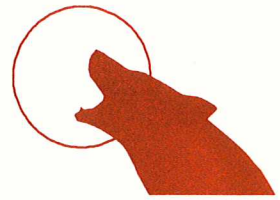


ARTHUR CARHART

NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER



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"Fostering interagency excellence in wilderness stewardship."



27 January 2010

Rob Mason, Director
Selway Bitterroot Foundation
PO Box 8103
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Rob,

I have just read through your final report on the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Ranger Internship Program and am writing to extend my congratulations on a tremendous inaugural season! As I see it, the program was a resounding success from every perspective. You developed productive partnerships with academic institutions, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. You produced some incredibly skilled workers, and in the end, wilderness came out the winner. Congratulations!

Rob, I am particularly impressed by the depth and breadth of training you provided the interns and how you accomplished that training. From mandatory safety and policy, to fundamental field skills, to the complexities of designation and stewardship, you turned out an incredibly knowledgeable and skilled group of young people in both the big picture and day-to-day aspects of wilderness stewardship. That, combined with your collaborative approach of using the same agency personnel to train the interns and work with them throughout the summer, proved highly productive for all parties involved. Your combination of training, mentoring, and field work generated a crop of highly qualified young people ready to step right into a wilderness ranger position. Rob, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is filling a critical need. As the federal agencies consider sources for the next generation of qualified wilderness managers, you can be sure, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is one of the first places they will look.

Congratulations again, Rob, on such a positive first year and thank you for including the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center. I look forward to our continued collaboration for developing a more knowledgeable and skilled workforce to ensure the values and benefits of wilderness for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

Connie G. Myers
Director