

Outdoor Jobs 101

HANNAH KISER: Hi everybody.

Thank you for showing up on

a Friday evening for a somewhat dry top and not dry topic,

but I'm getting into the nitty-gritty of how we get these great jobs.

See, we've got trivial here,

so we will just get started and if other people come in,

then they can catch up.

We will review at one point,

so it should be pretty easy for them.

Here's a great picture [LAUGHTER] I was in America for intern before I became a ranger.

This is actually at Lake shore and,

so very beautiful place to work and

that's one of the best parts about working in the outdoors.

A little bit about me, why am I an authority on this issue [LAUGHTER] on this process?

In 2018, I started working for WSU as

an adventure facilitator with almost no experience working in the outdoors,

just had some experience backpacking.

With just that on my resume,

not running any other experience,

I became an America volunteer Backcountry Trails Ranger for

a season and that experience allowed me to become a US Forest Service Wilderness Ranger.

I did that for one season,

and did not come back last season and because I became

a grad student at WSU and now the grad assistant for the ORC.

I've been through this process,

I've like men I don't feel like I have the experience for this

to getting a little bit and then really getting to go into the job.

The reason that I'm telling you this is because if you're someone who's like,

oh man, I've kind of bummed.

I feel like I'm not where I need to be in order to get the job that I want.

You are you're fine.

[LAUGHTER] I promised that you can re-craft your resume, do things.

Think about the experiences that you've had in a way that

will translate to you being able to

have a job like this if it is something that you are interested in.

Because I remember sitting looking at my computer being like there's no way to get

these drops and six months later it feeling completely differently.

If you take the action you want to do it,

it's definitely within reach.

What are federal jobs?

There jobs that you apply through usajobs.gov,

which we're going to talk about a lot in this presentation.

There are lots of different agencies in the federal government.

The United States Forest Service is the one that I have worked for and

I'm most familiar with and the ones that jobs just opened up today on.

It's maybe the focus.

Although USAJobs caters to jobs through the National Park Service,

Bureau of Land Management,

US Fish and Wildlife Service,

Army Corps of Engineers,

so many other agencies that you can also search on USA jobs and all

of the information in

this presentation is going to be very applicable to these other agencies as well.

A bit of an overview,

USAJobs is a site to apply for every federal job in America.

There is a lot of jobs,

a lot of applicants,

a lot of hiring managers.

So the process is definitely clunky and unlike any other,

which is why it is a big focus of the presentation because if you can't

crack USAJobs you're not going to get

the job and you should get the job if you have the experience,

so we figuring out that process.

It might be a little bit of information overload,

but I'm going to e-mail you this slides.

Just focus on getting the gist of it and ask questions as needed.

The first thing we're going to talk about is job announcements,

which is when you go onto USAJobs and you are looking for whatever it is that you want,

what is going to pop up?

You can search by position title,

which after this presentation you should know some position titles to look for.

But you can also refine your search based on certain states, agencies, experience levels.

We're going to get into all of that,

but just a little bit of a breakdown.

This thing in purple forestry tech wilderness trails is an example of a position title.

Underneath it is the agency which is the Forest Service.

Forest Service is part of Department of Agriculture.

There's also Department of the Interior and

Department of Security or something else that's not outdoors related, I'm sure.

That's just a little bit of general information.

Multiple locations mean that there are

tons of different places they are hiring for these positions.

On the right side you see starting that's like your pay and GS

is your experience level which we'll get into.

Temporary means it's a seasonal job.

Say if you're just looking for a center position.

Permanent jobs would be year-round and then full-time means 40 hours a week.

Also this little blue button means open to everyone.

Some jobs on USAJobs are only open to people who have been working in

the federal government or have certain hiring initiatives.

But all the jobs we're going to talk about today are ones that are open for everybody,

which are competitive status.

Then at the very bottom it says open 10/30/2020 to 11/09/2020.

That's why this presentation is today because a lot of these jobs for

summer 2021 open today are only open for 10 days.

[LAUGHTER] Here's a bunch of different position titles that you can apply for.

We're going to go through each one and talk about a description of

that job and some corks about the position titles.

Forestry tech in recreation forestry tech in wilderness and

there's forestry tech in trails and then

also how it's written forestry tech wilderness slash trails,

forestry tech for fire, forestry aids,

biology technicians, and these can have plants, wildlife,

natural resources, invasive plants,

archaeology technicians, silviculture technicians and many more.

