



## PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS PROGRAM AmeriCorps Position Description

**Position Title:** Wilderness Trails Ranger (2 positions)

**Project Sponsor:** US Forest Service, Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest

**Project Sponsor Mission:** The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee>

**MAI Mission:** Public Lands Stewards is a program of the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI). MAI's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research. <http://www.mtadamsinstitute.org>

**Project Location:** Chelan Ranger District, 428 West Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816. The duty station is Chelan, WA and the primary work sites are primitive settings in the Glacier Peak and Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness Areas. **Access to these sites and trailheads is only by boat on Lake Chelan; there are no roads (or cell phone service) to these villages, sites, or trailheads.**

The “uplake” part of 55 mile long and 1 mile wide Lake Chelan (an inland fiord) is one of the deepest gorges in the United States with elevation gains of 7,000 ft (between the shores of Lake Chelan and the passes over the surrounding ridge tops). **Holden Village**, an old mining company town but now a retreat center affiliated with the Lutheran Church, is located 12 miles up Railroad Creek, an “uplake” side drainage to Lake Chelan, and is reached by FS vehicles or Holden buses operating on the road between Lucerne Landing (on the shore of Lake Chelan) and Holden Village. During the busy summer months, Holden Village will house up to 400 visitors on a daily basis. <http://www.holdenvillage.org>

The Lyman Lake area is an 8-10 mile hike from Holden Village into the Glacier Peak Wilderness' subalpine & alpine basins of Upper & Lower Lyman Lakes and Cloudy and Suiattle Passes. Agnes Creek, also in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, has 18 miles of the Pacific Crest trail from Suiattle Pass down to the North Cascades National Park at the High Bridge Trailhead along the Stehekin River.

**Position Summary:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, spend the summer and fall maintaining trails & camp sites and educating backcountry hikers on Leave No Trace principles in the rugged North Cascades backcountry. This position assures wilderness sites and trails are maintained to Forest Service standards, and are safe and pleasing to visitors. This position is perfect for a person who has a passion for being in the mountains and experience “living” in the backcountry.

The service locations vary from established administrative work areas to mountainous wilderness areas. 90% of the work and related travel & living, is performed outdoors. The position requires strenuous physical exertion, including walking in steep or uneven terrain, heavy lifting, carrying backpacks up to 50 pounds or more. Exposure to extreme weather and temperature is expected. The position requires primitive living and camping skills as interns will live in the backcountry while working. The work schedule is 9 days “on” (Tues-Wed) and 5 days “off” (every other Thurs-Mon). The first day of each tour is spent at the Chelan Ranger District office complex and the remaining 8 days of the tour are spent onsite in the Glacier Peak and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas.

### **General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):**

1. Use primitive tools (hand saws, axes, hoes, loppers, shovels, picks, and especially cross-cut saws) safely to maintain wilderness & non-wilderness trails.
2. Utilize a cross-cut saw and other tools to clear trails. Training provided and includes on-the-job training by working with the Forest Service trail crew.
3. Demonstrate and educate visitors on tread lightly, leave-no-trace, and proper backcountry use ethics, and practices. Training provided.
4. Clearly communicate with members of the public, other trail maintenance volunteers, and Forest Service employees in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
5. Contact all types of trail users, provide trail information, promote cooperation, and share educational points on wilderness Leave No Trace practices.
6. Keep a daily log of work activities, daily visitor contact data, trail survey data, and trail conditions.
7. Document trail user contacts; maintain daily log and computer input of trail users contact data (date, area contacted, type of trail use, and trail users' origin).
8. Report, document and computer input trail conditions (access due to snow depths, trees down, washouts, needed drainage, etc.), and conduct and computer input of trail surveys. Training provided.
9. Live safely in the backcountry and set the example for others by observing and adhering to Wilderness regulations, guidelines, and ethics, regarding leave-no-trace use practices.
10. Become educated on current issues, and controversial use practices effecting wilderness recreation.
11. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, training, and national service days.
12. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
13. Wear an MAI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.
14. Member will not engage in prohibited AmeriCorps activities as outlined in the member handbook and agreement.

