

# *Shawnee National Forest*



*“Caring for the Land and Serving People”*



## **OUTREACH and VACANCY NOTICE**

**Forestry Aid (Fire Suppression) and/or Forestry Technician**  
**(Hotshot/Handcrew)**  
**Temporary NTE 1039 hours**

***GS-0462-3/4/5***

The Shawnee National Forest will soon be filling several temporary GS-0462-3/4/5, NTE 1039 hours, Forestry Aid (Fire) and/or Forestry Technician (Handcrew) positions. These are arduous positions. The positions are located on the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District with the actual duty location in Murphysboro, Illinois. The primary purpose of the positions is to perform wildland suppression/management/control as a specialized firefighter with responsibility for the operation and maintenance of specialized tools or equipment. Other wildland fire related duties may involve fire prevention, patrol, detection, or prescribed burning. The incumbents may be assigned for varying periods of time into one or more types of positions within the wildfire program where the individual's specialized skills are required. Come join our team and help make a difference!

The purpose of this Outreach and Vacancy Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this opportunity.

***Anyone interested is encouraged to complete the attached Outreach Response Form as well as apply to the vacancy announcements. The open period for the vacancy is July 7, 2014 to July 14, 2014.***

***Please reply to this outreach and complete your application in USAJOBS by July 14, 2014.***

## Duties:

**For GS-3** – Serves as a member of fire crew assigned to suppress the full range of wildland fires independently performing recurring fire suppression duties. Performs assignments as a wildland firefighter in developing a working knowledge of fire suppression and fuels management techniques, practices and terminology. This consists of fireline construction, use of pumps and engines, hose lays using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustments in the effective use of water and additives, working in and around aircraft such as helicopters, safety rules, and basic fire behavior. Searches out and extinguishes burning materials by moving dirt, applying water by hose or backpack pump, etc. Chops brush, fells small trees, and moves dirt to construct fireline using various hand tools such as axes, shovels, Pulaskis, McLeods, and may use power tools including chainsaws and portable pumps to control spreading of wildland fire and/or to prepare control lines prior to burning. Patrols fireline to locate and extinguish embers, flareups, and hotspot fires that may threaten developed firelines. Cleans, reconditions, and stores fire tools and equipment.

**For GS-4** – Serves as a skilled crewmember on a hand crew assigned to suppress the full range of difficulty and complexity of fires. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment, and techniques while actively suppressing wildfires, such as a Pulaski, shovel, McLeod, ax and chainsaw to control the spread of wildfire. Performs basic fireline activities such as line construction, lopping and scattering of fuels using hand tools and holding, patrolling, monitoring, and mop-up operations. Moves dirt, chops brush, small trees, etc. to construct fire line. Responsible for observing the rules of wildland firefighting safety. Applies practices and techniques to minimize resource damage. Independently or with one or two other crewmembers may be assigned to carry out specialized assignments such as tree falling, backfire and burnout. Serves as a skilled wildland firefighter on an organized crew during prescribed burns, monitoring and controlling the fire, and collecting data on fire weather and fire behavior.

**For GS-5** – Serves as an experienced firefighter on a hand crew or other related fire suppression crews performing fire suppression and/or fuels management duties under the most adverse conditions of climate, fuels, and terrain. Performs the duties of a fully qualified chain saw operator and chainsaw repair technician. Certified in the use of helicopter long lines. Performs all aspects of wildland and prescribed fire operations including preparation, ignition, monitoring, holding, and mop up. Collects fire weather data, fuel and/or soil moisture samples, maps projects, and maintains records. May on occasion serve as driver of a crew carrier. Gathers and considers information on weather data, topography, fuel types, and fire behavior in responding to wildland fire incidents. When positioning and deploying personnel and equipment, recommends best approaches and practices to use in protection of the values at risk. Responsible for operation and maintenance of specialized equipment used to respond to wildland and prescribed fire situations.



