



WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES on the SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST in California

“...in Wilderness is the preservation of the World.” – Thoreau

*John Muir...Bob Marshall...Aldo Leopold...Arthur Carhart...Howard Zahniser...names that inspire awe and gratitude for their lifelong dedication to protecting America's great Wilderness. The Sierra National Forest is seeking wilderness ranger interns to carry on their passion and enthusiasm for protecting and preserving our Wilderness areas. Come spend the summer working in the *spectacular and awe-inspiring high Sierras*. Rangers will experience the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness Areas, as well as the lesser-known Dinkey Lakes, Kaiser and Monarch Wilderness Areas. Interested? Please read on to find out more about what could become the **summer experience of a lifetime!***



John Muir Wilderness in the Sierra National Forest

Position Summary

The wilderness ranger intern will be an integral member of the wilderness team working in the Sierra National Forest's spectacular wilderness areas. The ranger will be expected to take on most or all of the duties of a full-time wilderness ranger. The intern will primarily be working with a full-time wilderness ranger, but may be required to work alone or with volunteer groups from time to time. While no salary is provided for this internship, housing, subsistence (\$450+ per month, see below for details), and all work-related vehicle travel, will be provided.

Effective Dates

June 1, 2009 until school begins again in the fall. The internship will last no later than 30 September 2009, but may end earlier to accommodate school schedules. Flexibility with starting and ending dates is possible, including flexibility to work around school schedules.

Job Location

The Sierra National Forest is located in Fresno and Madera Counties, California. The forest contains two ranger districts. The High Sierra Ranger District encompasses approximately 940,000 acres, including just under 500,000 acres of designated wilderness. The wilderness areas which fall completely or partially on the district include the John Muir Wilderness, Ansel Adams Wilderness, Dinkey Lakes Wilderness, Kaiser Wilderness and Monarch Wilderness. The Bass Lake Ranger District encompasses approximately 400,000 acres, including just over 70,000 acres of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Elevations of these wilderness areas range from approximately 3300 feet on the San Joaquin River in the Ansel Adams Wilderness to 13,986 feet at the summit of Mount Humphreys in the John Muir Wilderness, with the vast majority of designated wilderness land lying above 7000 feet. This spectacular landscape is a mix of granite peaks and valleys, alpine lakes, alpine meadows and mixed conifer forest.

The ranger district offices are located in Prather, California (High Sierra Ranger District) and North Fork, California (Bass Lake Ranger District). Five work centers (the High Sierra Work Center, the Jackass Administrative Site, the Wishon Work Center, the Clover Meadow Work Center and the Minarets Work Center) frequently serve as base stations for wilderness rangers. Housing will be provided for interns at one of the five work centers. All five work centers are remotely located. Several stores provide camping-related supplies and food near Florence Lake, Lake Edison, Mono Hot Springs, Wishon Reservoir and Clover Meadow. The towns of Prather and North Fork, where grocery stores are available, are each approximately 2 hours from the work centers. Interns will have work responsibilities in Prather or North Fork at least once every two weeks, which will allow regular access to a grocery store, drug store and post office, among other services. The city of Fresno is located approximately 2.5 hours from each work center and provides a full range of commercial and emergency services.

Responsibilities

The wilderness ranger intern:

Implements the logistics required for completion of wilderness projects associated with trail maintenance and reconstruction. Performs trail log, condition, and prescription surveys. Performs maintenance at dispersed recreation sites including site cleanup and naturalizing.

Interacts with public in wilderness, providing education and information. Informs wilderness visitors of rules and explains use regulations according to the Wilderness Act. Checks wilderness permits.

Inspects wilderness areas to determine compliance with regulations or specifications. Patrols wilderness to ensure that areas are operated, used, and maintained in accordance with wilderness management plans.

Responsibilities (cont.)

Provides detailed historical and cultural information about wilderness areas to visitors and recreational user groups; explains rules and regulations. Uses education as the primary method of disseminating wilderness rules and regulations to the public.

Organizes and establishes low impact base camps. Performs inventorying and monitoring of specific resources for Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process.

Inventories and restores campsites in wilderness areas.

Inventories and installs signs in wilderness areas.

Collects evidence and provides documentation for cases of misuse of wilderness areas. Documents destruction to or impacts on campsites. May be responsible for maintenance and care of assigned pack and saddle stock, and for the operation and maintenance of specialized equipment used in transporting livestock.

Manages collected data in digital format, including the input of data into databases and editing of digital photographs.

May backpack for up to 9 days with a backpack of 50 pounds or more, including tools associated with wilderness ranger duties.

