

Northern Region 1 Fire Hire 2027

Outreach Notice — Wildland Firefighter Permanent Positions

GW-03 through GW-10
0462/0456 Series



The US Forest Service Northern Region is outreaching for the yearly hiring event known as “Fire Hire”. Announcements will be opening soon in USAJOBS for many permanent wildland firefighter positions for the 2027 fire year.

Application Period: August 24th through September 22nd, 2026

The Northern Region fills hundreds of permanent wildland firefighter positions across 10 National Forests and Grasslands in Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota. Specialized positions include dispatch, engine crews, fire and fuels management, hotshot crews, hand crews, helitack, smokejumpers, and prevention. All positions could engage in a spectrum of fire management activities including, fire suppression efforts, project work such as fuel inventories, preparing associated reports, and hazardous fuels reduction projects. Region 1 will be filling permanent full-time and permanent seasonal fire and fuels positions ranging from GW-03 to GW-10.

The Fire Hire process is used to standardize hiring of permanent wildland firefighter positions to provide consistent practices around the Region and throughout the agency. Fire Hire is currently utilizing a Direct Hire Authority, which has been granted by OPM for the Forest Service to fill critical positions in an accelerated manner. The announcements are open to the public, but many require NWCG qualifications. Each announcement will define what the requirements are.

The vacancy announcements for these positions will be posted on the US Government's official website for employment opportunities at [USAJOBS](https://www.usajobs.gov).

All Fire Hire specific announcements can be searched in USAJOBS by keyword 27-FIRE. Applicants may also search by City, State (duty location).

An official website of the United States government

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Where do you want to work?

27-FIRE

Search

Applicants are encouraged to apply to any position and duty station you may be interested in, as those positions may become vacant throughout the Fire Hire process.

The announcements listed in this outreach will be part of national and multi-regional announcements, pay close attention to duty location selections. *Announcements will not be available in USAJOBS until the opening date of August 24th, 2026.*

R1 Fire Hire Positions and Vacancy Announcement Numbers

Application Period: August 24th through September 22nd, 2026

AIRTANKER BASE/AVIATION

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Airtanker Base Support GW-05	27-FIRE-P1VA-AIRTNKB-5DH
Airtanker Base Ramp Manager GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-AIRTNKB-67DH
Airtanker Base Assistant Manager GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-AIRTNKB-78DH
Airtanker Base Manager GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-AIRTNKB-89DH
Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-ATGS-89DH
UAS Module Crew Member GW-07	27-FIRE-P1R1-UASMC-7DH
UAS Module Supervisor GW-09	27-FIRE-P1VA-AVOPSUAS-9DH

DISPATCH

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Initial Attack Dispatcher GW-04/05/06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-IADISP-4567DH
Dispatch Assistant Center Manager GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-ADISPCM-89DH
GACC Assistant Coordinator GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-GACCLC-89DH

DISTRICT / ZONE ASSISTANT FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

POSITION	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
District/Zone AFMO (High Complexity) GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1R146-DZAFMOH-89DH
District/Zone AFMO (Moderate Complexity) GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-DZAFMOM-89DH
District/Zone AFMO Fuels Specialist (Supervisory) GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1R146-DFLS-89DH

ENGINE

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Senior Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH
Assistant Fire Engine Operator GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1R14610-AFEO-56DH
Fire Engine Operator GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1R14610-FEOH-67DH
Supervisory Fire Engine Operator GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SFEO-78DH

FUELS

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Fuels Technician GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1R14610-DFUEL-67DH
Senior Fuels Technician GW-08	27-FIRE-P1R14610-FFUELS-8DH

HANDCREW

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Senior Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH
Handcrew Squad Leader GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1R14610-HCREW-56DH
Handcrew Assistant (High Complexity) GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-HCREWT2-67DH
Handcrew Supervisor (High Complexity) GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-SHDCRW-78DH

