POSITION: Sawtooth Avalanche Center - Avalanche Forecaster

LOCATION: Ketchum or Stanley, ID

POSITION TYPE: Seasonal, full-time, late-October through late-April

RATE OF PAY: $26.01/hr (GS8), Government housing is available

TO APPLY: Apply at USAjobs.gov between June 27th and July 10th. Contact Scott Savage at scott@sawtoothavalanche.com for more information.

The Forest Service Sawtooth Avalanche Center (SAC) is hiring two Avalanche Forecasters to join our team. Forecasters work in both field and office settings to independently issue daily Avalanche Forecasts for four zones spanning seven distinct mountain ranges and over 2 million acres. Work begins in late October and ends in late April.

POSITION SUMMARY: SAC Avalanche Forecasters' primary purpose is to promote public and Forest Service staff safety by producing concise avalanche and mountain weather forecasts for assigned areas. Forecasts help backcountry travelers make safer, informed decisions. Our written and oral risk communication products target diverse user groups via many avenues (e.g. daily Avalanche Forecasts, photo and video, social media, education events, and field outreach.) Forecasters conduct snowmobile and ski-based field missions to support and produce these products.

JOB DUTIES: Core work duties include but are not limited to the following:

- **Risk Communication Products**: Independently produce Avalanche Forecasts, Mountain Weather Forecasts, General Avalanche Information products, and supporting social media and radio content. These products are created in short, early morning time windows and must be concise, easily understood, and technically accurate.

- **Field Work**: Safely collect avalanche, snowpack, and weather information. Field work is performed solo and/or in small teams where, typically, the forecaster is the most experienced member and serves as group leader. Publish information as publicly viewable Field Observations.

- **Photo and Video**: Produce photo and video material to support, clarify, or augment written risk messaging products.
● **Collaboration:** Work with local, regional, and national partners. Actively participate in staff meetings and discussions on avalanche conditions and general topics. Work together to improve our products, platforms, and operations.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

● Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to concisely and effectively communicate with diverse audiences

● A demonstrated, in-depth knowledge of snow, mountain weather, and avalanche phenomena acquired during mentoring from professional avalanche workers

● Multiple full winter operating seasons (fall to spring) of proven full-time, field-based, professional experience safely traveling and working in significant avalanche terrain and adverse winter weather

● Multiple winter operating seasons of full-time experience making regional avalanche forecasting or operational avalanche decisions (e.g. assigning backcountry danger ratings; issuing backcountry warnings; opening/closing ski area terrain, roadways, industrial operations, or client run-lists)

● Full-time experience working in an environment where weather and avalanche forecasts are tested, confirmed, or refuted using real-time observations or results—the incumbent will have observed and/or triggered many avalanches

● Advanced or expert off-trail snowmobile riding skills and a demonstrated ability and interest to interact with motorized users

● Advanced or expert backcountry ski and travel skills

● Ability to thrive working independently within a team environment

● Excellent attention to detail

● Experience with MS Office, Google Workspace, media editing, digital mapping, and other technology platforms

● Ability to work effectively under time constraints, including early in the morning

● Demonstrated motivation to acquire applicable knowledge and skills beyond basic work requirements

● Ability to accept constructive criticism and use it to improve skills and job performance