Again, when you're searching USAJobs,

you can definitely find a lot more jobs.

Jobs or specific to communication or any really so many other things jobs.

Questions in the chat, are outdoor jobs generally temporary due to the seasons?

Yes. Because if I'm working as a wilderness ranger and it becomes a winter,

like I'm not really able to get out there anymore.

Unfortunately, those positions are not year round.

They are just seasonal,

which means that they are six months maximum.

You cannot work more than a 1,039 hours,

which would be 40 hour weeks for six months.

Most of the time you work a bit less than that and it can be pretty flexible,

but it is due to the seasons.

Do specific degrees make you a better candidate?

Yes. We will get to this.

But also if you don't have a degree,

your experience can make up for it.

The first one we'll talk about is recreation.

This is frontcountry rangers.

What I mean by frontcountry is you're not really backpacking or hiking to do your job,

you have an awesome forest service rig like this that you

drive along roads to develop recreation sites like campsites or trailheads.

You're doing a lot of contacting of visitor's,

making sure that like you can answer any questions that they have.

Checking campsite permits, filling ticket boxes,

doing repairs on things,

logging out the road sometimes like when you're driving the road,

opening up gates, that stuff there is limited to no hiking or backpacking,

you're mostly working from your vehicle.

You mostly are working with a partner.

This is a great job if you want to work in the outdoors, but you're like,

hey, I'm not really ready to like,

really rough it all the time.

I like to sleep in bed at night,

it's really great position for that.

Sometimes you get to where the Smokey, the bear costume.

I have worn this one of the bear costume before,

even though I did not work in this capacity.

But these are the Rangers that you probably see driving around the [? West ?].

If there are any questions about these specific ones,

you can put them in the chat,

I'll go answer it before I switch slides.

Another type of job which is the most confusing title

is wilderness/trails or wilderness and trails.

There's two main jobs.

This slide is focusing on trail crew,

the next one we'll focus on rangers.

But trail crew, your job is repairing

and maintaining the trail system and recreation areas.

That might look like logging some thing out.

So when this winter bunch of trees fall

and so you have to go and log it out so people can access it.

Building bridges, sometimes it's building platforms like the one in this picture.

You're working with tools a lot,

you're working with a crew of like 48 people,

which is a super fun experience.

There's two general categories for this, backcountry and wilderness.

Backcountry means you can use tools,

so you can use chainsaws,

you can use dirt bikes sometimes if that's what your district does,

you can use power tools.

For example, we had chainsaws to fall these trees,

we used drills to drill the holes in to make the platform.

But if you're on a wilderness crew,

that means that you're hiking all of your tools in and

you're focusing on human-powered minimal tool concept,
which means you're doing the old school cross-cutting,
not using a power tool.

So when you're looking at that position title,
if it says just wilderness,

you're probably going to be more of the human-powered minimum tool.

If it says just trails then you probably are doing more backcountry.

That being said, there is a lot of overlap in the beginning of the season,
you're usually doing a little bit more backcountry,
even if you are traditionally more of a wilderness crew.

At this point when you're looking,
you're deciding which positions to apply for.

But then later on when you're talking to the hiring manager, you can ask, hey,
what exactly is this position for your district and getting
a little bit more clarity on that [LAUGHTER].

The second main type of job under forestry tech wilderness/trails is wilderness rangers.

Again, this is a really ambiguous title.

It doesn't tell you whether you're applying for a ranger position or
a trail crew position or mostly wilderness or backcountry.

It's not a perfect system.

Multiple jobs can have the same title even though they're different jobs.

This is [LAUGHTER] the mass of USA jobs.

But if you're a ranger,

you're working on contacting and educating the public on Leave No Trace principles,
naturalizing campsites, repairing signs,

collecting usage data, doing toilet maintenance,

there are so many things,

I could not even list them all here.

You're the jack of all trades in the backcountry here.

You can be a wilderness ranger,

which is what I've mostly described so far.

OHV, which is off highway vehicle,

that means you've got a dirt bike and you're

patrolling areas where other dirt bikers recreate,

which some people think that's really rad.

I think that's really terrifying,

but to each their own,

and then climbing rangers as well,

I know the district that I used to work in has a position

opened this year and that is a very niche position,

like you have to be a very good climber in order to do this.

But you're basically going in patrolling and talking to predominantly climbers.

If they're leaving their gear,

you're helping carry that out to make

sure that the area is safe and clear of all that stuff.

Just patrolling those areas that you can't get to unless you're climbing.

