Outreach Notice: USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region: San Juan National Forest
Wildland Firefighter Temporary Positions

Applications Open October30 th – November 12th, 2026

The San Juan National Forest in Colorado is looking to fill multiple temporary GW-03/04/05 (1039) wildland firefighter positions across the Forest.







The San Juan National Forest is committed to developing and maintaining a highly skilled workforce for wildland fire operations and fuels management. The San Juan Interagency Fire and Aviation program is very rewarding and requires talented people to work safely as part of a team in a variety of specialized positions' We are looking for candidates that are self-motivated, team players, with an unbridled work ethic to join our fire/fuels/aviation management programs.

Temporary Fire Positions for the San Juan National Forest

San Juan Hotshots
Duty location: Durango, Colorado
Advertised Positions:

Title	GW Level	USAJobs Vacancy #
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC049-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC028-5DH

Contacts:
Scott McCreary (Supt) scott.mccreary@usda.gov
For more Information about the Durango, CO community visit: https://www.durangogov.org/

Durango Helitack
Duty location: Durango, Colorado
Advertised Positions:

Title	GW Level	USAJobs Vacancy #
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC048-4DH
Forestry Technician (Helitack)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC027-5DH

Contacts:
Gabe Vera (HMGR) Gabriel.vera@usda.gov
Killian Malone (Asst.HMGR) Killian.malone@usda.gov
For more Information about the Durango, CO community visit: https://www.durangogov.org/

Pagosa Ranger District
Duty location: Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Government Housing Available
Advertised Positions:

Title	GW Level	USAJobs Vacancy #
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 3	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC033-3DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC048-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC029-5DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC049-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC028-5DH

Contacts:
Ryan Souza (SFEO) ryan.souza@usda.gov
Gregory Becker (Suppression Module Capt.) Gregory.Becker@usda.gov
For more Information about the Pagosa Springs, CO community visit: https://www.pagosasprings.co.gov/

Dolores Ranger District
Duty location: Dolores, Colorado, Government Housing Available
Advertised Positions:

Title	GW Level	USAJobs Vacancy #
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 3	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC033-3DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC048-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC029-5DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC049-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC028-5DH

Contacts:
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Liv Elfstrom (SFEO) Liv.Elfstrom@usda.gov

For more Information about the Dolores, CO community visit: https://townofdolores.colorado.gov/

Columbine Ranger District
Duty location: Bayfield, Colorado, Government Housing Available
Advertised Positions:

Title	GW Level	USAJobs Vacancy #
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 3	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC033-3DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC048-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (General Firefighter)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC029-5DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 4	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC049-4DH
Wildland Firefighter (Hotshot/Handcrew)	GW 5	27-TEMPF3-R2-2PC028-5DH

Contacts:
Daniel Paladino (WFM Asst. Capt.) Daniel.Paladino@usda.gov
Frank Stuckman (SFEO) frank.v.stuckman@usda.gov
Clayton Rizzi (Fuels Squad Capt.) clayton.rizzi@usda.gov
For more Information about the Bayfield, CO community visit: https://www.bayfieldgov.org/

To be considered for one of these positions, your application must be submitted prior to 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the closing date listed. Please pay careful attention to the dates, as the closing dates in USAJOBS vary per region.

Qualifications and Requirements

The following qualifications are required for each position; documentation/proof of qualifications is required and must be attached in your application:

- **GW-3 Temporary Positions:** Applicants must have six months of experience in any type of work providing familiarity with the desired position's subject area.
- **GW-4 Temporary Positions:** Applicants must have time in grade as a GS-3 employee (6 months specialized experience).
- **GW-5 Temporary Positions:** Applicants must be currently qualified as Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) and have taken S-290. Applicants will also need to meet "time in grade" requirements determined by Human Resources.

Process and Timeline

- **October 30, 2026 – Vacancy Announcements OPEN in USAJOBs**
- **November 11, 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. Applicants may receive qualification review notices from USAJOBS / HR in this timeframe.
- **December 11, 2026 – Hiring Managers 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 should check the status of their application during this time in USAJOBS. Ensure your references and supervisors are notified and available at the email address (preferred) or phone number provided on your application.
    - Representatives from each unit will make recommendations for hiring. It is critical to be available via phone and email during this time.
- **April 7, 2026 – Final Offers Issued**
- **April 18, 2026 – Anticipated start date (Pay Period 8)**

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 prior to vacancy closing date. A current copy of your IQCS Master Record will be required for most positions. Before a certificate is issued to the selecting official, the resume and attached documentation is reviewed to ensure you meet all qualification requirements.

How to Apply

Create a USAJOBS Account

If you do not already have one, create an account at USAJOBS.gov. As part of your profile, set up automatic email notifications 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 **2-page** 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, attach documentation, and submit. Your application and attached documents can be edited at any time 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, submitted within the required timeframe, and legible. **Read the entire announcement for requirements.**

- **2-Page 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).
    - 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.
- **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. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if selected, an official college transcript will be required.
- **Certification of Disability** if you are eligible based on a disability under the Schedule A hiring authority.
- **Proof of Eligibility** if you are eligible for appointment based on service in the Peace Corps, Vista, Action Cooperative, or other special authority.
- **CTAP/ICTAP documentation** if separated from Federal Service or pending separation based on a reduction-in-force (RIF) or other management workforce reduction action.

Additional Information to Consider

- 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 and hours/week) performed so HR can properly 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.