



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

July 22, 2021

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: Exceptions to the General Time Limits for Temporary Employment -
Limited Approval for Fire Positions - Amended

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has amended their July 1, 2021, approval of an exception to the 1,039 hour-time limitation on temporary appointments within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for positions needed in response to wildland fires across the nation. In their previous approval, OPM inadvertently omitted two components (the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service) from the list of approved occupations for employees currently serving in the General Schedule (GS) 404, 462, and 2151 positions. Their amendment adds these components to the previously approved positions and locations as shown below. OHC has attached a full listing of the approved positions, including this correction.

OPM approved, with limitations, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) request for an exception to the general time limits for temporary appointments needed in response to wildland fires under 5 CFR parts 213.104(b)(1) and 316.401(c). This approval is effective July 1, 2021 and can be applied for one year to the positions and locations identified in the attached list.

The approval provides DOI the ability to meet extended seasonal workforce needs for the positions, in specific geographic locations, identified on the attached listing. 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 1,730 hours, within the service year. The 1,730 hour limitation may be applied to current appointments or new appointments.

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;
- Ensure only positions and geographical locations identified on the attached approved list are provided the approved exception to general time limitations of 1,730 hours within a service year; and
- Ensure the 1,730 hours exceptions are not provided beyond July 1, 2022, without further OPM approval.

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

Bureau HR leadership may direct inquiries to Landon Mock at Landon_Mock@ios.doi.gov.

Attachments:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Approval Letter and Positions Listing

cc: Land Management Bureau Human Resources Directors