Are there any questions so far?

Oh, relocating wildlife.

If you were to work as a biological technician in the wildlife section,

then it may include relocating wildlife.

If you're a ranger or a trail crew,

you have your area of expertise and you would want to collaborate and be like,

"Hey, I noticed this thing while I was out rangers about these mountain goats.

Tell me about this." Then they might say,

"Oh, well, we're doing this research here, blah, blah, blah."

Sometimes if you're interested, they'll be like, "Hey,

do you want to come with us on our next hitch,

and do you want to be part of this process?"

If you do work in an area and there are multiple people,

you can collaborate and you can cross

train to work in different areas that you're interested in.

That's a really cool perk of working for the forest service,

they're really about doing that.

But I think that would mostly be a biological tech in

the biology departments focus would be relocating wildlife.

I wonder if you're thinking about how they used to take helicopters to relocate

the what are they called? Billy goats.

[LAUGHTER] The last general category under forestry technician is fire jobs,

and there are many jobs in fire.

Usually the descriptor in the parenthesis is pretty accurate,

unlike the category we just talked about,

which was wilderness and trails.

Examples are hotshots which are experienced crews.

If it's your first time, I would not apply for that job.

Helitack, which is a helicopter based fire crew, lookouts,
where you're living in the lookout all summer,
which sounds pretty neat also maybe a little bit lonely.

Fire suppression, which is an entry-level crew,
so if you don't have any experience,
that would be a great one to apply for.

Here's one, Erin, where there might be something that is specific to communications.

But also if you have a job in the forest service,
you can train to specifically be a public information officer,
and then when there are fires,
you can be removed from your post where you are and go to
that fire and work in that role for those like two weeks, for example.

But I would look into that and see if there's specific communication stuff for fire.

Are lookout positions solo?

That's a good question.

Sometimes, sometimes they're not.

You'll get lookout, and also there's
another type of job that I can't remember at the moment.

Sometimes campground host where they have couples.

I think it really depends on the position,
and maybe what I would do is if you saw that you could go down and look who to contact,
like where the district is,
call that district and be like, "Hey,
just wondering if you're looking to highlight one or two people."

Because it might be two, it depends.

But I agree that would be like

maybe good if it was your partner but also maybe you want to strangle them after being [LAUGHTER] together in the lookout alone.

All right, so how do I know the job I'm applying for is the one I want?

Sadly, sometimes you don't,

it's not a perfect system.

They're two approaches.

Like I said, these jobs,

how do I know I'm applying for a ranger or a trail crew? Sometimes they're both.

You can try a shotgun approach,

which is where you apply for each job description that could apply,

or you can find an announcement number.

Different forests are better or worse at providing hiring information to the public.

So I'm going to provide you with a PDF at the end that goes over the one

actually open org in National Forrest which is the one that

is most of the area in Washington,

and that has the titles,

what those positions are,

and their announcement numbers.

You can look that up in the USA Jobs

and that way you know exactly what you are applying for.

But I have in the past,

I usually apply for four positions at a time just because

I want to make sure that I have my base is covered.

But luckily with the forming of USA jobs,

it's easy to apply for multiple positions and have it not be too much extra work.

This grade and scale I've been talking about,

there are different grade and scales you can apply for.

There are some GS-03s.

They're very, very rare,

if there is a GS-03.

That means that you really only need six months of general experience.

That can be really great if you don't have a lot of experience.

But you also get paid a bit less.

GS-04 is what I would say most people should apply for.

This is what I applied for even though I had experience for GS-05,

I only got a GS-04 because all the GS-04s from the year before usually get GS-05s,

and then all the newbies get GS-04s,

even though they could be a GS-05s.

The GS level goes out to GS-12.

But the fun jobs are the lower GS jobs.

The further up you get,

the more you have to supervise and the less you get to actually be doing the stuff.

If you're more interested in something that's permanent like Erin,

then I would say you're probably looking at GS-06,

7 depends on your experience level.

But let's see.

The hourly rates are not different based off of states.

I don't know federal government trumps,
whatever it is, the local wage.

Although what I will say is,
this is not reflective of how much you actually make because you get great holiday pay,
you also get overtime if you get to work on a fire,
regardless of where you're working in the forest service,
you are encouraged to get red carded,
which means you can work on fires.

So if there's a fire in a different state,
you get the opportunity to go and work on that fire and then you get tons
of overtime because you work 14, 16 hour days.

