



# SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



**SUMMER 2011**



Photo: Rachel Kaufman, 2010  
Indian Ridge, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

## **WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** in the **SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS** of Montana and Idaho

*"...in Wilderness is the preservation of the World."* – Thoreau

**Bob Marshall...John Muir...Aldo Leopold...Arthur Carhart...Howard Zahniser...** names that inspire awe and gratitude for their lifelong dedication to protecting America's great Wilderness. The Selway-Bitterroot Foundation and U.S. Forest Service are 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 rugged, wild and awe-inspiring northern Rockies. Interns will soak in the third-largest wilderness area in the lower-48 states, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, while gaining unmatched on-the-ground experience needed to launch a career in protected-area management in either the government or the non-profit sector. Interested? **Read on to find out more about what could be the summer experience of a lifetime!**



[www.selwaybitterroot.org](http://www.selwaybitterroot.org)

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## ***Position Summary***

The Wilderness Ranger Intern will be an integral member of the wilderness team in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Interns will be expected to take on most of a full-time wilderness ranger's duties. The Intern will primarily be working with several full-time experienced wilderness rangers, but may work with other staff or with volunteer groups from time to time. Interns should not expect to work alone. While no salary is provided for this internship, free housing, subsistence (\$640+ per month, see below for details), travel stipend (see below for details), reimbursement for work-related driving, and Wilderness First Responder training are all provided.



## ***Effective Dates***

16 May 2011 until school begins again in the fall. The internship will last no later than 28 October 2011, 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 and Environment***

The 1,340,000-acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is located in Idaho County, Idaho and Ravalli County, Montana. It is the third-largest wilderness area in the lower-48 states and lies adjacent to the largest wilderness area in the lower-48, the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Designated in 1964, the Wilderness encompasses over 65 linear miles of the crest of Bitterroot Range, which is one of the most rugged mountain chains in North America. As a result, this land base retains its wild nature even today and harbors healthy populations of trout, salmon, wolves, lynx, black bears, elk, mule deer, moose and mountain lions. This often trail-less backcountry is ideal for gaining exposure to a wide range of wilderness management issues and dilemmas.

The Wilderness is managed by the Nez Perce, Clearwater and Bitterroot National Forests. The Nez Perce National Forest encompasses approximately 2.2 million acres in central Idaho, including 560,000 acres of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The iconic Moose Creek Ranger Station lies on this forest and will be a center of operations for Interns for part of the season. The forest also includes the majority of the wild and scenic Selway River, a legendary fishing and boating river that runs through the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The Clearwater National Forest encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres in central Idaho, including nearly 260,000 acres of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The home to backcountry hot springs, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Lochsa River and the Great Burn Roadless Area, the forest is as diverse as it is large, and offers many portals into the Bitterroot Range. The Bitterroot National Forest encompasses 1.6 million acres in western Montana and central Idaho, including 512,050 acres of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The Forest, which lies adjacent to the Bitterroot Valley and near the city of Missoula, is home to the rugged eastern front of the Bitterroot Mountains, one of Montana's most iconic backdrops.

Elevations within the Wilderness range from approximately 1800 feet on the Selway River to 10,157 feet at the summit of Trapper Peak. This spectacular landscape is a mix of granite peaks, steep canyons, lush river valleys, alpine lakes, groves of old growth cedar, mixed conifer forest, and infinite patches of huckleberry bushes. Because of the large elevation variation and the ruggedness of the range, weather variation can be dramatic. Interns should be prepared to work in weather ranging from snow to 110-degree temperatures throughout the summer.

The offices of the ranger districts that manage the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are located in:

- Lowell, Idaho (Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest)
- Powell, Idaho (Powell Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest)
- Kooskia, Idaho (Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest)
- Darby, Montana (Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest)
- Conner, Montana (West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest)
- Stevensville, Montana (Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest)

# SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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## ***Job Location and Environment (continued)***

Eight work centers (the Moose Creek Ranger Station, the Selway Falls Guard Station, the Elk Summit Guard Station, the Lost Horse Guard Station, the Paradise Guard Station, the Shearer Guard Station, the Magruder Ranger Station and the West Fork Ranger Station) frequently serve as base stations for wilderness rangers. Housing will be provided for interns at these work centers, or at other housing locations surrounding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The town of Kooskia, Idaho, and several communities in Montana's Bitterroot Valley provide nearby opportunities to visit grocery stores, post offices, drug stores and restaurants, among other amenities. The cities of Missoula, Montana, and Lewiston, Idaho, are each located within a half-day (or less) drive from the wilderness trailheads and provide 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 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 regulations.
- Explains use regulations to visitors 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.
- Performs inventorying and monitoring of campsites for Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process; restores campsites that are out of compliance with standards.
- Inventories, installs and removes signs in Wilderness and at trailheads.
- Collects evidence and provides documentation for cases of misuse of Wilderness. Documents destruction to or impacts on campsites.
- May be assist with for maintenance and care of pack and saddle stock (horses and mules), 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 10 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 10 days. Tours will generally be 10 days on and 4 days off, but are subject to varying lengths. The Intern should expect to carry a 50+ pound backpack and tools associated with duties (e.g. shovel, saw, etc.). The Intern must be experienced in backpacking and wilderness travel.

