McKenzie River Ranger District
Wilderness Ranger Internship

Summer 2014

“The idea of wilderness needs no defense, It only needs more defenders”

Edward Abby

The Willamette National Forest is currently seeking wilderness ranger interns to work in the Cascade Crest Wilderness Areas including the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wildernesses. Come join us for a summer of rewarding work helping preserve some of the nation’s great wilderness areas.
**Effective Dates**

Although the dates of the internship are flexible, interns are expected to work a minimum of 12 weeks during the summer field season. Internships will begin no earlier than May 21\textsuperscript{st} 2014, and will end no later than October 1\textsuperscript{st} 2014. The district is willing to work around school schedules, but prefers students to work at least 14 weeks.

**Position Summary**

The wilderness ranger intern will work alongside wilderness rangers, and is expected to perform most of the duties of a wilderness ranger. Duties include backpacking in the wilderness for multiple days, contacting and informing the public, clearing trail, participating in trail restoration and wilderness campsite restoration work. Interns are not expected to work alone in the backcountry.

**Working Environment**

Most work will take place in the adjacent Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas. Trails that run through old growth Douglas fir and cedar forests lead up to the Three Sisters volcanoes. Although a journey through the Three Sisters Wilderness may begin as low as 2000 feet in elevation, the glaciated North, Middle and South Sisters volcanoes are all taller than 10,000 feet creating a unique wilderness experience. Within the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas one can find a landscape of lava fields, waterfalls, alpine meadows, lakes and streams. The wilderness areas have over 250 miles of trail including nearly 40 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Unique to the area, one can discover obsidian cliffs used by Native Americans to make tools and weapons. The Obsidian Cliffs is a limited entry area with a rich archeological history. In recent history, the Mount Washington Wilderness has had multiple large fires. The recent fire areas show firsthand the power of nature and disturbance ecology and provide a wonderful opportunity for an education in ecology. Additional duties may require visiting the Mount Jefferson and Menagerie Wildernesses as well.
**PRIMARY DUTIES**

- Assisting in the collection of data which tracks the number of people in various areas throughout the wilderness
- Maintaining wilderness campsites including site cleanup and restoration
- Backpacking with 50lbs or more for up to 8 days
- Initiating public contacts in the field to enhance visitors wilderness experience and protect wilderness resources
- Assisting with compliance checks and inspections on existing permits under Special-Use Authorization
- Keeping bulletin boards maintained with current information and other educational material. Helping with sign replacement as needed and maintain existing signs
- Monitoring trail conditions within the wilderness and participate in trail maintenance duties
- Assisting in the collection and input of data for annual wilderness reports, such as permit collection and input, and collecting other data needed to administer the wilderness
QUALIFICATIONS

Interns Must:

- Be able to backpack in the wilderness for up to 8 days in a row with backpacks weighing 50lbs or more
- Be willing to use traditional tools such as a cross-cut saw, axe or pulaski
- Be able to work in adverse weather conditions such as rain or sleet (also, the Cascade wilderness areas can be very buggy in the early summer!)
- Work well with others, and perform work tasks in a group
- Be able to communicate with the public

COMPENSATION

Interns may be provided housing in a bunkhouse at the duty station for the field season. In addition, Interns will receive $38 per day field per diem while they are working, which will equal $152/week, and $2432 for a 16 week summer.

TRAINING PROVIDED TO INTERNS

- Basic First Aid and CPR
- Class room and on the job training in wilderness ranger basics which include:
  - The Wilderness Act of 1964
  - Contacting and educating the public
  - Proper backpacking and Leave No Trace techniques in the back country
  - Campsite rehabilitation training
- Cross-Cut Saw Certification
- Trail clearing and maintenance training
**TRANSPORTATION TO DUTY STATION**

Government vehicles will be utilized for transportation from the ranger station to the field. Volunteers will need to provide their own transportation to the ranger station. Although volunteers are encouraged have a personal vehicle, it is not necessary, as there is a bus that leaves from the district office to Eugene 4 times a day during the week and 2 times a day on weekends for a price of $3/round trip.

**DUTY STATION**

The McKenzie River Ranger Station is located approximately 50 miles east of the Eugene/Springfield metro area on Highway 126 near the small community of McKenzie Bridge. McKenzie Bridge is one of nine small communities located in the McKenzie river valley between the cities of Eugene and Bend. The community of Blue River is located about 12 miles from the Ranger Station. Services found in these two communities include restaurants, lodging, groceries, gas, churches and a medical clinic. Daily bus service from the Eugene area to the Ranger Station is available for more complete shopping or entertainment needs. More information about these communities can be found at: http://www.el.com/To/mckenzierivervalley/

**ACADEMIC CREDIT**

The Forest Service will work with Universities to ensure that the internship is appropriately credited including the coordination, documentation and evaluation of the intern.
APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please submit a resume no later than April 1st. Hiring may take place before April, so early applying earlier is recommended. Resumes should include all relevant work history including the position title, dates worked, hours worked per week, supervisors’ name and contact information. Resumes do not need be limited to one page. Please include a list of references. Electronic correspondence is preferred.

Send a hard copy to:

Attn: Tyson Cross or Dylan McCoy
McKenzie River Ranger District
57600 McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

Or email
eetcross@fs.fed.us with cc to dylanmccoy@fs.fed.us

Thank you, and we look forward to your application