



The Mission

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Overview

The US Forest Service is a multi-faceted agency that manages and protects 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 states and Puerto Rico. It was established in 1905 and is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands, which encompass 193 million acres. It is composed of about 34,000 employees nationwide and is the largest natural resource organization in the world.

Typical Careers

- Foresters and Forestry Technician
- Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Staff
- Firefighters and managers
- Fire prevention
- Aviation and ground safety professionals
- Electronic technicians
- Dispatchers and communicators
- Biological Scientist
- Recreation Specialists
- Administrators (e.g. management and systems analysts, finance and accounting, clerical personnel)

Benefits working with a federal agency:

Retirement

- Civil Service Retirement System
- Federal Employees Retirement System

Vacation

- Annual and Sick Leave
- (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Insurance

- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program](#) (FEHBP)
- [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#)
- [Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees](#) (FSAFEDS)
- [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#) (FLTCIP)
- [Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program](#)

General

- Diverse workforce
- Flexible work schedule

Student Jobs and Internships

The Pathways Program offers federal internship and employment opportunities for current students, recent graduates and those with an advanced degree. There are three different paths available <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/opportunities-for-young-people>

Pathways Internship Program

Designed to provide students with opportunities to explore Federal careers while still in school, students may be hired on a temporary basis for up to one year (NTE Intern) or for an indefinite period (Indefinite Intern).

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/2015/16/Pathways_Applicant.pdf

Pathways Recent Graduate Program

Is available to individuals who have completed qualifying degree or certificate programs within the previous two years. Qualified veterans may have an extended application period due to military service.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search?Keyword=pathways&Location=&search=Search&AutoCompleteSelected=False>

Pathways Presidential Management Fellows Program

This program is for individuals who have completed an advanced degree within the past two years. For more information about student opportunities visit

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media/2015/16/Pathways_Applicant.pdf

Tip

- The phrase, “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. You can learn more about this motto, the vision, and guiding principles [here](#).
- Volunteers are essential to the management of the forest, this can be a great way to network and get your foot in the door. Learn more [here](#).
- Opportunities for growth and career advancement are limitless at the Forest Service. A career with the Forest Service is a chance to work for nature and leave a lasting impact. You can work in nature or in a role that supports nature. <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/jobs/careers>

Useful links

- **USAJobs** – Job search page <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- **YouthGo.gov** – Overview about occupations and education in relevant to government outdoor careers <https://youthgo.gov/>
- Job Application tips <http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs-jobs-applicant-tips.pdf>
- Required documents for hiring authorities http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/required_docs_fsjobs.pdf
- How to apply information <http://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/jobs/how-to-apply>