



US Forest Service Career Information

Pike/San Isabel National Forests

Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands

The Pike/San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service's, Rocky Mountain Region (R2) and is located in Southern Colorado. The PSICC covers just over 3 million acres and stretches from Leadville, CO to Elkhart, KS. The Supervisor's Office is headquartered in Pueblo, CO with District Offices in Leadville, Salida, Canon City, Morrison, Colorado Springs, Fairplay, Springfield, and Elkhart, KS. The area is known for outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, skiing, camping, and biking.



The **Supervisor's Office** (the headquarters of the PSICC) is located in Pueblo, CO. In 2014, Pueblo was recognized as the 6th Most Affordable Place to Live in America. Pueblo has a mild climate and is home to the annual Colorado State Fair and the Lake Pueblo State Park, which provides abundant recreational opportunities. Pueblo is often referred to as the "Steel City" due to it being one of the largest producers of steel in the country. It is also referred to as the "Home of Heroes" due to the large number of Medal of Honor recipients per capita as compared to other cities. For further information about the Pueblo area, please visit: <http://www.pueblo.us/>

The **Cimarron National Grassland** is located in the southwest corner of Kansas, with the District office located in Elkhart, KS. The Cimarron National Grassland covers just over 100,000 acres of public land that is managed for multiple resources use including range, minerals, wildlife, water, fire, developed and dispersed recreation. Elkhart represents rural America and small town values are alive and well here! The community is friendly and family-oriented. The air is clean and you are guaranteed a beautiful sunrise and sunset almost every day. No traffic to worry about, everyone knows you by name and the crime rate is low. The school system is very good, with low student to teacher ratios. Many activities in the community focus on school events and there is always an activity to participate in. More information about Elkhart, KS can be found here: <http://www.ci.elkhart.ks.us/>





The **Comanche National Grassland** is located in southeastern Colorado, with District offices in Springfield, CO and La Junta, CO. The Comanche National Grassland covers over 440,000 acres of public land that is managed for multiple resources use including range, minerals, wildlife, water, fire, developed and dispersed recreation. The Comanche National Grassland is home to the internationally known dinosaur trackway in Picketwire Canyon, and has abundant archeological sites throughout the area. La Junta sits about 60 miles east of Pueblo, CO. The population of La Junta is approximately 7,500 and is the county seat of Otero County. Springfield is a small town of about 1,500 located in the southeastern corner of Colorado, and is the county seat of Baca County. Both the La Junta and Springfield communities rely heavily on ranching and agriculture. More information about Springfield, CO and La Junta, CO can be found here: <http://www.springfieldcolorado.com/> and <http://www.ci.la-junta.co.us/>

The **Leadville Ranger District** is located in the San Isabel National Forest and covers both Lake and Chaffee counties. Leadville serves as the headwaters of the Arkansas River. The Leadville Ranger District is the highest ranger district in the Forest Service System with elevations ranging from 8,000 to 14,400 feet. The majority of the 289,000 acre district is above 10,000 feet and located within inventoried roadless areas or Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas. Leadville is located approximately 100 miles west of Denver and enjoys an average high temperature during the summer of 70 degrees. Recreational opportunities abound such as hiking, climbing, camping, fishing, boating, and much more! For more information visit: <http://leadvilleusa.com/>



The **Pikes Peak Ranger District** is located in central Colorado with the District Office being located in Colorado Springs. The District is located on the Pike National Forest and covers roughly 230,000 acres, which are managed for multiple resources use including range, minerals, wildlife, water, fire, developed and dispersed recreation. The city of Colorado Springs is located at the base of Pikes Peak. It is the second largest city in Colorado and the 41st largest city in the United States. Colorado Springs is a full-service city and one of the fastest growing cities in Colorado. Colorado Springs is located about 70 miles south of Denver. Many festivals take place here during the summer, and recreation opportunities such as fishing, camping, biking, and hiking are nearby. For more information about Colorado Springs, visit: <https://coloradosprings.gov/>

