



**OUTREACH NOTICE**  
**McCALL SMOKEJUMPER BASE**  
*Region 4 - Intermountain*  
*Payette National Forest*



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**Job Title:** Forestry Technician (Smokejumper)  
**Series/Grade/Tour:** GS-0462-05; Temporary 1039

The McCall Smokejumper Base is anticipating filling several 1039 temporary seasonal smokejumper positions for the 2015 Fire Season. The duty station is McCall, Idaho; however upon completion of rookie training the incumbents are subject to work assignments throughout the Region, in any other Forest Service Region, or for other government agencies concerned with managing forest or range lands throughout the United States. Government housing is available.

This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of these upcoming opportunities and inform those interested of the application procedures and deadline.

**Position Description:** This position serves as a trainee Smokejumper within a national shared resource smokejumper program, located at the McCall Smokejumper Unit, Fire Branch, and Payette National Forest.

Smoke jumping duties can be extremely arduous and hazardous. Jumpers must be in excellent physical condition as well as possess a high degree of emotional stability and mental alertness. The job often involves prolonged periods when smoke, heat, short supplies of food and water take their toll on physical stamina. The physical well-being of each Smokejumper on an assignment may depend on the ability of individuals to pull their own weight.

To become qualified as a Smokejumper, you will be required to successfully complete five weeks of intensive training in parachute jumping and fire suppression methods, including an intense physical training regime. Previous parachute training either in the military or sport jumping is not required or advantageous.

When candidates report for duty they will be given a physical conditioning and strength test which consists of 7 pull-ups, 25 push-ups, 45 sit-ups, and a 1.5 mile run in 11:00 minutes. Any person who cannot meet these minimum physical requirements will be terminated from the Smokejumper program.

After successful completion of the initial physical conditioning test, the intense training begins and much more will be required of the trainees during the following five weeks. One of the most demanding physical requirements of the job is the gear pack-out. Smokejumper gear and tools weigh an average of 110 pounds per person. Smokejumpers must be able to carry this gear to the nearest trail, road or heli-spot after suppressing the fire. The distance can be up to ten miles or more. During the training, Smokejumper trainees are required to demonstrate their own ability to pack this gear a distance of

three miles in 90 minutes or less. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the Smokejumper program.

In addition to the physical requirements, smokejumper trainees must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the various aspects of parachute jumping and other Smokejumper related tasks during the training period. Trainee performance is continually evaluated during the training period and those persons who cannot perform up to the required standard of proficiency will be terminated from the program and placed in another job, if available.

Many training jumps are conducted during the initial training period, beginning with the simplest terrain and progressing into more difficult terrain. After successful completion of the training, trainees will be placed on the jump list and be available for fire assignments.

Fire suppression training includes classroom and field instruction in construction and holding of fireline under varied conditions of topography and fuel, fire weather and fire behavior, first aid and safety, and use of hand and power tools. The trainee will suppress wildland fire using a variety of hand and power tools such as Pulaski, shovel, chain saw, and McLeod. Moves dirt, chops brush and logs, fells trees and snags, applies water by hose or back pump, etc. to build fireline and control spreading wildland fire. Cares for and maintains tools, equipment, jump gear, and parachutes. Travel to fire assignments may vary from parachute jumping to foot travel, truck, bus, etc., and fire action may vary from individual efforts to serving as a member of specialized crew such as Interregional Fire Crew.

The trainee may be assigned to other resource management activities such as recreation, timber, or reforestation when not performing fire suppression duties.

**Leader's Intent:** The McCall Smokejumper Base is searching for well-qualified wildland fire fighters interested in becoming Smokejumpers. This notice contains information to help you apply for temporary Smokejumper positions with the McCall Smokejumpers in the United States Forest Service Intermountain Region, Payette National Forest.

Smokejumper positions are not entry-level firefighting positions. All applicants must meet specific medical, physical, and firefighting work experience requirements to be considered for these positions. Candidates must be in top physical condition and capable of performing arduous duties. Any physical problem sufficient to impair efficiency or endanger fellow workers will disqualify the applicant.

Applicants must meet the minimum 90 days of wildland fire experience and have 12 months of qualifying experience at the GS-04 level. However, due to the quantity of applicants, quality applicants are encouraged to have at a minimum 3-4 years of fire experience with a diverse background of work experience on a good organized crew such as hotshot, helitack, engine, and Type 2 Initial attack crews, qualified to the FFT1 and ICT5, possess leadership experience, and have a safety conscious attitude.

