



U. S. Forest Service

WILDERNESS VOLUNTEER RANGER

OPPORTUNITIES

on the

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

in California

in partnership with the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

“...in Wildness 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 volunteer rangers 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 volunteer ranger will be an integral member of the wilderness team on the Sierra National Forest's spectacular High Sierra Ranger District. The ranger will be expected to take on most or all of the duties of a full-time wilderness ranger. The ranger 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 position, housing, per diem (\$23 per day worked, see below for details), and vehicles for all work-related travel are provided.

Effective Dates

30 May 2006 until approximately 30 September 2006. The position may end earlier to accommodate volunteer schedule or needs. Flexibility with starting and ending dates is possible, including flexibility to work around school schedules.

Job Location

The High Sierra Ranger District of Sierra National Forest is located primarily in Fresno County, California. The 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. Elevations of these wilderness areas range from approximately 3300 feet on the San Joaquin River to 13986 feet at Mount Humphreys, 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 office is located in Prather, California. Three work centers, the High Sierra Work Center, the Jackass Administrative Site and the Wishon Work Center, frequently serve as base stations for wilderness rangers. Housing will be provided for interns at one of the three work centers. All three work centers are remotely located. Several stores provide camping-related supplies and food near Florence Lake, Lake Edison, Mono Hot Springs and Wishon Reservoir. The town of Prather, where a grocery store is available, is approximately 2 hours from each work center. 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 volunteer ranger:

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. Checks wilderness permits. Informs wilderness visitors of rules and regulations.

Explains use regulations according to the Wilderness Act. 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. 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.

Responsibilities (cont.)

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.

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 volunteer ranger 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 up to 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 volunteer ranger must be familiar with the Wilderness Act, wilderness ethics, and Leave No Trace principles.

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

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

The wilderness volunteer ranger should be able to begin work on 30 May 2006, and work through at least mid-September. Flexibility with starting and ending dates is possible, including flexibility to work around school schedules.

Compensation

Housing will be provided at either the High Sierra Work Center, the Wishon Work Center, or the Jackass Administrative Site. All three sites are located in the spectacular high Sierra, and afford a wonderful setting in which to spend a summer. All three locations are equipped with fully functioning showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, kitchens and electricity. This position does not provide a wage. Monetary compensation will be at the Forest Service per diem rate of \$23 per day. Volunteer rangers should expect to work *at least* 9 days every two weeks, and therefore earn *at least* \$207 every two weeks, or *at least* \$414 every month.

Compensation (cont.)

While government vehicles will be provided for work-related activities, if any work-related travel requires driving a personal vehicle, the volunteer will be reimbursed at a rate of 44.5 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 44.5 cents per mile.

Stock

Volunteer rangers may be required to work with stock during the summer. Rangers who are inexperienced with stock will be taught the basics of riding and handling stock if stock use is required.

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 if required. 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, prevention of sexual harassment training, civil rights training, crosscut saw training, campsite inventory and rehabilitation training and database management training. Additional training should be expected, such as wilderness management training, stock training and leave no trace training.

Documentation of Work

The volunteer ranger will be required to document work-related activities and present the documentation on a monthly basis to Dr. Ken Murray, Wilderness Volunteer Ranger Program Coordinator for the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew. Specific dates and times of reporting will be worked out through Dr. Murray.

Application

A detailed cover letter and resume should be submitted no later than March 5, 2006 to:

Hardcopy: Robert Mason, Wilderness Manager
High Sierra Ranger District, Sierra National Forest
29688 Auberry Road, P. O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651

OR

Digital: robmason@fs.fed.us

Application (cont.)

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 contact Rob Mason at 559.855.5355 x3325 (robmason@fs.fed.us) or Dr. Ken Murray at kmurray@pol.net. 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>. For additional information on the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, please visit <http://www.trailcrew.org>.