It's really intense, but you can make a lot of money that way.

Also you get per diem if you camp out at night.

You actually end up making a decent amount more.

You also don't have to pay for lodging because they usually provide you with lodging,
which is a really good question to ask when you're talking to the manager.

The wage does seem a bit low,
but there definitely are a lot of perks.

This is pretty vague right now.

Six months general experience, six-months specialized,
it depends on the position and they give examples in the job description
of what counts as general experience and what counts as specialized experience.

Also, what types of credits count,
what types of degrees count?

The key here is combination of working experience because you may

have a lot of credits and a lot of general experience,

but not a specific experience,

you could still apply for a GS-04 or GS-05 position.

I would recommend applying for both if you feel like you're qualified for both

because you'd better to apply for both and get the GS-04 not the GS-05,

even though you could get a GS-05, than say,

I'm only applying for GS-05 and don't get it because

somebody has networked and they are already in the system.

That is my recommendation at least.

The locations, there are hundreds of locations and

these locations correspond to different ranger districts.

If you apply to a location,

if you go on Google and you Google Chelan Ranger District,

then you should be able to pull up the information for

that district and the numbers so you can call them and ask questions if you want.

When you are applying for a job,

you can select multiple.

On this one I could select every single [LAUGHTER] one of

these locations and apply for them all at once.

It doesn't make it more or less likely

that you will get the job if you apply for more or less,

it just means that your application is either referred or not.

If it's referred, then all of

those hiring managers at all those locations have your resume.

That being said, you should be picky because it's going to be annoying for you to later go through and do that.

But whether you do the work now or later, you do have the opportunity to select all of those locations.

Here's a quick overview and then we're going to go through some of this.

I just want to give us a road map of where we're going.

So how to apply.

Your going to create that account on usajobs.gov,

and then you're going to search for jobs,

and thinking about the position titles,

the GS levels that you think that you can apply for,

and the locations that you would like.

Most of the locations that are open right now are in the West.

They are mostly in the Northwest region,

but I also saw a lot of jobs open in California,

and Idaho, and Montana.

This area right now is hiring.

Different regions hire at different times randomly. It's not great.

They don't tell the public, "Well,

we need Erin to help us get that information out

there in a better way so we can get the most qualified candidates."

Like their jobs, but right now,

if you're interested in being in the West, this is the time,

this next 10 days when the Forest Service is hiring.

National Park Service is also going to be hiring soon, maybe they already did.

I'm not sure, but you can also search specifically for National Park Service,

Bureau of Land Management,

and you can see when those jobs come up.

If you search every week,

then when new things come up you'll say, "Okay.

So this is the week that they're hiring for this."

After you've done all that,

thinking and searching around USAJobs,

you can create a resume for

each different position because they each have different descriptions,

upload your transcripts and other documents.

You complete a job assessment questionnaire and then you can submit everything.

After you've submitted, in about 4-6 weeks,

you check to see if you're referred.

That means that your application has passed.

[LAUGHTER] If you do get referred,

you instigate the interview,

so everything we've ever learned about applying for a job goes out the window here.

If you aren't, better luck next time,

but we also have some options for you if that happens as well.

This is just a road map, we're going to cover this stuff.

Any questions before we get started? All right.

So the resume. There are two audiences for the resume,

the agency headquarters and the hiring manager.

Basically, you can imagine there are probably hundreds if not thousands of people applying for these jobs.

In my opinion, I have no evidence of this, there is an algorithm that reads your resume.

The reason I believe this is because you need to include the exact language that is present in the job responsibility section and in the assessment questionnaire.

If you do not do that, even if you are the most qualified person, you will not be referred.

That leads me to believe that there is some kind of algorithm that's working with this.

So I would really, really recommend that if you want to be successful, using that exact language that's in the job responsibilities and the assessment questionnaire.

Later, we'll look through the site so you know exactly where that stuff is, but that is really, really key.

Usually in resumes, we think, "Oh, I want to have my personal flair and my style.

I want to be concise." No, no.

[LAUGHTER] You want to make sure that it's very clear that you've read the resume.

You want to be honest, your experiences match those in the exact words that they're using.

Good advice for applying for all jobs, yes.

[LAUGHTER] But even more emphasis for this.

You should use the resume builder on the site.

It will give you an option, upload a resume, build one.

Use the builder because it will prompt you

to include the things that you need that you don't usually think about needing.

So you need to have your supervisors phone number.

You need to have exact work dates.

