

# **Volunteer Position Title: Wilderness Steward**

## **PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT**

Wilderness Stewards are volunteers who provide for visitor education and awareness of the Wilderness resource. The purpose of the position is primarily as a visitor contact in Forest Wildernesses.

Secondarily the Wilderness Stewards may assist with campsite clean-up, campsite monitoring, permit monitoring.

## **QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED**

Individuals must be good at and enjoy communicating with different people.

Wilderness Stewards must have hiking and backpacking experience. Volunteers need to have map reading and compass skills. They must be able to hike long distances and be prepared to stay overnight if required. Volunteers must be able to work safely and independently (preferably in pairs).

Volunteers should be prepared to work under varied conditions, including inclement weather and remote, backcountry locations.

## **OUTLINE OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

Volunteers are responsible:

- 1) For their own personal safety, in addition to the role they play watching out for others.
- 2) For adhering to the requirements for personal protective equipment.
- 3) For letting their supervisor know, in a timely manner, when they will be unable to work so schedules can be adjusted.

## **TRAINING**

The majority of the training will occur on-the-job, as the volunteers draw from the experience of the Forest Service wilderness rangers and each other. In addition,

- Volunteers will be briefed on Forest Service policy.
- Volunteers will be provided written materials and other training guides on Wilderness ethics and programs such as "Leave No Trace".
- Volunteers will be included in formal training sessions relating to their position that will be organized specifically for Wilderness Steward volunteers.

## **TIME COMMITMENT**

Wilderness Steward volunteers normally work from 2-4 days over weekends. A minimum time commitment of 4 weekends is required.

## **BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH VOLUNTEERING**

**Experience:** Volunteers gain experience in wilderness use, management and ethics.

Volunteers gain insights into the Forest Service as a public land management agency.

**Conditioning:** Volunteers will be in good physical condition as a result of the required backcountry hiking.

**Outdoor Work:** Volunteers will spend most of their time outside on trails in scenic settings. Some time may be required in the office, inputting the data that is collected in the field.

**Lodging & Subsistence:** There is no living subsistence allowance. Volunteers are considered as federal employees for the purpose of tort claims and compensation for work injuries.

## **TERMINATION**

The assignment may be terminated at any time by either the Forest Service or the volunteer. Forest Service may discontinue use of a Wilderness steward if we feel the actions of the steward are unsafe, misrepresent the Forest Service mission, or if a steward cannot meet the time commitment. If participation in the steward program cannot achieve its objectives, there is no reason to continue. As this is new activity for both of us, we'll strive to make it successful, correcting and improving as we go along.

## **SUPPORT PLAN**

Wilderness Stewards will be supervised by the Wilderness Steward Coordinator and receive field assistance from Wilderness Rangers who will provide ongoing feedback on whether the work is being done safely and to standard. The supervisor will ensure that the Job Hazard Analysis and tailgate safety sessions are conducted, in order to identify and mitigate any risks and hazards associated with the project. The Wilderness Steward Coordinator will be the contact point to receive information on training, scheduling of field days and volunteer support.

## **WILDERNESS STEWARD COORDINATOR**

Jon Nakae

Mt. Adams Ranger District

509-395-3480

[jnakae@fs.fed.us](mailto:jnakae@fs.fed.us)