### **Position Requirements:**

1. Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
2. Attend a mandatory orientation from May 4 – May 8 and Intern trainings in Trout Lake, WA (food and lodging provided for orientation and trainings).
3. Travel, work and live safely in mountainous wilderness settings and/or remote community setting, including proper & safe use of backpacking & camping equipment during work tours trips.
4. Work alone and/or with many diverse people (land & resource managers, other Forest Service trail crew employees, forest volunteers, and forest users) in both an office and field setting.
5. Work cooperatively with co-workers on 9-day wilderness trips that are spent working, traveling & living with a small group of diverse individuals.
6. Able to safely spend extended periods **alone and/or with small crews** in the wilderness and be self-sufficient for up to 9 days.
7. Physically fit, able to safely walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) over extended periods of time, in a steep mountain environment.
8. Able to safely carry heavy backpack loads (45-55 lbs.) for long distances and requiring steep elevation gains (as much as 2000-5000 vertical feet a day).
9. Able to proficiently & safely use hand tools for long periods of time.
10. Able to tolerate extreme heat and cold; season will start with snow on the ground and end with snow on the ground, in between it will be hot and dusty.
11. Communicate clearly with members of the public, Holden trail maintenance volunteers, and Forest Service employees.

12. Enthusiastic about all types of wilderness trail recreation and being in wilderness in all types of weather.
13. The Ranger will serve on wilderness and non-motorized trail systems. Ranger will ideally have a background which includes experience with the area's various types of trail uses, including knowledge of the effects of recreation on high elevation environments, and be able to clearly communicate a tread lightly message while educating users on proper travel and leave-no-trace techniques. The Ranger will rotate tours between the trails around Holden Village (Lyman Lake/Pacific Crest Trail) and tours with the Chelan Trail Crew. The mix of duty locations will vary each trip.
14. During the months of May and October the Rangers may work on the Echo Ridge Trail System located 10 miles from Chelan. Overnight stays in the backcountry will not be required during this period
15. First Aid and CPR Certified.
16. Regular and reliable attendance.
17. 21-30 years of age, at beginning of service term
18. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
19. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
20. Able to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
21. Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Register and a national FBI fingerprint check. Position does not have recurring access to vulnerable populations.
22. AmeriCorps Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full time education awards only. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform MAI of any previous service in an AmeriCorps program, regardless of whether or not they completed the previous term(s) of service. MAI is not liable for providing an Education Award to a member if they are not eligible under the Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps guidelines.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

1. Demonstrated experience in safe use of hand tools (farming, gardening, orcharding, landscaping, carpentry, construction, etc).
2. Demonstrated experienced in safely spending extended periods backpacking in the backcountry.
3. Demonstrated experience in communicating with the public.
4. Demonstrated experience and knowledgeable about leave-no-trace and wilderness ethics.
5. Knowledgeable/educated about high elevation, and fragile ecosystems.
6. Educated on current issues, and controversies effecting wilderness use & stewardship.
7. A passion for and being involved with wilderness & non-wilderness stewardship.

**Benefits Include:**

1. A total taxable living allowance (before taxes) of \$8,750, paid over term of service.
2. Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of \$3,097. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
3. Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
4. For downlake (Chelan area) accommodations, free camping is available and a limited number of nights are provided at a local B&B.
5. The Forest Service will provide most backpacking, camping equipment, and rain gear, or you may use your own if you prefer. However, you must provide your own leather hiking boots (required safety equipment) and clothing appropriate for the extremes of mountain weather (ie layers and no cotton).

### **Transportation Information:**

1. Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
2. Forest Service provides all transportation between the Ranger Station and the trailheads (and Holden Village) in the form of ferry boat & uplake bus tickets, or rides in Forest Service boats & vehicles.
3. It is highly recommended that the Ranger have their own vehicle transport for themselves and supplies/equipment for days-off and off-hours when downlake.
4. One needs a vehicle to get between the housing and the amenities of town/ranger station.

### **Application Instructions Below**

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**Application Deadline:** Open until filled.

**Interviews:** Will occur as qualified applications are received.

**Type of position:** Individual Placement.

**Service Dates:** May 4 – October 23, 2020

**Length of Term:** 25 week position/960 Hours

If you are interested in this position AND you meet the requirements for the position, please complete the following steps to apply for the position. To be considered for an interview all of the following information must be submitted via email to our Program Coordinator.

### **Application Instructions:**

Email the following 4 documents to our Program Coordinator [Mike@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto:Mike@mtadamsinstitute.org). Each of these documents must be submitted as a separate email attachment as either a word or pdf document.

- Resume (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)
- Professional references. Please provide email AND phone contact information for three professional references (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)
- Cover letter(s). Please submit a separate cover letter for EACH position you are interested in (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)
- Answers to the following questions (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email):
  - What is your motivation for applying to this position?
  - What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

### **Additional information:**

- More information can be found at <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards>
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslist.org/articles/cover-letters>

**QUESTIONS?** Contact: Mike Gundlach  
Public Lands Stewards Program Coordinator  
[mike@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto:mike@mtadamsinstitute.org)  
Office/Cell: 503-926-4407  
Mt. Adams Institute  
2453 HWY 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**