



**Chugach National Forest**  
**\*\*\*OUTREACH NOTICE\*\*\***  
**Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-07)**  
**Avalanche Specialist**

The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) will soon be filling a GS-1341-07, Meteorological Technician (Avalanche Forecaster) position. This is a Temporary Seasonal appointment with a guaranteed 5 month tour (between November – April) with a duty station in Girdwood, AK. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity. The vacancy announcement will be advertised as a DEMO announcement (all candidates) and will be posted at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). All potential applicants who respond to this outreach will be sent the link to the vacancy announcement when it is available.



**Position Description**

The CNFAIC issues daily avalanche advisories and avalanche warnings during the winter months to assist backcountry recreationalists in making informed and safe backcountry travel decisions. CNFAIC staff also teaches a number of outreach programs to backcountry recreationalists (snowmachiners, skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, etc.), local emergency service personnel, Forest Service personnel, youth groups and others as requested. The successful applicant will work as an Avalanche Forecaster for Alaska's Type 1 Regional Avalanche Center.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Issuance of daily backcountry avalanche advisories for public dissemination
- Issuance of avalanche warnings through the National Weather Service and local media outlets
- Safely conduct avalanche investigations when needed
- Safely conduct regular fieldwork (as group leader) in avalanche terrain using backcountry skis and snowmachine as means of travel
- Take a role in leading weekly stability meetings with local professionals attending
- Interpret National Weather Service products and models to write a mountain weather forecast
- Update CNFAIC database with avalanche, weather and other pertinent information
- Update social media outlets and write articles and/ or blogs on relevant topics
- Conduct interviews with local media (TV, radio, newspapers)
- Interface with avalanche professionals in the community and emergency service organizations
- Organize and implement lecture and field-based outreach programs for a variety of audiences
- Support the districts winter recreation and trails program
- Other duties as assigned (including cleaning and maintaining trailhead outhouse facilities)



**The candidate should possess the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:**

- Strong background and advanced training in snowpack assessment, avalanche hazard evaluation and companion rescue. Professional 2, AvPro or Level 3 (A3) required or Canadian equivalent
- A minimum of 3 years of employment working in the snow and avalanche field
- Strong backcountry skiing and snowmachining skills
- Excellent physical condition with strong skills in mountain travel and winter survival
- Good public speaking and written communication skills
- Well-versed in a variety of computer programs and applications
- Knowledge of mountain weather and forecasting from computer models

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

**Field:** Field work will be performed outdoors in a winter environment a minimum of two days/week. Travel will include accessing job sites by backcountry skis and snowmachines, sometimes through avalanche terrain. Southcentral Alaska experiences a variety of snowpacks and climates, including areas receiving large and frequent maritime snowstorms and areas with a shallow more inter-mountain type snowpack. Mid-winter rain events are also not an uncommon occurrence for this area of Alaska.

**Office:** A minimum of two advisories/week is required and work begins at 4:00am as the forecast is due by 7:00am. Implementing outreach events, updating databases and social media outlets, recording field day observations, communicating with regional avalanche professionals will comprise the majority of office time.

**HOUSING:**

Seasonal housing is available in Girdwood at the district bunkhouse at a subsidized Government rate.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION:**

Duty station for this position is Girdwood, Alaska. Girdwood, while part of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), is a separate, unique community. Several current district employees commute from the more urbanized Anchorage bowl, approximately 40 miles north of Girdwood, while the majority live in the small, resort community informally known as Glacier City. Alyeska Resort is the dominating feature of Girdwood, and is the state's largest ski area. The resort influence raises the ratio of eateries and lounges as compared to a typical small Alaskan community. A K-8 public school, MOA Library, health clinic, volunteer fire dept. and a small, but well-stocked grocery store provide the basic necessities, while the Anchorage bowl has just about every type of store and service.

More Community Information is available at:

<http://www.girdwoodchamber.com/>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Those who are interested in any of these opportunities must meet the qualification requirements for the grade listed. Qualifications are covered in the OPM Qualification Standards Handbook. These standards are available on the Internet at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm>.

To respond to this outreach or for more information about this position, please fill out the following and send to [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org).



**OUTREACH NOTICE**  
Alaska Region, Region 10  
Chugach National Forest (CNF)  
Glacier Ranger District



**Respond by: July 19th, 2020**

**Position Title/Series/Grade:** Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-07)  
**Duty Station:** Girdwood, Alaska

**Primary Contact:** Wendy Wagner  
Email: [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org)

**Secondary Contact and additional Forest Service information:** Graham Predeger  
Email: [graham.predeger@usda.gov](mailto:graham.predeger@usda.gov) phone: (907) 538-3343

Please send completed form to [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org)

Please attach a current resume when submitting to this outreach.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current title/series/grade/location:**  
(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly describe your qualifications/interest in this position (may also include this information in email):**