

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Washington, D.C.**



FS-0108

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FOREST SERVICE TO ADD 3,500 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 2000 – In response to the severe fire season of 2000 and recent legislation signed by President Clinton, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service will hire approximately 3,500 employees in firefighting positions over the next several months.

The new positions will support the National Fire Plan, which was developed with the Department of Interior and approved by President Clinton and outlines Forest Service actions to address catastrophic wildfire threats throughout the country.

“In the wake of this summer’s devastating fire season, this is an excellent time to improve our nation’s wildland fire suppression capabilities and to reduce fire hazards near populated areas,” said Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck. “We are committed to obtaining a diverse pool of applicants from across the county who are interested in supporting our firefighting mission.”

Up to 1,000 of the positions will be permanent while the rest will be temporary or seasonal, lasting up to six months per year. However, there will be opportunities for current seasonal employees to become permanent seasonal employees with better benefits and more job security. Most of the 3,500 jobs will be entry-level forestry aids and technician jobs assigned to firefighting positions and some positions will require more specialized knowledge and skills.

Applications and additional information regarding the new firefighting jobs are available at <www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs>. Individuals can request applications via an automated, toll-free telephone number, (877) 813-3476, by e-mail, <fsjobs@fs.fed.us>, or by visiting their local Forest Service office. An on-line application process is slated to be available in mid-December.

To apply, one must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and may have to pass a physical-fitness test. The deadline for the first round of applications is Jan. 2, 2001; selections will begin in mid-January. In addition to these Forest Service positions, the United States Department of Interior soon will issue a similar announcement for firefighting positions to support the National Fire Plan.

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