Maybe the day is not so important,

but the month, the hours that you worked.

If you have had a federal position before,

what the grade and scale was, all of that stuff.

You need a lot more specific details than you do for any other job.

Then again, don't worry about the length.

I think my resume is eight pages long or something,

and not because I have all these experience,

but because that was what it took to include all of the verbiage in these things.

Don't worry about the length. Get all your experience in there.

Use that exact wording, but being honest,

it should match what your experience is with the gist,

[LAUGHTER] is what I'll say.

Are there any questions about this?

It is a time-consuming process.

Where do we get that assessment questionnaire to find this information?

This is why I think a lot of people got a little bit tripped up.

You can't get the questionnaire until you do the first semi-submission.

This I took exactly from the site today as I was going through this.

You have to click "Apply" on the position

[inaudible] you pull up and then select your resume.

I wouldn't spend a lot of time on it at this point

because you're having to go back and do it anyway.

Upload your documents, review it,

say, "Yes, I certify all this is true."

Include your personal information like your address and all that,

and then continue to application with agency.

Once you do that, it's going to take you to the questionnaire.

Once you get there, I would copy all of that and print it

off and then go back and upload your resume.

You can go back at this point because you haven't officially submitted

everything to the agency yet.

It's like we're sending this to the US Forest Service,

but it's not officially submitted.

Don't let that throw you off because you do need

this assessment questionnaire questions in order to refine your resume.

You got to go through these four steps,

get it, print it off.

Then what I would go do, highlight all of the exact language that you think is important,

that fits your experience and your resume.

Finish working on your resume,

get it all matched and pretty,

and then resubmit everything,

and complete the assessment.

Doesn't make sense with the way the process works,
so people don't do it this way,
but this is absolutely the way that you have to do it to pass the algorithm.

[LAUGHTER] That's why I've stressed this a lot.

One more point on the assessment questionnaire is,
important to be honest,
but also don't be modest about what you've done.

The saying goes, "In the Forest Service, if you've seen a shovel,
you've used a shovel;
if you've used a shovel,
you're an expert shovel user."

Because this assessment is also part of
the algorithm that's going to tell you whether or not you get referred or not.

If you've literally never used to shovel,
don't say you've used a shovel,
but also maybe go borrow your friend's shovel and
use it for a few hours and then say that you've used the shovel.

Because I can tell you from working with people,
that people have lied and you should not lie on this,
and get these positions and don't have this experience.

But if you do have a lot of experience,
you should be getting through the process.

Here is an example we're going to look at.

I pulled this off of the assessment from earlier.

Which of the following best describes your highest level of experience communicating with people from a variety of backgrounds and maintaining working relationships with others in order to carry out aid or technician duties?

First of all, I would ignore this aid or technician's duties part because if you never had the job before, how can you have that experience?

How can you get a job having experience in the job you don't have yet?

I would just say this is a job that I've had before.

The important parts here that I would highlight is communicating with people from a variety of backgrounds and maintaining working relationships.

Then I would read through this to see what is the highest level that I think that I have completed.

For example, Liz has worked as a adventure facilitator, and so have I.

It's communicating with individuals or small groups explaining rules, regulations, opportunities, and restrictions to wilderness campers.

Well, she wasn't doing that in a capacity of being a ranger, but she was doing that in a capacity of being an adventure facilitator.

So I would count that.

I would probably say for her, she could have D because she has not enforced regulations, which you would not have done that unless you already were a forest protection officer.

I think you need to think about how your skills apply had you not already had the experience.

Sometimes these are written as you have already had this job in a lower capacity.

Because otherwise you would never be getting new applicants who haven't had a job in the federal government before.

Good things to keep in mind and also just remembering that women in general tend to understate their abilities.

Really, don't let your self-criticism keep you from rating yourself accurately here.

[NOISE] After you get all this done [LAUGHTER] which is a process, and you only have 10 days for it, then you wait.

Once you submit, your application should say 'Received', and you're then waiting for it to change to "Referred" or "Not Referred".

What are they doing for 4-6 weeks?

Bureaucratic processes.

This is why I think it must be an algorithm.

I have no idea how someone could have this job and actually go through these.

But this is also why you are applying for a job in

October that will not start until April or May.

[LAUGHTER] Is there a reason the application window is so small?

That's a really great question.

It changes year to year.

Last year it was two weeks or four weeks,

this year it's only 10 days.

I really have no idea and I don't really know how these decisions gets made either because they're not made by the hiring managers.

