Hiring Outreach Notice
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region
Northwest Avalanche Center

The Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC - U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region) intends to hire up to 2 avalanche forecaster positions for the 2024-2025 winter season.

Duty Station
- 1 position in Cle Elum, WA
- 1 position in North Bend, WA

Position (U.S. Forest Service Title/Grades)
- Avalanche Forecaster (Meteorological Technician, GS-1341-08)
- Avalanche Forecaster (Physical Scientist/Natural Resource Specialist/Social Scientist, GS-1301/0401/0101-09)

How to Apply
- Submit applications through USAJOBS
- Vacancies Open: Jun 27th - Jul 10th, 2024
- Cover letters are encouraged with your USAJOBS application

Contact: dennis.damico@nwac.us and dallas.glass@nwac.us for more information.

About the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC)

NWAC exists to increase avalanche awareness, reduce avalanche impacts, and equip the community with mountain weather and avalanche forecasts, education, and data. The Northwest Avalanche Center is a private-public partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the nonprofit Northwest Avalanche Center. The Forecast Center resides with the U.S. Forest Service.

Avalanche Forecaster tours begin in late October and run through late April. This is a full-time seasonal position that requires shift work including some evenings, weekends and holidays. The employee’s exact start date is determined by the Forest Service’s Hiring Team.

We are searching for motivated individuals capable of building relationships with the public, our professional partners, and within our organization. The GS-9 position will work roughly 25% of the time at the central office in Seattle as a mountain weather and avalanche forecaster along with NWAC Meteorologists. Weather forecaster shifts are typically 12hr or more.

Essential Skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Experience with operational risk management in avalanche terrain
- Excellent fitness and winter backcountry travel skills (motorized and/or non-motorized)
- Ability to gather snow, weather, and avalanche field data to professional standards
- Experience interpreting raw meteorological forecast data and observations
- Familiarity with Google Workspace and web-based software packages
Desired Skills
- Previous experience supporting public safety
- Familiarity with social media platforms
- Experience teaching avalanche education to a variety of audiences
- Proficient snowmobiler
- Experience with installing and/or maintaining remote weather stations

Essential Qualifications
- American Avalanche Association-Pro 1 or equivalent certification
- 2 or more winter seasons of professional avalanche experience
- Valid Driver’s License

Desired Qualifications
- American Avalanche Association-Pro 2 or equivalent certification
- Current Wilderness First Responder and CPR certifications
- Undergraduate or graduate degree in natural resources, physical sciences, or engineering
- Experience with operational weather forecasting (especially for GS-9 position)
- Search and Rescue training and experience

Area Information: The Northwest Avalanche Center forecasts for the Washington Cascades, Olympic Mountains, and Mt Hood area, spanning 4 National Forests, 3 National Parks, and additional state and local lands. The central forecast office is located in Seattle, WA with local avalanche forecasters assigned to field offices in communities throughout the Cascades. The NWAC non-profit office is located in North Bend, WA.

Forecast Responsibilities: These positions will serve as the primary forecaster for backcountry avalanche terrain/forecast zones near the duty locations as well as other terrain/forecast zones identified by the program before the winter season. All forecasters will occasionally produce backcountry avalanche forecasts outside of the areas they regularly perform fieldwork.

Equipment: The Northwest Avalanche Center will provide the forecaster with standard avalanche safety and computer equipment.

Travel: This position requires the forecaster to travel for fieldwork one or more days per week. In addition to regular fieldwork, forecasters are expected to travel for occasional staff meetings and events during the season. The forecaster is expected to safely drive mountain roads in winter conditions and load and transport a snowmobile trailer. NWAC will provide the staff member with a Forest Service vehicle for work-related activities. The forecaster's government vehicle will be parked at a Forest Service office or another approved and secure facility. Overnight travel is typically not required.

Telework: The Northwest Avalanche Center leadership will work with the forecaster to determine whether non-fieldwork can be accomplished at a Forest Service office or via telework.

Location Note: The Northwest Avalanche Center reserves the right to cancel or change the duty location before the official vacancy announcement based on updated program needs.

Housing: Government housing and moving expenses are not provided.