**Work Capacity Test (WCT) for wildland firefighters: This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, taking and passing the WCT at the arduous level is a “condition of employment.” The arduous fitness (Pack) Test consist of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.**

### **Application Process:**

The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position. Assuming sufficient responses are received from this outreach notice, ***a referral list will be requested on or soon after July 15, 2014.***

The announcements can be viewed in USAJOBS, <https://www.usajobs.gov/>, starting July 7, 2014 through July 14, 2014. Follow instructions in “How to Apply.”

The announcement numbers are:

14-TEMP-110908-54855DT-LS for the GS-0462-03

14-TEMP-110908-54852DT-LS for the GS-0462-04

14-TEMP-110908-54848DT-LS for the GS-0462-05

**Applicants should select **Murphysboro, IL** as the duty location.**

### **Description of the Forest:**

The Shawnee National Forest includes about 280,000 acres of National Forest System land and is the single largest publicly owned body of land in the State of Illinois. Within those lands, one can find the following:

- Seven Congressionally-designated
- Wilderness Areas (about 10% of the Forest)
- Six candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Four National Natural Landmarks
- Four heritage resource sites on the National Register of Historic Places
- Two National Scenic Byways (NSB)
  - Great River Road NSB, extending along the Mississippi River
  - Ohio River NSB, along the Ohio, where it begins in Pennsylvania, traveling to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio meets the mighty Mississippi
- 80 designated Natural Areas considered important for botanical, ecological, geological or zoological reasons (about 5% of the Forest). Ten of these natural areas are designated by the Forest Service as Research Natural Areas (9 ecological areas and 1 botanical area) to focus research on these high value ecological sites.
  - 56 ecological areas
  - 14 botanical areas
  - 3 geological areas
  - 14 zoological areas



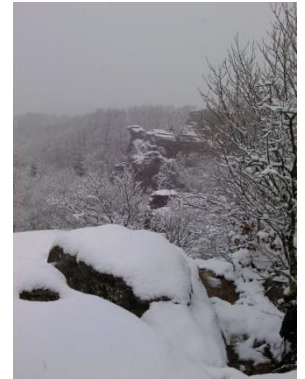
The Forest sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and is rich in history, reflecting the pioneer movement of Americans into the west. Although predominantly oak-hickory, pine was planted in many areas in the past. Swamps contain tupelo and cypress communities. Razorback ridges associated with the Ozark upthrust are found on the west side of the Forest; the broader ridges associated with the Shawnee hills are found on the east side of the Forest. The Wisconsin glacier stopped north of the

Shawnee, so the Grand Prairie (and its corn fields) most associated with the state of Illinois starts 40 miles north of the Forest.

The Shawnee is located within a day's drive (350 miles) of more than 45 million people, or 17% of the U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, 7-1-97 estimate). Additional information about the Forest may be found at the [Shawnee National Forest](#) website.

### **Climate:**

One can experience all four seasons in the southern Illinois region with an average of 3" of snow per year and temperatures rarely below 0 degrees. Summer days are sunny and humid with highs in the 80's – 90's, occasionally topping 100. Spring weather can occur in March, and fall weather can extend into November. During the spring and fall seasons, the climate and beauty of the area is especially compelling. Spring brings an abundance of blooming dogwoods, redbuds and wildflowers. The fall is saturated with color, as the leaves turn brilliant reds, gold and yellows. Garden of the Gods, the most visited site on the Forest, is a must-see during the fall color season. The unusual rock formations, coupled with the surrounding Garden of the Gods Wilderness, portray the beauty of southern Illinois at its finest.



### **Education:**

Pre-schools through high schools can be found in most communities and rank high in the state. There are several community colleges in the area offering quite reasonable in-district tuition. Southern Illinois University, located in Carbondale, IL, offers a full range of baccalaureate through doctoral programs. Day care facilities also are available in most communities.

### **Churches:**

Churches representing all major denominations can be found in communities across the region.

### **Economy:**

Real estate in the area is moderately priced. The median price for purchasing a home is approximately \$120,000, and house rentals begin at approximately \$450 per month. Utilities are also priced moderately. Tourism is a developing economic force in the area. In recent years, several wineries have opened, offering two outstanding wine trails. Local breweries are also starting to emerge, adding to the tourism opportunities in the region.

