

# **PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS**

## **AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION**



**POSITION TITLE:** Wilderness-Backcountry Ranger (2 positions)

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:** Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

**WEBSITE:** [www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee](http://www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 2108 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA 98822

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

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**POSITION SUMMARY:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), interns will spend the season in the rugged Central Cascades backcountry. The Wilderness-Backcountry Rangers will perform trail maintenance on non-motorized and motorized trails. They will also perform monitoring hikes of trails in the wilderness areas up to 5 days/nights. One or two hitches may be up to 8 days in length. Engagement with backcountry visitors is expected and Rangers will educate them on Leave No Trace principles if necessary.

Rangers will serve on multiple use trail systems, non-motorized trail systems and areas of designated Wilderness. Rangers 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. In addition to public contacts, Rangers will serve as part of a trail maintenance team focused on logging out wilderness trails.

Approximately 20% of ranger time will include riding mountain bikes on easy to moderate multiple use trails to contact and educate all users on proper trail etiquette. Mountain bike patrols will be primarily day trips in the spring and fall. Rangers will need to know how to mountain bike or be willing to learn to safely ride and load bikes. While biking, Rangers will be expected to stop and talk to visitors, monitor visitor behavior, document misuse and perform minor trail maintenance. 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.

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

- Demonstrate and educate visitors on tread lightly, Leave-No-Trace ethics, and proper backcountry practices. Promote cooperation and understanding of public lands.
- 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.
- Be physically fit, able to walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) carrying heavy loads 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.

### MT. ADAMS INSTITUTE/AMERICORPS

- 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 and an Intern Career training the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> (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 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:

- Knowledgeable about Leave-No-Trace and wilderness ethics.
- 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/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 10<sup>th</sup>)
- \$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.

#### **HOUSING:**

- Free housing is provided by the Forest Service. This is bunkhouse style housing, and the interns will share the house with other Forest Service seasonal staff. The interns will have their own room, but share a bathroom with other bunkhouse residents. Cell service is extremely limited at the bunkhouse, and may not be available for certain carriers. There is wifi in the bunkhouse, and therefore, wifi calling is an option.

#### **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:**

Projects are located at the Entiat Ranger District. The town of Entiat is situated alongside the Columbia River and has a general store, gas station, post office, library, and small pub. Entiat is about 30 minutes from both Wenatchee, WA and Chelan, WA – these towns are larger and have more amenities like full-service grocery stores (Safeway) and other shopping (Costco, Target, Walmart, etc). This service site is well suited for individuals who appreciate recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, climbing and boating.

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

