



2026 Seasonal Hiring FAQs

What seasonal positions are you hiring?

- The Mt. Hood National Forest is recruiting for a variety of roles, including in visitor service, developed recreation, wilderness & trails, heritage, and natural resources.
- All varieties of positions will be advertised under the same "Forestry Technician" (series 0462) job title. You will have the opportunity to indicate your preference if you are contacted by a hiring official to move forward in the application process.
- Details about the positions are listed on our website:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/mthood/working-with-us/careers>

What is the pay?

- The pay depends on the grade and the location of the position. We are hiring **GS-4 and GS-5 Forestry Technicians** for the summer.
- A 'grade' refers to the [General Schedule \(GS\) pay scale](#) – it's the pay level for the job. The higher the grade level, the higher the pay. [Learn more about what grades you may qualify for](#) before applying.

When can I apply?

- Announcements will open on [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) starting **February 20, 2026**.
- The application window may be short (approximately 2 weeks), so we recommend starting the process early. Each announcement will list its open and close dates.

How long is seasonal employment?

- Temporary appointments are for 1,039 hours, which ends up being about 6 months.

Is any government housing available?

- Limited housing may be available, but it is not guaranteed.
- If you are contacted by a hiring official to move forward in the application process you may ask for more details on housing.

How do I apply for a seasonal position?

- Interested applicants must apply through [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov). We recommend using "1039" in the keyword search. The job title will be "Forestry Technician" and the series will be "0462" for all non-fire seasonal positions on the Mt. Hood National Forest in 2026.
- Apply for all grades and locations you are willing to consider and please select "location negotiable" to be considered for all locations. (Mt. Hood National Forest duty locations include Dufur, Parkdale, Sandy, and Zigzag.)

- Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

Are seasonal employees eligible to participate in federal employee benefit programs?

- Yes, seasonal federal employees can qualify for federal employee benefits like the [Federal Employees Health Benefits \(FEHB\) program](#) and [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program \(FEDVIP\)](#).
- Eligibility requires that the employee work a full-time schedule, defined as at least 130 hours per month for at least 90 days.

Can a temporary, seasonal employee earn annual and sick leave?

- Temporary seasonal employees earn 4 hours of sick leave and 4 hours of annual leave every 2 weeks.

Where can I find more information?

- There are several resources you can reference when applying for federal jobs:
 - Get started with USAJOBS: <https://help.usajobs.gov/get-started>
 - Mt. Hood National Forest Careers page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/mthood/working-with-us/careers>
 - Learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers>

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

- If you have more questions, please contact the Business Administrative Staff Officer for Mt. Hood National Forest, Ann Schmidt: Ann.Schmidt1@usda.gov