bunkhouse or trailer pad may be available and is offered for reasonable rates at a first-come first-served basis. For more information about the area, visit: <http://www.co.summit.co.us/> and <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/>.



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Eagle and Surrounding Community Information

Several small communities are located within the county and commuting area. (From East to West) Vail, Minturn, Eagle-Vail, Avon, Edwards, Eagle, Gypsum, and Leadville in adjacent Lake County. Housing and real estate prices are high. Family homes in the area start at more than \$500,000 with a median price of around \$700,000. Comparable homes in Leadville (35 miles south of Minturn) start at approximately \$300,000. The county does offer deed restricted properties through a lottery system, although competitive, more information available here; https://www.eaglecounty.us/departments_services/housing/index.php. Government bunkhouse, “shared family” homes, or trailer pads may be available for rent at reasonable rates.

Eagle county is a full-service community, with a variety of school options available (<https://www.eagleschools.net/schools>) at the (pre)K-12 level. For those seeking higher education, Colorado Mountain College has a campus located in Edwards. Vail Hospital is a level III trauma center and has become a world-renowned hub for orthopedic services along with satellite clinics throughout the county. There is also a regional airport located in Gypsum offering connecting and direct flights to multiple destinations around the country. Along with the wide selection of public land activities such as: skiing at multiple resorts, backcountry skiing, fishing, hiking, hunting etc.; multiple communities offer a wide variety of activities year-round, live music, farmers markets, rodeos, and weekend events.

Supervisor’s Office, Glenwood Springs. At an elevation of 5,700 ft., Glenwood Springs is a picturesque mountain community and a great base camp for recreation enthusiasts. Located at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers near Glenwood Canyon, Glenwood Springs is the county seat of Garfield County and is a hub for regional business, shopping, adventure, and culture. Housing in the area is expensive and has appreciated greatly in value. It is important that candidates do their research into housing cost and availability. Many people commute from the down valley communities of New Castle, Silt, and Rifle, where housing prices are lower than Glenwood Springs and the Roaring Fork Valley. Current average home prices can be found on Zillow.com or other realty sites. Excellent medical facilities are available. The surrounding area has a variety of public and private schools. Glenwood Springs is a three-hour drive from Denver, 90 minutes from Grand Junction, 45 minutes from Vail's Eagle Airport, and 1 hour from Aspen.



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Rifle and Surrounding Community Information

The City of Rifle is a Home Rule Municipality in Garfield County, Colorado. The population was 9,172 at the 2010 census. Rifle is a regional center of the cattle ranching industry located along Interstate 70 and the Colorado River just east of the Roan Plateau, which dominates the western skyline of the town. Rifle sits at an elevation of 5400 feet but climbs to 9,000 feet in a short distance. It is a full-service community with all conveniences.

Rifle, Colorado was ranked number 17 out of 200 towns “for the Sportsman,” according to the April 2008 edition of Outdoor Life magazine. Locally around Rifle there is world class climbing, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, rafting, and skiing.

Grand Junction is located 60 miles to the west and is home to Colorado State University; Vail is approximately 90 miles to the east, both on Interstate 70. Aspen is approximately a 90-minute drive south on CO Hwy 182.

Real estate in the Rifle area tends to be slightly above the Colorado average. Two-bedroom apartments start at around \$1100/month, and three-bedroom home rentals are in the \$1300-\$1600/month range. A median 3-bedroom home starts at about \$275,000. Other options are available in the commuting area, with prices generally increasing to the east, while prices tend to decrease slightly as you move west.

Government owned bunkhouse style housing and trailer pads will be available for rent.

For additional information on Rifle, you can visit: <http://www.rifleco.org/> and <http://riflechamber.com/>

Grand Junction Community Information

Grand Junction is the largest Community in Mesa County. It's located at the junction of the Gunnison and the Colorado rivers. Grand Junction is home to approximately 56,446 residents, and Mesa County has a population of approximately 147,522. Mesa County has about 3,313 square miles of land and Grand Junction is on 27 of those square miles. Two-thirds of the land is owned by the Federal Government and offers a great variety of outdoor recreation and entertainment.

Grand Junction is a wonderful place to visit and even a better place to live. With more than two thirds of the surrounding county owned by the federal government, outdoor recreation and enjoyment is a favorite pastime of local residents during the daytime. Evenings bring a variety of entertainment venues in several commercial regions of the city, including our award-winning downtown area.

There are 4 hospitals, with the Grand Junction VA Hospital being one of them. There is also an airport that offers many different flights to accommodate for easy traveling. For additional information on Grand Junction and the surrounding areas, please visit the Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.gjchamber.org/index.asp>. You may also want to visit <http://grandjunction.org/> or www.colorado.com/cities-and-towns/grand-junction.