



## WORKING FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS



### Forestry Technician

If your passion is working in the great outdoors—backpacking in rugged country, bushwhacking through trackless forests, or helping others appreciate and protect our natural resources—the Forest Service may be of interest to you!

#### The Work Environment

Forestry technicians in the Forest Service work alongside foresters and other resource specialists protecting and maintaining nearly 200 million acres of forests, lakes, mountains, and grasslands. You might work in relative isolation, maintaining trails or recording wildlife habitats in the backcountry, be in constant contact with the public in developed recreation sites such as campgrounds or work in fire suppression or fire education. Whatever type of work you do as a forestry technician, you will almost always be outdoors on all kinds of assignments—from fighting wildfires to patrolling on skis—and innumerable jobs in between.

#### Operating on the Job

Forestry technicians perform one or more of a fascinating variety of duties, such as...

- Suppression of wildfires as a crew member on an engine, helitack or hotshot team.
- Maintain facilities in campgrounds, provide visitors with information about a locality, or explain fire, safety, and sanitation regulations.
- Clear or repair some of the Forest Service's 100,000 miles of trails, or help construct a new trail.
- Help protect a wilderness area by monitoring uses and enforcing regulations.
- Plant trees or shrubs to rehabilitate a damaged site, or to

stabilize a slope.

- Analyze tree stands for growth conditions, disease, and insect infestations.
- Improve timber stands as a member of a tree-planting or thinning crew or of a group collecting and classifying cones by species or condition.
- “Cruise” prospective sale areas to determine species, types, and qualities of timber.
- Select and mark trees to be cut, as well as those to be preserved for natural reseeding or as wildlife habitats.
- Interpret aerial photos to identify types of timber and habitat.
- Inventory sites for prescribed fire/fuels management activities
- Inspect recreation and timber sale sites or reforestation activities for compliance with special permits.

## **Career Paths and Requirements**

To accommodate men and women with unique interests, skills, education, and experience, there are various entry levels, mostly from the GS-2 to the GS-4 grade level; the journeyman level is a GS-05. However, there is substantial opportunity for advancement. Thousands of forestry technician positions are at the GS-7 grade level or above. To qualify for entry grade level positions, you need:

- GS-2 position: Either a high school diploma or the equivalent, OR 3 months of general work experience.
- GS-3 position: Either 6 months of general work experience, OR 1 year of study beyond high school, including at least 6 semester-hours in courses such as forestry, agriculture, range, conservation/wildlife, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, wildland fire science, mathematics or biology.
- GS-4 position: Either 6 months of specialized work experience (e.g., fire fighting positions would require 6 months of wildland fire fighting experience as specialized experience) plus 6 months of any type of experience that demonstrates your ability to perform that type of work, OR 2 years of education above the high school level, including a least 12 semester hours in any

combination of coursework such as forestry, agriculture, range, conservation/wildlife, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, wildland fire science.

- GS-5 position: Either 1 year of specialized experience (e.g., fire fighting positions would require 1 year of wildland firefighting experience as specialized experience), OR earned either (a) a bachelor's degree with a major in forestry, range management, agriculture, or a subject directly related to your field of interest, or (b) at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as forestry, agriculture, range, conservation/wildlife, or watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science.



*These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov) or the [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov) subject index under "Qualifications."*

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