HELITACK

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Senior Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH
Helitack Squad Leader GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-HTKSCLR-67DH
Helitack Assistant Manager GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-HLTAKMGR-78DH
Helitack Manager GW-09	27-FIRE-P1VA-HLTAKMGR-9DH

HOTSHOT

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Senior Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH
Hotshot Lead Firefighter GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1R14610-HCREW-56DH
Hotshot Squad Leader GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-IHCSCLR-67DH
Hotshot IHC Assistant Superintendent GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-IHCASST-78DH
Hotshot IHC Superintendent GW-10	27-FIRE-P1VA-IHCSUPT-10DH

JOB CORPS

POSITION	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Senior Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH
Job Corps Handcrew/Fire Module Squad Leader GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1R14610-HCREW-56DH
Job Corps Handcrew/Fire Module Assistant GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-HCREWT2-67DH
Job Corps Handcrew/Fire Module Supervisor GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-HCREWT1-78DH
Job Corps Assistant Fire Management Officer GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-JCAFMO-89DH

OPERATIONS

POSITION	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Fire Operations Specialist GW-08	27-FIRE-P1VA-FOS-8DH

PREVENTION

POSITION	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Zone Prevention Technician GW-06/07	27-FIRE-P1VA-PREV2-67DH

SMOKEJUMPER

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Smokejumper GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1VA-SMKJMP-56DH
Smokejumper Squad Leader GW-07	27-FIRE-P1VA-SMKJMP-7DH
Smokejumper Spotter GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-SMKJMP-78DH
Smokejumper Assistant Manager GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-SSMKJMP-89DH

WILDLAND FIRE MODULE

POSITIONS	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Wildland Fire Module Squad Boss GW-05/06	27-FIRE-P1R14610-HCREW-56DH
Wildland Fire Module Assistant Lead GW-07/08	27-FIRE-P1VA-HCREWT1-78DH
Wildland Fire Module Leader GW-08/09	27-FIRE-P1VA-HCRWSUP-89DH

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER

POSITION	ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER
Entry Level Wildland Firefighter GW-03/04	27-FIRE-P1R14610-FFTR-34DH
Wildland Fire Apprentice GW-03/04	27-FIRE-P1R1-WFAP-345DH
Senior Wildland Firefighter GW-04/05	27-FIRE-P1R14610-SRFF-45DH

The Process and Timeline

August 24th, 2026 – Vacancy Announcements OPEN in [USAJOBS](https://www.usajobs.gov).

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 Selection Week.

September 22nd, 2026 – 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 2026 – HR Qualification Review period begins. Applicants may receive qualification review notices from USAJOBS / HR in this timeframe.

October 2026 – 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.

October 2026 – Hiring Managers will begin the hiring process.

All applicants who have applied to the announcements and are found to be qualified will be referred for consideration. Applicants should check the status of their application during this time in USAJobs.

October 2026 – November 2026 – Selections. Representatives from each unit will make recommendations for hiring. It is critical to be available via phone and email during this time.

December 2026 – March 2027 – HRM Processing. Selected applicants will be processed through onboarding including personnel security, background checks, drug testing, etc. as required.

March 2027 – Anticipated effective date (report to duty).

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.

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

(If you do not already have one) at 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.

USAJOBS resumes have a 2-page limit for all positions.

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 and specialized experience needed to qualify for position.**

- **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 updated and correct.**
 - Applicants should include a 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.
 - Resume can only be 2 pages when uploaded to USAJOBS.
- **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.

Human Resources Office Contact Information

HRM Contact Center

Phone: 877-372-7248 Option 2

TDD: 800-877-8339

Email: HRM_Contact_Center@usda.gov

Things to keep in mind when applying

- Vacancy Announcements in USAJOBS will give examples of specialized experience for each position. 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 (include dates in a month/year format and hours/week) performed so HR can properly credit. If you possess specialized experience outside your current series and grade, identify that separately for credit.
- Ensure all required documents are attached to your application. Review them for accuracy and currency. Ensure you have a current IQCS Master Record.
- Allow adequate time to apply for positions. The USAJobs application process takes time and detailed attention to requirements.