The people who actually hire for the jobs don't get to make any of these decisions.

They don't even get to make the decisions

about what's in the questionnaire a lot of the times.

[LAUGHTER] Which is why, I think,

I absolve myself with the guilt of

sometimes playing a little word magic because I'm like,

I know what the job want and I have the skills for it.

I literally did a position in order to get this job.

[LAUGHTER] It was specifically for it and I'm

still feeling like the questionnaire is not matching that.

These are good questions that have no answers.

If you are referred for a position,

then you are referred for all the locations that you checked when you submitted.

That means you now have your choice of all those.

Should you take it here?

Is what I pulled up from an application of mine a few years ago.

This is what it looks like when you get not referred.

This is what it should say when you do get referred.

It may be less than 4-6 weeks,

I'm not really sure.

I'm a little bit pessimistic because things always take longer than I thought they would.

[LAUGHTER]

All right. Yay, you got referred. Now what?

Your job is not over. You still have to do more work.

[LAUGHTER] You haven't even gotten hired yet.

You need to write a list of questions you have about

the different districts and jobs and you have to call them.

Normally, people call you,
but no, USAJob, you call them.

What I do is I write out the districts that I'm interested
in and I write out the job that I applied for.

I maybe do a little bit of research and then write
some questions that I have for when I call them.

Of course, it cannot be so easy as their number being attached to the announcement,
so you will have to Google the phone number of the different offices,
call the front desk,
tell them that you applied for a job and you were referred,
and you want to talk to the manager for that position.

They're really making you do all of the work here.

My advice would be introduce yourself,
tell them that you're interested,
what your experience and your education is,

if you haven't worked for the forest service before or a federal agency, or if you have.

Then I might say like, "I'm wondering what positions you're
hiring for under this announcement," because like we talked about,
sometimes you don't even know what position is technically being hired
for because these job titles are so vague sometimes.

Also, just asking them about their district in general,
what it is like,

what kind of users they have,
what type of work that they are having you do,

what the schedule is there.

For example, my ranger schedule was four days on, three days off.

I have friends that were eight days on, six days off,

what the start dates are,

because the start dates could range from April,

if you're in Alaska,

[LAUGHTER] to June sometimes, beginning of June,

and then usually ending anywhere from August to October.

If you are a student and you want to go back to school,

there's plenty of people who do that you.

Just have a shorter season.

It just depends if the hiring manager is willing to take you on for that.

But a lot of times, they really are.

So yeah, it really just depends.

It does seem a little weird to just straight up cold-calling people,

but they expect you to do this.

They will not call you because they are getting hundreds of applications on their desk.

So they're really relying on you calling them or

on people who have worked for them before to call them.

[LAUGHTER] This is how you get the job and everyone

else who doesn't attend this presentation does not

get the job because now you know that you have to call.

Here is that timeline.

Now, through 11/9, you're applying for multiple positions and locations on USAJob.

In December, you're checking to see if you've been referred and at that point,

you can call those hiring managers at the districts you're interested in and ask questions and introduce yourself.

Sometime in January or even in December,

I guess, you can call the hiring manager of your top three choices and let them know.

This is also a weird piece,

like that seems a little odd, don't you think?

Well, this is what you should do,

at least for the forest I work on,

you can only be offered one job and you can only take the job you are offered.

So if you tell every district,

it's my top choice,

and then they call you and they're like, "Hey,

so and so wants to hire you," and you're like,

"I don't really want that job."

That could be the only job you get with that forest.

I would just know where my priorities lie and make them known basically.

Then you can also ask, hey,

when are you guys planning on hiring for the forest?

Then they will usually give you some kind of idea,

unless there's a government shutdown like last year,

[LAUGHTER] things got really postponed.

Then you'll be contacted and told that you are hired and where,

and then you can complete that late paperwork, get fingerprinted,

and start sometimes in late spring,

a time that you agree on with your hiring manager.

Are there any questions on this?

I've held a few presentations like this before and people were like,

wait, so I have to do this stuff?

Yeah, it does seem complicated.

It is, but it's worth it.

These jobs are really great.

I have loved my time as a ranger and I hope that I can go

back once I'm done becoming a teacher,

because then I'll have summers off.

Here is what we talked about, again,

our little bit of a recap,

searching for those jobs,

making the resume for the different positions,

using the position description and the questionnaire to inform that resume.

