



Mt Hood Wilderness Fellow Position Description

Title: Wilderness Fellow

Reports To: SWS National Program Director

Classification: Hourly

Location: Mt Hood National Forest, housing provided in a USFS bunkhouse in ZigZag, OR.

Duration: June 10th, 2024– December 13th, 2024 (6 month contract)

Time: Full Time (40hr/week), Seasonal

Salary: 19\$/hr

Benefits: 1 week personal time off and paid federal holidays off. USFS Housing provided.

Initial Application Review Begins: 02/24/2024

To Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, and 3 professional or academic references in 1 pdf document to Julia Cotter, hiremanager@wildernessstewardship.org. Please include the position title and location you are applying for in the subject line of your email.

Partners

The Society for Wilderness Stewardship (SWS) is a non-profit organization seeking to promote excellence in the professional practice of wilderness stewardship, science, and education to ensure the life-sustaining benefits of wilderness. In other words, we are a professional society working to set the standard for wilderness management.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) For more than 100 years, the Forest Service has brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. The USFS seeks to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Program Overview

The Wilderness fellows program was created in order to add capacity in wilderness stewardship, thereby continuing important assessment work that has been underway since 2001, and fulfilling USFS Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) elements. Wilderness stewardship performance is a comprehensive scoring system that requires each forest with a wilderness area to complete ongoing monitoring work, and evaluate trends in their wilderness through time. These trends indicate the capacity management and success at 'preserving wilderness character' as directed by the Wilderness Act.

As stated in [Keeping It Wild 2: An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System](#) (Landres et. al, 2015), "the results of wilderness character monitoring provide [agency staff who manage wilderness day-to-day, and regional and national staff who develop wilderness policy and assess its effectiveness] some of the key data they need to improve wilderness stewardship and wilderness policy." The report goes on to say that, "Implementing this monitoring strategy does not guarantee the preservation of wilderness character, but it informs and improves wilderness stewardship, and ensures managers are accountable to the central mandate of the 1964 Wilderness act – to preserve wilderness character."

Position Overview

The Wilderness Fellow Program is seeking qualified candidates to fill a Wilderness fellow position working with the Mt Hood National Forest in Oregon. This fellow will be based out of a USFS bunkhouse in ZigZag, OR. Work is roughly 30% office based and 70% field based, and will require regular day trips into wilderness areas in the Mt Hood National Forest, as well as a few overnight trips during the summer months. This fellow will work closely with wilderness staff to carry out campsite monitoring and solitude monitoring for all 8 wilderness areas on the Mt Hood National Forest. This fellow may also be asked to assist in other administrative tasks for the wilderness area, such as installing permit boxes. Fellows will also be expected to compile all data they have collected during the season in a centralized location, and keep rigorous notes on their protocol to create end-of-the-year monitoring reports. Transportation for field work will be provided or reimbursed. It is highly recommended that this employee have a personal car while living and working out of this area.

Primary Wilderness Fellow Responsibilities

- Attend one week training at Powell Ranger Station, near Missoula, Montana (travel provided).
- Work out of remote USFS locations, residing in USFS housing.
- Coordinate meetings with USFS personnel as needed.
- Travel to and into wilderness areas regularly
- Review and understand monitoring protocol
- Implement and inventory monitoring protocols for tracking wilderness stewardship performance
- Add capacity by performing administrative tasks in wilderness areas
- Participate in regular conference calls
- Set and meet benchmarks and deadlines for data collection, meetings, and draft and final reports.

Key Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in a related field or work experience equivalent to a Bachelor's degree.
- Educational background in Wilderness Management, Protected Area/Natural Resource Management, Recreation Resource Management, Conservation Social Science, Environmental Policy, Natural, Biological and/or Physical Science.
- Deep interest in wilderness/resource management and the US Forest Service.
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills.
- Experience in backcountry travel
- Excellent risk management and decision making skills
- Research skill and attention to detail and organization.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively on projects, high degree of initiative.
- Understanding and ability to use GIS software is a plus.
- Results-oriented with the ability to set and follow realistic goals and objectives.
- Flexibility to adapt when faced with changing needs and priorities.
- Ability to travel to training and remote field locations (travel provided), and to relocate if necessary (assistance not provided).

To Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, 1-2 page writing sample, and 2 professional or academic references to Julia Cotter, hiringmanager@wildernessstewardship.org, by 5:00p (MST) on Friday, February 24th, 2024. Please include the position title and location you are applying for in the subject line of your email.

Essential Functions: Employees may be required to sit, stand, and lift objects up to 50 lbs. Employees may be required to travel and camp in the backcountry, and to drive or fly to remote project locations.

The Society for Wilderness Stewardship is an equal opportunity employer.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, marital status, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or any other protected status.