Qualifications

The wilderness ranger intern must be able to backpack for multiple tours, with each tour having the potential to last up to 9 days. Tours will generally be 9 days on and 5 days off, but are subject to varying lengths. The ranger should expect to carry a 50+ pound backpack and tools associated with duties (e.g. shovel, saw, etc.). The ranger must be experienced in backpacking and wilderness travel.

The wilderness ranger intern must become familiar with the Wilderness Act, wilderness ethics, and Leave No Trace principles.

The wilderness ranger intern must have good communication skills, as interaction with wilderness visitors will be a primary responsibility.

The wilderness ranger intern should be familiar basic computer applications. Additional computer experience with ArcGIS, Microsoft Access and photo editing software is desirable but not required.

The wilderness ranger intern should be able to commit to beginning work on 27 May 2009, and working through at least mid-August. The opportunity may exist to work until 30 September 2009. Flexibility with starting and ending dates is possible, including flexibility to work around school schedules.

Compensation

Housing will be provided at either of the High Sierra Work Center, the Wishon Work Center, the Jackass Administrative Site, the Clover Meadow Work Center or the Minarets Work Center. All five sites are located in the spectacular high Sierra, and afford a wonderful setting in which to spend a summer. All five locations are equipped with fully functioning showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, kitchens and

Compensation (cont.)

electricity. This position does not provide a wage. Monetary compensation will be at the Forest Service subsistence rate of \$25 per day. Interns should expect to work *at least* 9 days every two weeks, and therefore earn *at least* \$225 every two weeks, or *at least* \$450 every month.

While government vehicles will be provided for work-related activities, if any work-related travel is performed in personal vehicles and authorized, the intern will be reimbursed at a rate of 55 cents per mile.

Transportation

Government vehicles will be provided for all work-related activities. If personal vehicles are used for any work-related activities, compensation will be at the rate of 55 cents per mile.

For interns who do not have a personal vehicle available, transportation can be arranged through the Forest Service (at no charge) for pick-up in Fresno (airport, train depot, bus depot, etc.) at the beginning of the internship and drop-off in Fresno at the end of the internship. Regular work-related trips to Prather or North Fork will provide interns with an opportunity to take advantage of services available in Prather and North Fork (grocery store, post office, pharmacy, restaurants, etc.) during non-work hours. For travel beyond Prather or North Fork during non-work time, personal arrangements are commonly made with other staff to share transportation in personal vehicles to Fresno or elsewhere.

Stock (Horses or mules)

Rangers may be required to work with stock, or may encounter stock users during the summer. Rangers who are inexperienced with stock will be taught the basics of riding and handling, and will be taught some Leave No Trace techniques for wilderness use.

Equipment

All work-related equipment will be provided, such as shovels, crosscut saws, GPS devices, cameras, etc. Rangers may use a limited selection of Forest Service backpacking equipment, but are encouraged to provide their own backpacking equipment. Bear canisters may be required for some trips, and will be provided by the Forest Service. Vehicles for work-related duties will be provided by the Forest Service.

Training

The ranger will be provided with all required training, including government driver's permit training, crosscut saw training, campsite inventory and rehabilitation training, trail maintenance training, prevention of sexual harassment training, civil rights training, and database management training. Additional training should be expected, such as wilderness management training, stock training and leave no trace training.

Academic Credit

The Sierra National Forest will work with colleges or universities that offer natural resource internship courses to provide all necessary coordination, documentation and evaluation for the internship course.

Interns may have the opportunity to gain experience in specific fields of interest related to wilderness, provided the fields fall generally within the context of wilderness management. Contact Micki Didier (contact information listed below) to discuss any such interests.

Application

A detailed cover letter and resume should be submitted no later than March 6, 2009 to:

Hardcopy: Micki Didier, Lead Wilderness Ranger
High Sierra Ranger District, Sierra National Forest
29688 Auberry Road, P. O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651

OR

Digital: mdidier@fs.fed.us

Resumes need not be limited to one or two pages. Resumes should include:

- Contact information
- Education
- Work history, including description of work accomplished and supervisor contact information (if appropriate)
- Wilderness travel experience, including trips locations and dates
- Wilderness ranger-related skills
- Performance awards
- References
- Cover letter including why applicant is interested in this position

For additional questions or information, please call Micki Didier at 559.855.5355 x3304 or e-mail at mdidier@fs.fed.us. For general information on the Sierra National Forest, please visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra.html>. For more information on the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, Kaiser and Monarch Wilderness Areas, please visit <http://www.sierranevadawild.gov> or <http://www.wilderness.net>.