Uploading your transcripts, which can be unofficial,

other documents that you have for certifications,

completing the job assessment questionnaire,

giving yourself a lot of credit for [LAUGHTER] the things that you've done, submitting,

waiting those 4-6 weeks to see if you're referred,

and then instigating that interview.

All right. If people are interested,

we can actually check out USAjobs.

So I can share screen and show you the different things that I've talked about.

But if you are not interested in that, you're like,

I can do that by myself,

you can let me know in the chat and we can move on to opportunities.

If you don't get referred or if you need more experience first,

and just FYI, there's only three slides left after this.

So that lets you know [LAUGHTER] how much more you're in for,

and we've got about 20 minutes left in the presentation.

A quick tour would be helpful.

[NOISE] Let me just pull up my account really fast.

[NOISE]

I've already made my account and ignore 49 applications.

That is embarrassing. That has a lot.

Oops, that doesn't like my other screen. Let's see.

I can go to search and I can refine my search a lot,

but I will say that I want wilderness trails and maybe I only want to work in Washington.

I'm not willing to work anywhere else.

But you could make this anywhere.

You could even make it as specific as an actual city.

Obviously, I need to update my profile.

Then here's where all of the listings will show up.

They look like that one that I showed you, and see,

there are a lot like this,

because they're listed under different regions in forest,

which is something we didn't get into.

But there are 10 regions in the Forest Service and they all higher at different times.

It looks like a lot of them are higher in the same time this year.

But since a lot of these do look the same,

you could click and see, what's this one?

Basically what's going to be different about it is all these locations.

So you're like, Naches, Pomeroy, Chelan.

Maybe I'm looking for Leavenworth.

So this is not the one I want.

Then you can go and look at the different ones to see if you can find the location that

you're interested in specifically.

But then you'll see,

here's what I was talking about.

Sometimes it's just listed under wilderness.

Sometimes it's wilderness/trails, sometimes it's just trails, recreation.

Those are those developed Rock Rangers,

plants for biological science technician.

So you're mostly working with plants I'm assuming.

[LAUGHTER] Not my area of expertise.

Let's look at this for

[? an area in the Northwest ?].

Visitor information assistant doesn't look like this is one of the things.

Something that forest house does a lot though is cross trains you.

If you work in any position you can train to be a public information officer,

which is a job that you get to work for fire and other things.

There's a lot of job opportunities and roles that are not necessarily known.

Let's go back to this really fast.

You could spend a lot of time applying on here.

This could be a good quarantine activity.

We'll just pick this one. This is the one I was applying around with earlier.

This is the same information that was in the general one,

the overview, here's the announcement number.

If you're trying to compare it to something that you have a copy of.

Then here's all these locations as well.

The duties and this is where you're getting some of that language for

your resume under the summary and responsibilities.

This one's saying assures wilderness work projects are

completed safely and utilizes minimum tool concept.

I think the important words here are completed safely and

utilizes minimal to a concept that needs to be incorporated somewhere and so on.

These are the responsibilities which means the things you will have to be able to do.

If you cannot talk to it all of them in your resume,

that's okay because obviously you're going to be trained to do some of these things.

But any of these that apply are great verbiage to include in your resume.

Then, like we talked about that assessment questionnaire.

Other things that are part of your requirements,

this is just like 18 years of age, US citizen.

You guys can all read this.

This is what I was talking about for what is necessary,

so the experience or courses.

For wilderness trails that's saying 12 semester hours,

a combination of forestry,
ag, crop or plant science,
range management or conservation, wildlife management,
watershed management, soil science,
natural resources, outdoor recreational management.

It is pretty broad or a combination of those things.

General experience is usually any physical labor or service work because it's saying,
etc, like working on a fire department a community sports league.

You're seeing like if it is that just I would include it.

Then specialize experiences a lot of the time like you
have worked in this role before or worked in a different agency.

Also really important point that I don't think I emphasize,
paid and unpaid work counts.

Volunteer work, 100 percent counts for
this work experience or like working on the family farm,
that definitely counts too.

Additional information about these things.

Required documents, you guys can all work through this.

Here, the HRM contact,

Albuquerque is the headquarters for the US Forest Service.

I would avoid at all costs having to
call Albuquerque because you will be on the phone for hours.

[LAUGHTER] This is not the number or not the email that you want.

If you have questions,

you should look up the district you're interested in and call or email them

specifically because this is someone who's very general, very high up.

I avoid calling Albuquerque at all costs as a ranger when I have issues.

