Central Montana Helitack expects to fill a GS-0462-04 Forestry Technician Helitack position. Openings may also be available at the GS-5 level. These are temporary seasonal positions with a duty location of Helena, Montana. The anticipated start date for these positions is the beginning of May to early June, 2013. Employees who are students generally work through the end of August, while others may work as late as October. *Government housing is not available.* If you are interested in applying for these positions please contact:

- Mike Ryan, Squad Leader, Detailed Foreman - (406) 431-0910, mmyan@fs.fed.us
- Josh Ingle, Squad Leader, Detailed Superintendent - (406) 495-3845, jingle@fs.fed.us

The positions are being advertised in USA Jobs ([https://www.usajobs.gov/](https://www.usajobs.gov/)) under an open continuous announcement. You must select Helena, MT as the duty location. A referral list will be requested March 4, 2013. You must apply before this date to be eligible.

**Helitack Announcement Numbers:**

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**Preferred Experience:**

- HECM(T) S270/S271 Completed
- 6 months wildland firefighter experience
- Proficient in the use of all specialized fire tools including; power saws, pumps, wildland fire engines, and hand tools.

Qualifying experience for the GS-4 level includes six months general experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position or that provided familiarity with the subject matter or
processes of the occupation AND six months specialized experience at the GS-3 level that is directly related to the line of work of the position to be filled and which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

In order to meet qualifications for the GS-5 applicants must have had S-290 and be FFT1 qualified under IFPM requirements. Please attach an IQCS Master Record or other documentation to support this requirement.

**About the Program:**

Operating out of the Forest Service’s *Helena Aviation Center*, Central Montana Helitack (CMH) provides aviation support to the combined fire programs of Region 1’s Helena and Lewis & Clark National Forests with both a High Performance Type 3 (AS350-B3) and a National Type 1 Heavy Helicopter (K1200 Kmax). This fire zone encompasses over 2.8 million acres of federal land which includes multiple Wilderness and Roadless areas. CMH also maintains a close working relationship with other federal and state agencies, coordinating response over a large geographic mutual aid zone straddling the continental divide. The Helena Aviation Center hosts both CMH and the Helena Tanker Base, a fixed wing reload base able to accommodate the full range of tanker aircraft from SEATS to the latest generation of VLAT’s.

For more information on jobs with the Helena National Forest visit:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/helena/about-forest/jobs/?cid=stelprdb5358895

**Community Information**

The Helena Aviation Center is located at the Helena Regional Airport in scenic Helena, Montana, the State Capital. Helena, is easily accessible via Interstate-15, several US and State highways, as well as the Helena Regional Airport. The city is located 99 miles north of Bozeman, 90 miles southwest of Great Falls, and 115 miles east of Missoula, each of which also have airports. According to the 2010 census, 28,180 people lived in Helena, while another 35,215 people living elsewhere within Lewis & Clark County.

Helena has many hiking trails, and within minutes of town there are many miles of groomed trails for those looking to cross-country ski or snowmobile. Helena offers numerous city parks, two golf courses, a public swimming pool, and several public tennis courts. Helena has an excellent library and several museums are found within the city limits, as well as a historic pedestrian mall known as Last Chance Gulch. As a result of the 1864 gold strike, Helena has many spectacular 19th century mansions and other historic downtown buildings.

Area residents are served by four area hospitals. They include: Broadwater Medical Center (Townsend), St. Peter's Community Hospital (Helena), Veterans Administration Hospital (Helena), and Shodair Children's Hospital (children's psychiatric and genetic services in Helena). Many private physicians and other health care professionals also practice in Helena. There are also several retirement homes and community living centers serving the area. Nearby Great Falls, Missoula, and Bozeman also have excellent hospitals.
Helena residents enjoy all four seasons of the year. Summer temperatures range from the high 70's to low 80's with some warmer days. The winters are fairly mild, by Montana standards, with temperatures ranging in the high teens to thirties intermixed with some slightly cooler days.

Montana has personal income tax and property tax, but no sales tax. Home prices vary widely; homes prices begin at approximately $150,000, and an average 3 bedroom 2 bath home will cost from $200,000 to $300,000. Average rent is approximately $500/month and up.

**Additional links**

Helena National Forest:  [http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/)
City of Helena: [http://www.ci.helena.mt.us/](http://www.ci.helena.mt.us/)
Lewis and Clark County: [http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/](http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/)