If you lack this required fire experience, you may want to consider applying for a position on an Interagency Hotshot Crew or a district engine, helicopter, or fire suppression hand crew. These crews receive valuable training and experience in fire suppression work. There are numerous crews located throughout the United States with the majority being in the west. For information contact your local job service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or National Park Service office, or check out the Office of Personnel Management website at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) under current openings for the GS-0462 job series.

### Interested?

If you are interested in applying for the 2015 season you will need to go to <https://www.usajobs.gov/> to create an account as well as an applicant profile. Apply to announcement **15-TEMP-SJ-GS0462-05-DT-MR**. This announcement will open on **October 1<sup>st</sup>** and close on **December 1<sup>st</sup>** so applications must be submitted prior to that date to be considered. For more information on the process or the announcement number please contact Jeff Schricker (208) 634-0380 [jpschricker@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpschricker@fs.fed.us) or C. Todd Haynes (208) 634-0381 [cthaynes@fs.fed.us](mailto:cthaynes@fs.fed.us). We plan to request a certificate for referral on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

If you wish to apply to other USFS Smokejumper Bases, you may use this same vacancy announcement. When applying you will want to select all bases you are interested in considering your application.

Selected applicants should receive an offer of employment in early February. Upon reporting for duty, you must satisfactorily complete five weeks of intensive training in parachute jumping, physical conditioning, and fire suppression.

**Read the entire application carefully. Applications that are incomplete, illegible, or inaccurate may not be considered for these positions.**

<b>Employment Period:</b>	<i>Approximately May 18 to September 19</i>
<b>Entry Level Grade:</b>	<i>GS-0462-05 Salary Range (\$15.15/hr.)</i>
<b>Recruitment Period:</b>	<i>Application must be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for the 2015 season.</i>

### More Information

**Location Information:** The McCall Smokejumper Base is located at the McCall Municipal airport and supports 70 smokejumpers. It is one of seven Forest Service Smokejumper Bases located in the western U.S. that support fire suppression and natural resource management activities. The Payette National Forest spans 2.3 million acres of rugged, timbered and remote land in west-central Idaho, and is bordered by two of the deepest canyons in North America—the Salmon River Canyon on the north and the Hells Canyon of the Snake River on the west. The topography is characterized by rough mountains, deep canyons, mountain meadows, rivers and streams, high mountain lakes, and wilderness. One can easily access hot, desert-like areas as well as heavily-forested alpine regions through an extensive system of Forest roads and trails. The Forest has 5 ranger districts which offer a wealth of year-round recreation and tourism opportunities. The Supervisor's Office, McCall, and Krassel District offices are located in McCall, Idaho. New Meadows, Council, and Weiser, Idaho is home to the other three forest district offices. The Payette National Forest web page is at: <http://fsweb.payette.r4.fs.fed.us/>

**Community Information:** McCall located in Valley County, is 100 miles north of Boise on State Highway 55. The primary employment base comprises the recreation industry and government agencies. At an elevation of 5,000 feet, the town is located on the south shore of beautiful glacier-formed Payette Lake. A resort and second home destination area the population increases from 3,000 in the “shoulder” seasons to 10,000+ in the peak summer & winter recreation season. Median home prices are in the \$180,000-240,000 range and rentals are \$700+ per month.

McCall is a popular destination for tourists, summer homeowners, and summer and winter recreationists. Snow falls November thru through April. The total annual snowfall average is ten feet, but less than five feet typically remains on the ground at any given time.

Recreational opportunities include fishing in tributaries of the Salmon River and in high mountain lakes, alpine and Nordic skiing at two ski areas and elsewhere on the Forest, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, etc. McCall is rated the number two snowmobile destination in Idaho and is famous for its winter carnival and snow sculpture contest. The Little Ski Hill, located five minutes from McCall, is known for its youth ski programs and Nordic skiing. Brundage Mountain Ski Area is located between McCall and New Meadows. Ponderosa State Park, adjacent to McCall, provides public access to nature trails, groomed Nordic ski trails that are lit at night, swimming beaches, campsites, interpretive programs and a visitor's center.

All of the usual services are available in McCall, including a 12 bed hospital, 11 local physicians, regular visiting specialists from Boise, physical, occupational and speech therapies, two eye clinics, and four dental offices. Public schools include elementary, middle school (6th-8th), and high school. Most extra-curricular activities are included through the school system.

Additional community information can be found at: <http://www.mccall.id.us/>