The **Salida Ranger District** covers 448,885 acres across five counties. Three wilderness areas are located on the District with a fourth area proposed on BLM land directly adjacent to National Forest and Browns Canyon. The Salida Ranger District is located in the San Isabel National Forest, and is situated within the Upper Arkansas River Basin which is located in central Colorado; about 3 hours south of Denver. The Ranger District is located in the “Home of the Fourteeners” with fourteen thousand foot peaks towering over the western side of the valley. Locally, the valley is known as the “Banana Belt” of Colorado because of the outstanding climate, including over 300 days of sunshine. Recreation opportunities abound and include premier mountain biking, skiing and snowboarding, white water rafting, hiking, climbing, fishing, riding horses, and four-wheeling along mountain roads and trails on the District. More information about Salida can be found here: <http://salidachamber.org/>



The **San Carlos Ranger District** encompasses the south portion of the San Isabel National Forest. The District extends over an area about 50 miles wide, by 110 miles long, including about 400,000 acres of National Forest System lands in Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, Pueblo, Las Animas & Costilla Counties, including the Wet Mountains, Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and the Spanish Peaks. The District Office is located in Canon City, which is the county seat of Fremont County in Southern Colorado. Canon City is located in a mountain bowl along the Arkansas River Valley as it flows east from the Rocky Mountains. The city has a mild climate and is referred to as the “Climate Capital of Colorado” with temperatures generally 10 degrees warmer than other nearby Colorado communities.



There are many tourist attractions in the area including the Royal Gorge Bridge and rafting on the Arkansas River. Canon City is the third oldest city in the State of Colorado and residents are proud of its history. Work locations for this District include Rye, LaVeta, and Westcliffe. Rye is located approximately 30 miles south of Pueblo in a rural mountain setting near the beautiful Lake Isabel. LaVeta is a small town located about 65 miles south of Pueblo near the Spanish Peaks. Westcliffe is located approximately 60 miles southwest of Pueblo in the Wet Mountain Valley. For more information about Canon City, visit: <http://www.canoncity.org/>

The **South Park Ranger District** office is located in Fairplay, Colorado. The district is approximately 540,000 acres in size, including two Wilderness areas (Lost Creek and Buffalo Peaks), and is located in Park and Teller counties. Elevations range from 8,000 to over 14,000 feet. The town of Fairplay is located in central Colorado in Park County, approximately 85 miles southwest of Denver and 85 miles west-northwest of Colorado Springs at the intersection of U.S. Highway 285 and Highway 9. Fairplay lies within the geographic feature of “South Park.” A “park” is a relatively flat, high-elevation basin surrounded by mountain ranges on all sides. South Park covers over 900 square miles and is surrounded by the Mosquito, Park, Platte River, Kenosha, and Tarryall mountain ranges. The town sits on the edge of the Middle Fork of the South Platte River and was originally founded as a mining town in the mid-to-late-1800s with the discovery of gold and silver. Summer recreation and tourism center on multiple outdoor recreation opportunities including fishing, boating, rafting, horseback riding, backpacking, gold panning, mountain biking/hiking/climbing, and camping. Winter sports include hunting, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and skiing. Additional information about Fairplay and South Park can be found here: <http://southparkchamber.com/>





The 460,000 acre **South Platte Ranger District** lies adjacent to southwest metropolitan Denver, outside the town limits of Morrison, CO. The District office is located just south of Tiny Town off U.S. Highway 285, six and one-half miles southwest of the intersection of US Highway 285 and C-470 in Denver. The South Platte Ranger District is located east of the Continental Divide in the central Rocky Mountains. It lies due west of the Denver Metropolitan area in Jefferson, Park, Douglas, Teller, and Clear Creek Counties. The District offers boundless recreation opportunities ranging from the serenity provided by a scenic hike along the Colorado trail or gold-medal fishing in the South Platte River to the excitement of riding a dirt bike or ATV in the Rocky Mountain regions largest motorized recreation area surrounding Rampart Range Road. These are just a sampling of recreational activities available to people of all ages and interests. Information about the Town of Morrison can be found here: <http://www.town.morrison.co.us/27/Government>

Career Resources: Information about the PSICC and employment opportunities with the US Forest Service can be found through these sources:

Forest Service Jobs Website: www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs

Outreach Database (List of Upcoming Job Opportunities): <https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/Outreach/>

Human Resources Contact Center: **1-877-372-7248, Option #2**

Office of Personnel Management (Job Qualification Information): www.opm.gov

Job Postings: www.usajobs.gov

Rocky Mountain Region (R2) Website: www.fs.fed.us/r2

PSICC Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/>

Natural Resource Career Guide (Information on career options and navigating USAJobs application process): http://www.cyca.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/natural_resource_career_guide_v2.2.pdf