The Wilderness Ranger Intern must be self-reliant, be physically fit, and have the ability to problem solve in the back-country.

The Wilderness Ranger Intern must be familiar with the Wilderness Act, wilderness ethics, and Leave No Trace principles, including being respectful and tolerant of wildlife including rattlesnakes, wolves, large cats, bears and more.

# SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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## ***Qualifications (continued)***

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 must be able to commit to beginning work on 16 May 2011, and working through at least mid-August. The opportunity may exist to work until 28 October 2011. Flexibility with ending dates is possible, including flexibility to work around school schedules.

## ***Compensation***

Housing will be provided at either at the Forest Service stations or at other housing locations surrounding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. All sites are located in (or near) the spectacular Bitterroot Mountains, and afford a wonderful setting in which to spend a summer. Some locations are equipped with fully functioning showers, bathrooms, laundry facilities, kitchens and electricity, while others have some amenities, but may be lacking electricity, laundry facilities or showers. All facilities have, at a minimum, some form of a restroom and kitchen. This position does not provide a wage. Monetary compensation will be at a subsistence rate of \$32 per 8-hours worked, though compensation will be no greater than \$320 every two weeks (80 hours). Interns should expect to work up to 10 days every two weeks, and therefore earn approximately \$320 every two weeks, or \$640 every month.



Interns will be reimbursed for some or all travel expenses (depending on travel cost) to and from Missoula, Montana (where internship program will begin), at the beginning and end of the internship. Compensation for these travel expenses will be no greater than \$400 in total. For interns traveling by plane or bus to Missoula, ticket receipts will be required for compensation. Compensation will be at the ticketed rate, but will be no greater than \$400. For interns traveling by personal vehicle, reimbursement will be at 50 cents per mile, up to a maximum of \$400.

## ***Transportation***

Government vehicles may be provided for some work-related activities, but personal vehicles will likely have to be used for most portions of the summer. When personal vehicles are used for any work-related activities, compensation will be at the rate of 50 cents per mile.

For interns who do not have a personal vehicle available, transportation can be arranged through the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation (at no charge) for pick-up in Missoula (airport, bus depot, etc.) at the beginning of the internship and drop-off in Missoula at the end of the internship. Work-related trips to Kooskia or the Bitterroot Valley will provide interns with an opportunity to take advantage of services available in these areas (grocery store, post office, pharmacy, restaurants, etc.) during non-work hours, though these trips will vary in frequency depending on the particular work location. For travel beyond Kooskia or the Bitterroot Valley during non-work time, it may be possible to make personal arrangements with other staff to share transportation in personal vehicles to Missoula, Lewiston, or elsewhere.

## ***Working with Stock***

Rangers may be required to work with stock (horses and mules) during the summer. Rangers who are inexperienced with stock will be taught the basics of riding, packing and handling stock if stock use is required.

# SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## **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 or Selway-Bitterroot Foundation backpacking equipment, but are encouraged to provide their own backpacking equipment. Bear canisters may be required for certain trips, and will be provided by the Forest Service or the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation.

If selected, a list of personal equipment that each Intern needs to provide will be mailed to the selected individuals.

## **Training**

The intern will be provided with all required training, including:

- Wilderness First Responder training through Aerie Backcountry Medicine
- Wilderness Act training
- Government driver's permit training
- Crosscut saw training
- Stock training
- Campsite inventory and rehabilitation training
- Trail maintenance training
- Exposure to both Forest Service and the non-profit sector roles in wilderness stewardship

Additional training may include:

- Database management training
- Wilderness management training
- Leave No Trace training

Interns should expect to spend at least four weeks in training at the beginning of the internship before starting their first full wilderness tour. Interns should not expect physical fitness training: proper physical fitness is a pre-requisite of the internship.

## **Academic Credit**

The Forest Service and the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation 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 Rob Mason (contact information listed below) to discuss any such interests.

## **The Selway-Bitterroot Foundation**

The Selway-Bitterroot Foundation (SBF) serves as the primary partner of the Forest Service in stewarding the 1.3-million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and its surrounding wildlands. The SBF's Wilderness Ranger Internship Program is the premier wilderness ranger training program in the nation, and is operated in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service. It is designed to develop the nation's next generation of wilderness leaders.



# SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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## *Application Process*

A detailed cover letter and resume should be submitted no later than **February 20, 2011** to:

Hardcopy: Robert Mason, Executive Director  
Selway-Bitterroot Foundation  
P. O. Box 8103  
Missoula, MT 59807

OR

Digital: [rmason@selwaybitterroot.org](mailto:rmason@selwaybitterroot.org)

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

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

For additional questions or information, please call Rob Mason (executive director, Selway-Bitterroot Foundation) at 406.329.3603 or e-mail at [rmason@selwaybitterroot.org](mailto:rmason@selwaybitterroot.org). For general information on the Nez Perce, Clearwater or Bitterroot National Forests, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce>, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater> or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot>, respectively. For information on the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation, please visit <http://www.selwaybitterroot.org>. For more information on the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, please visit <http://www.wilderness.net>.

