



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

September 10, 2024

## Memorandum

To: Human Capital Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Human Capital Officer, Bureau of Land Management  
Human Capital Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Human Capital Officer, National Park Service

From: Jennifer A. Ackerman  
Director, Office of Human Capital  
Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer

Subject: Exception to the General Time Limits for Temporary Employment for Wildland Fire Positions

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved the Department of the Interior's (Department, Interior) request for an exception to the general time limits for temporary wildland fire appointments under 5 CFR parts 213.104(b)(1) and 316.401(c). This approval is effective September 10, 2024, and can be applied effective immediately for the positions identified below across all locations.

- GS-0404 Biological Science Technician
- GS-0456 Wildland Firefighter
- GS-0462 Forestry Technician
- GS-2151 Dispatcher
- WG-3502 Laborer
- WG-5716 Engineering Equipment Operator
- WG-6907 Materials Handler

This approval provides the Department the ability to meet extended seasonal workforce needs across the fire program. Under this approval, employees appointed into temporary seasonal positions (e.g., working less than 1,040 hours in a service year) may instead receive an exception to the general time limitations if they work no more than 1,560 hours, within the service year. The 1,560 hour limitation may be applied to current appointments or new appointments. This exception waiver is effective for a period of two years, through September 10, 2026.

### Bureaus must:

- Track and keep accurate record of the hours each employee works in their established service year;
- Ensure that new announcements include appropriate updated language; and

- Ensure only positions identified on the above list are provided the approved exception to general time limitations of 1,560 hours within a service year.

Servicing Human Resource Offices should contact their bureau HR policy offices with any questions.

Bureau HR leadership may direct inquiries to Landon Mock at [Landon\\_Mock@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Landon_Mock@ios.doi.gov).

Attachments:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Approval Letter

cc: Land Management Bureau Human Resources Directors  
Bureau Fire Directors