

PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Wilderness-Backcountry Ranger

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

WEBSITE: www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee

PROJECT LOCATION: 803 W. 2nd St Cle Elum, WA 98816

SERVICE DATES: May 2, 2022 to October 21, 2022 (940-hour position)

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the intern will spend the service term in the beautiful Alpine Lakes Wilderness and adjacent backcountry areas. The Wilderness-Backcountry Ranger will perform patrols and monitoring hikes of trails in the wilderness for up to 4 days/nights while backpacking. Hitches will be conducted both individually and as a member of a small crew. Engagement with wilderness visitors is the primary duty. This position will teach visitors Leave No Trace principles, the value and history of Congressionally Designated Wilderness, local geography, Forest Service wilderness management, and backcountry travel skills as necessary. The Ranger will explain and gain compliance of wilderness and forest regulations to protect the resource. In addition, they will perform trail maintenance on non-motorized and wilderness trails. There may be opportunities to participate with the trail crew on motorized trails as well.

Applicants 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 Leave No Trace message while educating users on proper travel and camping techniques. In addition to public contact and education, the intern will, at times, serve as part of a trail maintenance team focused on log out, drainage and brush work on wilderness trails.

This position is perfect for a person who has a passion for being in the mountains and has demonstrated experience living and serving safely in a backcountry setting. The duty station is in Cle Elum, WA and the primary sites are remote settings in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Designated Roadless Areas across the ranger district.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Demonstrate and educate visitors on tread lightly, Leave-No-Trace ethics, and proper backcountry practices. Training will be provided.
- Clearly communicate with members of the public, volunteers, and Forest Service employees in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
- Use tools safely to clear and maintain wilderness and non-wilderness trails. Tools include hand saws, axes, hoes, loppers, shovels, picks, and cross-cut saws. Training will be provided.
- Keep a daily log of service activities, daily visitor contact data, trail survey data, and trail conditions. Provide trail reports on access due to snow depths, maintenance condition (trees down, washouts, needed drainage, etc.).
- Live safely in the backcountry and set the example for others by observing and adhering to Wilderness regulations, guidelines, and ethics.
- Become educated on current issues, and controversial use practices effecting wilderness recreation.
- Occasionally participate in special projects such as bridge building, campground maintenance, heavy trail maintenance projects, and hunter education or others to achieve district recreation program goals.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements including orientation and trainings.
- Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.

- Wear MAI identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

SERVICE SITE

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- First Aid/CPR certified prior to the starting the position.
- Be physically fit, able to walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) carrying heavy loads (45-55 lbs) with steep elevation gains (2000-5000 vertical feet/day).
- Must be comfortable serving alone and being self-sufficient for extended periods (4-8 days). This includes camping in the backcountry when out on hitches.
- Travel, serve and live safely in mountainous wilderness settings and/or remote community setting, including proper and safe use of backpacking/camping equipment during trips.
- Serve alone and/or with many diverse people (land and resource managers, other Forest Service trail crew employees, volunteers) in both an office and field setting. Be able to communicate professionally with the various work groups.
- Comfortable contacting and communicating with members of the public in a remote setting.
- Able to proficiently and safely use hand tools and crosscuts for long periods.
- Able to tolerate and maintain a positive attitude in 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.
- Enthusiastic about wilderness recreation and being in wilderness in various settings.
- Maintain regular and reliable attendance.
- Comply with all Partner Organization safety policies and procedures.

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- 21-30 years of age at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving education award.
- Ability to commit to the full 25-week term of service.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation the first week in May 2 - 4, 2022 an Intern Career training the week of August 29th (TBD if it will be virtual or in-person).
- Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Registry, state of service and state of residence criminal history check and a national FBI check. These are completed at no cost to the applicant.
- Participants 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. Applicant cannot be enrolled in two AmeriCorps terms at the same time.
- **Must be fully vaccinated** against Covid-19 with the ability to provide documentation or have an approved medical or religious exemption prior to the start of the position. *Exemption forms can be found on our [website](#) and once submitted, they must go through a review and determination process before being approved.*
- **Must follow all Covid-19 policies** at the service site including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. Policies may include masking/social distancing, remote/virtual work, altered field duties and other restrictions determined necessary to keep site staff, partners and the public safe. Accepting a position means accepting the current requirements and any updates to those requirements while enrolled in the program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience with safe use of hand tools (this could include experience in farming, gardening, orchard work, landscaping, carpentry, construction, etc).
- Experienced in safely spending extended periods backpacking in the backcountry.
- Experience communicating with the public.

- Knowledgeable about Leave-No-Trace and wilderness ethics.
- Knowledgeable/educated about high elevation, and fragile ecosystems.
- Educated on current issues, and controversies effecting wilderness use & stewardship.
- A passion for and being involved with wilderness & non-wilderness stewardship.
- Diverse recreational background i.e.; mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, dirtbikes/atv, and horseback riding.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- \$9,375 living allowance (\$375 weekly) paid over term of service (Interns are paid once a month, on the 10th)
- \$3,247.50 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Live and work in a beautiful setting with many opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
- Provide meaningful service to the local community and environment.
- 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 (ex. layers and no cotton).

HOUSING:

- Free housing is provided by the Forest Service. This is bunkhouse style housing, and the intern will share the house with other Forest Service seasonal staff.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Agency vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- Intern must have their own vehicle to access supplies/equipment and to travel on days off.
- Work location is not accessible by public transportation.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The town of Cle Elum, WA has a population of 1,800 and is situated in the heart of the Cascade mountain range. Cle Elum is about 2 hours from Seattle, WA, and 30 minutes from Ellensburg, WA. Cle Elum has a full-service grocery store (Safeway), restaurants, fast food establishments, hotels, and gas stations. There is an urgent care facility in town, but the closest hospital is in Ellensburg.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

MAI celebrates equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and does not discriminate against any person or group based on race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, expression, gender identity, ability, national origin or ancestry, veteran status, social economic class, religion, professional status, pregnancy, or parents/guardians with children. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our Interns and staff with trainings and career development opportunities.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Email the following documents to Erica Bingham at erica@mtadamsinstitute.org:

- Resume
- Cover Letter (One for each position applying to).
- Three Professional References – Information to include: Name, Title, Relation to you, email & phone number.

☐ Supplemental Questions:

- What is your motivation for applying to this position?
- What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

PROCESS:

1. MAI screens application materials, conducts pre-interviews, and recommends qualified applicants for Service Site interviews.
2. Service Sites interview candidates, conduct reference checks, and recommend placement.
3. If position is offered, additional paperwork will be required.

Due to Covid-19 parts of our programming may change

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- More information can be found at [Public Lands Stewards Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards) or [mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards)
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macsl.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Erica Bingham

Public Lands Stewards Program Coordinator

erica@mtadamsinstitute.org | [mtadamsinstitute.org](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org)