[LAUGHTER] If you're sitting in this presentation,

you're like, all right, I'm probably not going to get referred.

First of all, don't think that. You need to manifest.

Or I don't meet these minimum requirements, what should I do?

AmeriCorps Internships are amazing.

I think you need to be under 30 for a lot of them,

so I like just snuck in.

But this is a really great opportunity and I don't

feel like youth know about this enough.

But I'm going to talk about a lot more on the next slide,

but AmeriCorps is really great.

Also, you can volunteer.

When I was a ranger I had a mentee and she volunteered through

our volunteer dot gov and came and had an awesome time,

got all the experience she needed,

and became then an AmeriCorps internship wilderness ranger because

she did not get through

this referral process the first time because she didn't get this presentation basically.

[LAUGHTER] Now she is becoming a ranger next year.

volunteer experiences is really great

and both of these are a lot less work than USA jobs.

You can also volunteer locally,

and now that you know that these are the things that are required,
you can track your hours and skills and apply next year if that is what you are into.

We have a lot of places that you can volunteer out.

There's conservation districts, education, non-profits around.

Those can be really great things to do too,
because like I said, those volunteer hours totally count.

Also you can apply to be
an adventure facilitator that gives you backcountry living experience,
which is a great thing to put on your resume for these jobs that require you be out.

We usually hire in the spring so just if you're on social media for WSU,
you will see probably stuff that we'll
be announcing this and just building your skills in general.

Get training through a leave no trace dot org or take wilderness first aid course.

Just like go on trips and get
more experience doing that if it's what you would like to do,
Washington Trails Association is a place you can volunteer to get trail experience.

You can get pretty creative with how you
can continue to hone your skills and build up your resume.

Again, AmeriCorps is amazing,
I would definitely recommend that you check out.

They provide you with a living stipend, housing,
food, transportation and education award.

They freeze your student interests.

They get you the exact job experience that you would need to apply for these jobs.

The professional development is amazing.

I got so many certifications in crosscutting,
in chainsaw use, so many different things.

They also give you hiring initiatives.

Some of the jobs that you apply for will require special things
or make you more competitive if you have it and AmeriCorps gives you that.

Like my heart lives in AmeriCorps,

I had a really good experience with mine.

Mt. Adams Institute is

the non-profit that was contracted with AmeriCorps and that is the program that I did.

How AmeriCorps works is you apply on AmeriCorps,
maybe it's like serveUSA.com.

If you google AmeriCorps, It'll take you there.

AmeriCorps is like the big overarching institution,
but then they contract with non- profits.

Then those non-profits place you as a volunteer with federal agencies a lot of the time.

I applied to AmeriCorps, but Mt.

Adams Institute was the non-profit that dealt with me and I was placed

in a for service district in Washington.

I was a volunteer for them, Mt.

Adams paid me under the umbrella of AmeriCorps.

It's a bit confusing like all this is.

These applications are usually due January, February time.

It's a six month term.

It's a little bit more strict in that way.

But I cannot say enough good things about Mt.

Adams. They also have opportunities

for working directly with non-profits and more on outdoor education,

they are a little bit more diverse.

They also have a job that is working with a Wildlife Refuge.

AmeriCorps is awesome.

I really recommend it [LAUGHTER] You can tell I really love it.

Let's see if there is another question.

Can we also get some student loan repayment?

Yes, you can. That's the Education Award.

If you work six months, I think I got almost four grand maybe was three grand.

But if you work for a year then it's six grand and if you work a two-year term, it's 12.

You can get a lot of money that goes directly towards your education.

Even if you really were wanting to do like get a federal position,

it almost might be financially more wise to do

AmeriCorps first because you don't have that student interest to pay back immediately.

You can get an education award,

although you might want to run the numbers on that.

I can't say enough good things about the experience that I had here,

getting me that experience and just being really supportive.

I know some AmeriCorps members have not had the same experience,

but most of them that have worked in environment have.

Once you make a profile, you can refine your search based off of

the environment and location and their trail crews everywhere.

Things that's do in more education with kids,

if that is what you want to do in the outdoors.

There's a lot of variety.

If there are any questions.

Also, you can definitely reach out to me if you have questions.

One of the reasons I was motivated to do this presentation, is I know,

there are so many well-qualified people who don't end

up getting the jobs because the process is

confusing and the Forest Service is not

super diverse and it would really benefit from being so.

[LAUGHTER] I really want people who are

qualified and awesome and enthusiastic

and who are in the future to start working there.