

PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Wilderness Ranger

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Gifford Pinchot National Forest

WEBSITE: www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot

PROJECT LOCATION: 2455 HWY 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650

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

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is offering an internship as a Wilderness Ranger. The Intern will spend the service term outdoors, patrolling and monitoring trails in the beautiful Wilderness areas of the Forest. Projects will include both individual and crew based endeavors. Engagement with wilderness visitors is the primary duty. The Intern will educate visitors on Leave No Trace principles, the value and history of congressionally designated Wilderness, local geography and recreation opportunities, Forest Service wilderness management, and backcountry travel skills. In addition, Wilderness Rangers will perform trail and trailhead maintenance. Occasional opportunities to explore other departments of the Forest will be available.

This position is perfect for a person who has a passion for being in the outdoors and has experience working safely in a backcountry setting.

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

- Patrol trails in the Wilderness area and initiate public contacts to enhance the visitor experience and promote safe recreation.
 - a. Climbing patrols on Mt. Adams will be required. Climbing patrols will begin at an elevation of approximately 5,600' and end at approximately 9,200'; the location where most climbers camp prior to making the summit. Overnight stays at 9,200 will be required.
- Be educated on tread lightly, Leave-No-Trace, backcountry use ethics, and practices and be able to share these principles with visitors. Promote cooperation and understanding of public lands. Training provided.
- Document Wilderness visitor contacts and trail conditions; maintain daily log of information.
- Use tools (handsaws, axes, hoes, loppers, and shovels) safely to maintain wilderness & non-wilderness trails.
- Performs routine maintenance at recreation sites including fire-ring clean up, trailhead stocking, site naturalizing, and litter removal.
- Lead by example. Operate 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.
- Clearly communicate with members of the public, volunteers, and Forest Service employees in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
- Become educated on current issues and controversial use practices, (national and regional) effecting recreation on public lands.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements including orientation, trainings and team meetings.
- 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 – GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- First Aid & CPR certified prior to starting position.
- Be physically fit, able to safely walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) over extended periods of time, in a steep mountain environment.
- Be able to safely carry heavy backpack loads (45-55 lbs.) for long distances while at times, encountering steep elevation gains (as much as 2000-5000 vertical feet a day).
- Travel, serve and live safely in mountainous wilderness settings and/or remote community setting, including proper & safe use of backpacking & camping equipment during tour trips.
- Work alone and/or with many diverse people (land and resource managers, Forest Service wilderness crew and other employees, community volunteers, and Forest visitors) in both an office and field setting. Be able to communicate clearly and professionally with all working groups.
- Able to safely and comfortably spend extended periods **alone and/or with small crews** in the wilderness and be self-sufficient.
- 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.
- Be enthusiastic about all types of wilderness trail recreation and desire to promote environmental stewardship.
- 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 and 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 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 hiking and backpacking in the backcountry for extended periods of time.
- Experience in safe use of hand tools (this could be from things like farming, gardening, orchard work, landscaping, carpentry, construction, etc.).
- Experience with High-alpine travel/mountaineering.
- Experience communicating to the public.
- Knowledgeable about Leave No Trace ethics, designated wilderness recreation and management, and high elevation/fragile ecosystems.

- A passion for being involved with wilderness and environmental stewardship.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- \$9,375 living allowance (\$375 weekly, before taxes) 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 community and our public lands.

HOUSING:

- Free housing is provided by the service site. Housing is bunkhouse style, and will be shared with other Forest Service seasonal staff. The bunkhouse is located on the Forest Service compound, where the Intern will report to work.
- All utilities (water, power, heat) are included. Wifi and laundry are on the compound, but may not be in the specific bunkhouse the Intern will be placed in.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- Forest Service provides all transportation between the Ranger Station and the trailheads.
- It is highly recommended that the intern have their own vehicle transport for supplies/equipment for days-off and off-hours. It is the responsibility of the intern to get between the housing and the amenities of town.

LOCATION & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The duty station and bunkhouse is in Trout Lake, WA. The intern will work mainly in the Wilderness areas of the Mt. Adams Ranger District; these include Indian Heaven, Trapper Creek, and Mt. Adams Wildernesses.

- Mt. Adams Wilderness is 47,122 acres along the west slope of Mt. Adams and its summit. This area is a blend of dry “east-side” and moist “west-side” ecosystems, allowing diverse vegetation and wildlife to flourish. Areas along the flanks of Mt. Adams burned in wildfires over the last several decades, providing contrast with the lush unburned forests nearby and a glimpse at how landscapes regenerate after fire. The most recent volcanic activity occurred just 3,500 years ago. Multiple trails provide access to spectacular views of Mt. Adams, including its glaciers, mountain streams, meadows, open alpine forests and lava flows.
- The 20,784 acre Indian Heaven Wilderness is a forested high plateau, dominated by fir trees, with numerous open meadows and more than 150 lakes. Many of the lakes are stocked with rainbow and brook trout.
- The 5,963 acre Trapper Creek Wilderness protects nearly all of the Trapper Creek drainage and provides critical anadromous fish habitat in the Wind River watershed. Streams and waterfalls are plentiful among the steep forested canyons at lower elevations. Old-growth, Douglas fir forests provide habitat for a variety of wildlife such as spotted owls, pileated woodpeckers, blacktail deer, Roosevelt elk, black bear, and sometimes cougar, bobcat, and pine marten.

Trout Lake has a post office, general store, café, coffee shop, gas station, taco food truck, pizza food truck, and one restaurant. The hours of these establishments vary and are not always consistent. The closest towns with full service grocery stores and resources are White Salmon, WA (30 mins away) and Hood River, OR (40 mins away). Cell phone service in Trout Lake can be spotty, especially in the wilderness areas. More resources will be provided to the applicant during and after the pre-interview.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

Mt. Adams Institute strengthens the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research.

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.macslist.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Erica Bingham

Public Lands Stewards Program Coordinator

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

