

**Chugach National Forest**  
**\*\*\*OUTREACH NOTICE\*\*\***  
**Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-07/08)**  
**Avalanche Specialists**

The Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) will soon be filling two GS-1341-07/08, Meteorological Technician (Avalanche Forecaster) positions. These are Permanent Seasonal appointments with a guaranteed 6 month tour (from November – April). Duty stations are either in Moose Pass or Girdwood, AK. This notification is to assess the current interest and inform prospective applicants of this opportunity. The vacancy announcement will be posted at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) as early as May 1<sup>st</sup> (exact date still being finalized). All potential applicants who respond will be sent additional information and the link to the vacancy 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 teach several outreach programs to backcountry recreationalists (snowmachiners, skiers, snowboarders, etc.), local emergency service personnel, youth groups and others as requested.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Issuance of 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 both mountain snowmobiles and backcountry skis as means of travel
- Take a role in leading weekly stability meetings with local professionals
- Interpret National Weather Service products and models to write mountain weather forecasts
- 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
- Maintain remote weather stations
- Support the districts' winter recreation and trails programs



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

- Strong background and advanced training in snowpack assessment, avalanche hazard evaluation and companion rescue.
- Professional 2 avalanche training, AvPro, Level 3 (A3), or Canadian equivalent preferred
  - Professional 1 avalanche training minimum requirement
- A minimum of 3 seasons working in the snow and avalanche field preferred
  - Minimum of one season working in the snow and avalanche field required
- Strong mountain snowmobile and backcountry skiing skills in steep complex terrain
  - These positions will spend roughly 50% field time off trail on mountain snowmachines
- Excellent written communication and good public speaking skills
- Well-versed in a variety of computer programs and applications
- Knowledge of mountain weather and weather forecasting from computer models
- Excellent physical condition with strong skills in mountain travel, wilderness medicine, and winter survival

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

**Field:** Field work will be performed outdoors in a backcountry mountainous winter environment a minimum of two days/week. Travel will include accessing job sites by mountain snowmobile and/or backcountry skis, often 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 continental snowpack. Mid-winter rain events are also not an uncommon occurrence for this area of Alaska.

**Office:** A minimum of one written advisory/week is required. On these days work begins at 4:00am as the forecast is due by 7:00am. Other written products include field reports, news posts and/or articles for public consumption, and updating social media outlets. Organizing and implementing public outreach events will be a priority for key Kenai Peninsula communities. Updating databases and communicating with regional avalanche professionals and media outlets, will comprise the remaining office time.

**HOUSING:**

Seasonal housing may be available in Moose Pass and/or Girdwood at the district bunkhouses at a subsidized government rate.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Those who are interested in this opportunity 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 formally respond to this outreach see below. For questions about these positions, please send an email to [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org) or call 907-229-9060.



**OUTREACH NOTICE**  
Alaska Region, Region 10  
Chugach National Forest (CNF)  
Seward/Glacier Ranger Districts



**Respond by: April 28th, 2023**

**Position Title/Series/Grade:** Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-07)  
Meteorological Technician (GS-1341-08)  
**Duty Station:** Moose Pass and Girdwood, Alaska

**Primary Contact:** Wendy Wagner  
Email: [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org) phone: (907) 229-9060

Please provide the following information in an email to [staff@chugachavalanche.org](mailto:staff@chugachavalanche.org)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

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

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

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

**Current/past Forest Service employment,  
title/series/grade/location:  
(if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly describe your qualifications and interest in this position:**