Other places to get further information

- [FS Application Tips and Webinars](#)
- USAJOBS YouTube Videos: [How to Apply for Federal Jobs](#)

R1 Forest / Grassland Contacts

Outreach responses should go directly to the Fire Management contacts for each Forest/Grassland and District listed below. Specific information about the position(s) and duty location(s) is available from the units. Your response is important if you are interested in filling a position through the Fire Hire process.

www.fs.usda.gov/main/r1/about-region/offices

- Aerial Fire Depot – Kurt Rohrbach kurt.rohrbach@usda.gov
 - Missoula Smokejumper Base – 406-329-4942
 - Missoula Tanker Base – Jared Bohrman 406-829-7328
- Beaverhead-Deerlodge – Joe Sampson joseph.sampson@usda.gov / Eric Reiner eric.reiner@usda.gov
 - Anaconda Job Corps – Monica Thomas 406-546-0695
 - Butte Jefferson District - Kevin Smith DFMO 406-491-0202
 - Dillon District – Aaron Knudson DFMO 775-846-3056
 - Wisdom/Wise River District – Richard Griffin DFMO 406-925-1951
 - Wise River Helitack – Randy Gilbert Helicopter Program Manager 406-925-3779
 - Madison District - Jim King DFMO 406-682-4253
 - Pintler District – Jerod Russell DFMO 208-946-6803
 - Dillon Interagency Dispatch – Claire Smith 406-683-3992 or Alex Horton 406-683-3939
- Bitterroot – Matt Young matthew.young@usda.gov
 - Stevensville District - John "Jay" Wood DFMO 406-777-7436
 - Darby / Sula Districts Chris Marabetta DFMO 406-821-4255
 - West Fork District – Bret Lewis DFMO 406-821-1247
 - Trapper Creek Job Corps – Craig McDonald Job Corp FAFMO 406-821-2159
 - Bitterroot IHC – Cache Gibbons 406-529-5554
 - Bitterroot Helitack – Josh Woodard Asst. Superintendent 406-529-2713
- Custer-Gallatin – Jeff Flick jeffrey.flick@usda.gov
 - Ashland District – Spencer King DFMO 406-784-2344
 - Beartooth District - Luke Fosness DFMO 406-425-0181
 - Bozeman / Hebgen Districts – Tanner Eccles DFMO 406-223-3957
 - Yellowstone / Gardiner Districts – Zac Krohn DFMO 406-223-0140
 - West Yellowstone Smokejumper Base - Eric Held 406-646-7691
 - Sioux District – Jason Donahey 605-797-4432
 - Gallatin Rappellers – Curtis Parkhouse 208-859-7838
 - Billings Interagency Dispatch – Angie Pollock 406-896-2900
- Dakota Prairie – Lee Nelson lee.nelson@usda.gov, Jake Thelen jacob.thelen@usda.gov and Dave Kannas david.kannas@usda.gov