With a mix of communities and towns, varying in population, Southern Illinois offers a rural environment with easy access to all possible amenities. Both shopping and entertainment opportunities are abundant within the area. Marion, IL and Carbondale, IL, along with Paducah, KY, offer shopping malls, movie theaters and several locally owned and operated restaurants along with major chain and fast-food restaurants. Additional information on local employment opportunities can be found at the following links:

[Harrisburg, IL – Companies and Businesses](#)

[Marion, IL – Companies and Businesses](#)

## [Carbondale, IL – Companies and Business](#)

### **Healthcare:**

Healthcare facilities serving the area include full facility Harrisburg Medical Center (Hospital), Carbondale Doctor's Memorial Hospital and Marion Memorial Hospital. Services at these hospitals include cardiac units, oncology and neonatal units. Other hospitals providing care are Lourdes and Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, KY and Deaconess in Evansville, IN. All the hospitals provide 24-hour emergency room physician coverage and specialists.

### **Recreational and Cultural Activities:**

Whether you're a barbecue fan, blues lover, outdoor recreational enthusiast, lover of small town life or big city adventurer, southern Illinois truly provides something for everyone in terms of social engagement opportunities and overall choice of recreational/cultural type activities.

With the perfect mix of small to mid-sized towns across the region coupled with easy access to bigger cities, including St. Louis, MO (located about 2 hours from Harrisburg, IL), Nashville, TN (located about 2.5 hours from Harrisburg, IL) and Chicago, IL (located about 6 hours from Harrisburg, IL), residents will find the ability to immerse themselves in the rich cultural and natural heritage encompassed in the area while also being able to easily travel and explore larger metropolitan areas nearby.



Festivals, fairs, artisan type craft events and more abound annually, and from more traditional American fare to Cuban, Thai, Japanese and more, a variety of restaurants representing global cuisine choices can be found across the region. Other opportunities, including concerts, theater engagements, etc, can also be discovered at a variety of events and locations, offering easy access to diverse recreational and cultural activities while also offering a beautiful, predominantly agricultural based area to call home.

To learn more about the area, please visit the following:

[Marion, IL Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Saline County, IL Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Saline County, IL Tourism](#)

[Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau](#)

[Williamson County, IL Tourism Bureau](#)

---

## **Non-Discrimination Statement**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

### **To File an Employment Complaint**

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor (PDF) within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_file.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html).

### **To File a Program Complaint**

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

### **Persons with Disabilities**

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

## *Outreach Response Form*

If you are interested in these positions, be sure to respond to this outreach by **July 14, 2014** in one of three ways:

E-mail: [dkirtley@fs.fed.us](mailto:dkirtley@fs.fed.us)

Fax: (618) 658-1300

Mail: Daryl Kirtley  
Shawnee National Forest  
602 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St  
Vienna, IL 62995

For additional details on the position, you may call Chris Rokosh Engine Captain – Murphysboro (618) 521-2567. By completing this form, you are indicating that you are interested in the following positions. Please check the position(s) you are interested in.

\*  **Forestry Aid (Fire Suppression), GS-0462-3, Full Time – Temporary, NTE 1039 hours**

\*  **Forestry Technician (Hotshot/Handcrew), GS-0462-4, Full Time – Temporary, NTE 1039 hours**

\*  **Forestry Technician (Hotshot/Handcrew), GS-0462-5, Full Time – Temporary, NTE 1039 hours**

Location:

- **Region 9, Shawnee National Forest, Murphysboro, Illinois**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Name		Date		
Address				
City		State		
Zip		E-Mail		
Phone number(s)				
Are you currently a federal employee				
If Yes, current agency and location				
current title/series/grade				
Type of Appointment if Current Government Employee		<b>Permanent</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Temporary</b>
Type of Schedule if Government Employee		<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Intermittent</b>
If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities (check the appropriate box):				
	Person with Disabilities			
	Veteran's Recruitment Act			
	Former Peace Corps Volunteer			
	Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability			
	Pathways Program (Students & Recent Graduates):			
	Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998			
	Other, please describe:			