

compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more, and who meet the minimum qualification standards, shall be listed in the highest quality category.

(4) An appointing authority may select any applicant from the highest quality category or, if fewer than three candidates have been assigned to the highest quality category, from a merged category consisting of the highest and second highest quality categories.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), the appointing authority may not pass over a preference eligible in the same or higher category from which selection is made unless the requirements of section 3317(b) or 3318(c), as applicable, are satisfied.

(c) The Secretary of the Treasury may detail employees among the offices of the Internal Revenue Service without regard to the 120-day limitation in section 3341(b).

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury may establish a probationary period under section 3321 of up to 3 years for Internal Revenue Service positions if the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the nature of the work is such that a shorter period is insufficient to demonstrate complete proficiency in the position.

(e) Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary of the Treasury from—

(1) any employment priority established under direction of the President for the placement of surplus or displaced employees; or

(2) any obligation under a court order or decree relating to the employment practices of the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of the Treasury.

(Added Pub. L. 105–206, title I, § 1201(a), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 717; amended Pub. L. 114–137, § 2(c), Mar. 18, 2016, 130 Stat. 312.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

GS–9, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), is contained in the General Schedule which is set out under section 5332 of this title.

##### AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 114–137 substituted “3318(c)” for “3318(b)”.

### CHAPTER 96—PERSONNEL FLEXIBILITIES RELATING TO LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Sec.	
9601.	Definitions.
9602.	Competitive service; time-limited appointments.

#### § 9601. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) the term “land management agency” means—

(A) the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior;

(C) the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior;

(D) the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior;

(E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior; and

(F) the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior; and

(2) the term “time-limited appointment” includes a temporary appointment and a term appointment, as defined by the Office of Personnel Management.

(Added Pub. L. 114–47, § 2(a), Aug. 7, 2015, 129 Stat. 485.)

#### § 9602. Competitive service; time-limited appointments

(a) Notwithstanding chapter 33 or any other provision of law relating to the examination, certification, and appointment of individuals in the competitive service, an employee of a land management agency serving under a time-limited appointment in the competitive service is eligible to compete for a permanent appointment in the competitive service at such land management agency when such agency is accepting applications from individuals within the agency’s workforce under merit promotion procedures, or any agency, including a land management agency, when the agency is accepting applications from individuals outside its own workforce under the merit promotion procedures of the applicable agency if—

(1) the employee was appointed initially under open, competitive examination under subchapter I of chapter 33 to the time-limited appointment;

(2) the employee has served under 1 or more time-limited appointments by a land management agency for a period or periods totaling more than 24 months without a break of 2 or more years; and

(3) the employee’s performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods (as the case may be) referred to in paragraph (2).

(b) In determining the eligibility of a time-limited employee under this section to be examined for or appointed in the competitive service, the Office of Personnel Management or other examining agency shall waive requirements as to age, unless the requirement is essential to the performance of the duties of the position.

(c) An individual appointed under this section—

(1) becomes a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has otherwise completed the service requirements for career tenure; and

(2) acquires competitive status upon appointment.

(d) A former employee of a land management agency who served under a time-limited appointment and who otherwise meets the requirements of this section shall be deemed a time-limited employee of the agency from which the former employee was most recently separated for purposes of this section if—

(1) such employee applies for a position covered by this section within the period of 2 years after the most recent date of separation; and

(2) such employee’s most recent separation was for reasons other than misconduct or performance.