- Flathead – Rick Connell richard.connell@usda.gov
 - Hungry Horse / Glacier View District - Andy Huntsberger DFMO 406-387-3833
 - Spotted Bear District - Jim Flint DFMO 406-758-6471 / 406-387-3845
 - Swan Lake - Brett Pargman DAFMO 406-837-7549
 - Tally Lake District - Manny Mendoza DFMO 406-758-3522
 - Flathead Helitack – Seth Schaub 406-387-3864
 - Flathead IHC – Shawn Borgen 406-387-3836
 - Kalispell Interagency Dispatch – Sarah Whetzel 406-758-5260
- Helena - Lewis and Clark – Kendal Wilson kendal.wilson@usda.gov / David Nunn David.nunn@usda.gov
 - Belt Creek / White Sulphur Springs District - Ted Frazer DFMO 406-223-5799
 - Helena District - Mike Kaiser DFMO 406-495-3931
 - Townsend District - Cody Crismore DFMO 406-266-3425
 - Judith-Musselshell District - Matt Plagenz DZFM 406-566-2292
 - Lincoln District - Jarel Kurtz DFMO 406-362-7031
 - Rocky Mountain District - Anthony Emacio ADFMO 406-889-5343
 - Helena IHC - Charlie Palermo 406-495-3957
 - Lewis and Clark IHC – Nick Wydra 406-791-7788
 - Helena Aviation Center/Central Montana Helitack – Bjorn Troberg FAO 406-495-3832
 - Helena Interagency Dispatch – Kim Beaver 406-449-5475 or Travis Collier 406-731-5311
- Idaho-Panhandle – Mike Behrens mike.behrens@usda.gov / Shawn Pearson shawn.pearson@usda.gov
 - Bonners Ferry District - Mitch Prophet 406-291-3750
 - Coeur d’Alene District – Evan Ratcliffe 208-582-2204 / Ryan Nipp 208-659-1921
 - Priest Lake District - Waylon Meek 208-290-4664
 - Sandpoint District – Bryce Barth 208-449-2950
 - St. Joe District – Jerrod Scheffelmaier 208-245-6218 / Casey Lovell 208-245-6025 / Richard Lyons 406-334-7463
 - Panhandle Helitack – Phillip Norton 208-631-5605
 - Coeur d’Alene Interagency Dispatch – Melanie Roose 208-762-6915
 - Idaho Panhandle IHC - Will Bowman 208-620-8839
 - North Idaho Rappelers - Anthony Waite 208-866-6516
- Kootenai – Jacob Jeresek jacob.jeresek@usda.gov
 - Cabinet District - Dusty Pierson DFMO 406-827-0709
 - Libby District - Brent Cooper DFMO 406-293-8768
 - Rexford District - Raymond Flanagan DFMO 406-296-7170
 - Three Rivers District - Beau Macy DAFMO 406-295-7477
 - Kootenai Interagency Dispatch – Jacob Jeresek 406-283-7795
 - Kootenai Helibase - Teagen Blaz 406-283-7868

- Lolo – Jesse Kurpius 406-329-1089 jesse.kurpius@usda.gov Travis Pfisher 406-250-0365
 - Missoula District - Sean Rivera 480-299-2927
 - Ninemile District – Greg Anderson 406-626-5422
 - Plains District - Daniel Stevens AFMO 406-826-4340
 - Seeley Lake District – Robert Spence DFMO 406-677-3915
 - Superior District – John “Teo” DiGiando DFMO 406-822-3916
 - Lolo IHC – Shawn Faiella – Superintendent– 406-329-3808
 - Missoula Helitack – Andrew Nepstad – Helitack Supt. - 541-531-7260
 - Missoula Interagency Dispatch – Rachel Simpson - Center Manager 406-829-7050

- Nez Perce-Clearwater – Josh Bransford joshua.bransford@usda.gov / Brandon Skinner brandon.skinner@usda.gov
 - Lochsa District - Jonathan Moore DFMO 208-926-6427
 - Moose Creek District - Jon Norman DFMO 208-926-8948
 - North Fork District – Aaron Skinner DFMO 208-476-8206
 - Palouse District – Alan Carlson DFMO 208-875-1702
 - Powell District – Jonathan Moore DFMO 208-926-6427
 - Red River District – Craig Roach DFMO 208-842-2123
 - Salmon River District – Matt Myers 208-839-2102
 - Grangeville Interagency Dispatch – Brandon Skinner 208 819 6905
 - Grangeville Smokejumper Base – Nick Stanzak 208-404-1119
 - Helicopter Programs – Jeremy Beeson 208-451-6710

For questions regarding overall Fire Hire process, contact Tiffany Counts at tiffany.counts@usda.gov or 406-241-8305