



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 1 permanent seasonal avalanche forecaster.

GS 9 - Avalanche Specialist (Forecaster) in North Bend, WA

- Appointment type
 - Permanent Seasonal - 18/8: Full-time work is guaranteed for 18 pay periods (8+ months) and when not working, you will be placed in non-pay/non-duty status. General tour runs from late September through late May.
- Work schedule
 - Full-time - This position requires shift work commonly outside of standard business hours (early mornings or evenings), and requires work on some weekends and holidays.
- Travel
 - Travel is required for this position.
 - This includes occasional travel to NWAC's weather office in Seattle.

How to Apply

- Submit applications through [USAJOBS](#) between Jul 21st - Aug 1st, 2025
 - Or search Announcement # 25-RD-SVA-12765563-DP-MMR
- 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 non-profit Northwest Avalanche Center. The Forecast Center resides with the U.S. Forest Service.

We are searching for motivated individuals capable of building relationships with the public, our professional partners, and within our organization. **We are seeking an individual who will join the weather forecasting team part-time in addition to avalanche forecasting. This position will work 25% of the time at the central office in Seattle as a mountain weather forecaster along with NWAC Meteorologists. You do not need a meteorology degree to apply for this position, but weather forecasting experience or a strong physical science background is helpful.** Weather forecaster shifts are typically 12 hours.

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 with operational weather forecasting
- 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
- 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 of WA and OR. The NWAC non-profit office is located in North Bend, WA.

Forecast Responsibilities: This position will serve as the primary forecaster along with 2 other forecasters for the Snoqualmie Pass and West South (Crystal, Mt Rainier, White Pass, Mt St Helens) backcountry avalanche terrain/forecast zones. All forecasters will occasionally produce backcountry avalanche forecasts outside of their core areas.

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 rare.

Housing: Government housing and moving expenses are not provided.