WILDERNESS RANGER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

in the

Selway – Bitterroot and
Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness Areas of Idaho and Montana

“...in Wildness 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 Frank Church Foundation 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 rugged, wild and awe-inspiring northern Rockies. Interns will soak in the largest wilderness complex in the lower-48 states, the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Areas, while gaining unmatched on-the-ground experience needed to launch a career in wilderness in either the government or the non-profit sector.

Read on to find out more about what could be the summer experience of a lifetime!

www.selwaybitterroot.org
Position Summary

The Wilderness Ranger Intern will be an integral member of the wilderness team in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness or Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, depending on which wilderness areas the intern is assigned to. Interns will be expected to take on many of a full-time wilderness ranger’s duties. The Intern will primarily be working with 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, a living allowance ($804 bi-weekly, see below for details), food per diem (see below for details), reimbursement for work-related driving, education award, and Wilderness First Responder training are all provided.

The Wilderness Ranger Internship is an AmeriCorps program run by the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation (SBFC) with support from the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). The SBFC is the primary partner of the Forest Service in stewarding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. MCC serves as the SBFC’s primary partner in managing the Wilderness Ranger Internship Program.

This position begins on Tuesday May 20, 2014 and ends on Saturday August 23, 2014. The position is only open to students enrolled in a college or university, or who have graduated from a college or university the semester immediately preceding the beginning of the internship.

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 (see below). 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 2,367,000-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness is located in Lemhi, Custer, Valley and Idaho Counties in Idaho. It is the largest wilderness area in the lower-48 states and lies adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Designated in 1980, the Wilderness encompasses most of the heart of the legendary Salmon River, including both the Main Fork and Middle Fork and the river. Thriving elk and wolf populations thrive in this extremely rugged landscape, and the most inland salmon run in the United States runs directly through the middle of the wilderness.

The wilderness areas are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot, Salmon-Challis and Payette 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 is it 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. The Payette National Forest spans 2.3 million acres, some of west-central Idaho’s most diverse country. From high-alpine ridgelines to the low canyon of the Middle Fork Salmon River, the Payette National Forest encompasses 790,000 acres of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The Salmon-Challis National Forest encompasses 4.2 million acres of central Idaho’s landscape, half of which are part of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. One of the largest National Forests in the continental United States, the Salmon-Challis is home to both the cherished Middle Fork and Main Fork of the Salmon River. The Salmon River system is regarded as one of the healthiest river systems in the continental U.S. and home to chinook and steelhead salmon runs, and multi-day rafting rivers. It is considered the main portal into the Frank Church, with access points ranging from the southern end near Stanley, Idaho, and stretching to the northeast reaches near Salmon, Idaho.
Job Location and Environment (continued)

Elevations within the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness areas range from approximately 1,800 feet on the Selway River to over 10,000 feet in the Bitterroot Mountains. This spectacular landscape contains diverse ecosystems ranging from alpine granite peaks to high desert hills full of sage brush. Dramatic river valleys, groves of old growth mixed conifer forest, and infinite vistas are just a few of the highlights of these two wilderness areas. 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.

A variety of Forest Service ranger stations and work centers frequently serve as base stations for Wilderness Ranger Interns. Housing will be provided for interns at these work centers, or at other housing locations surrounding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness or Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Many small towns in Idaho and Montana provide nearby opportunities to visit grocery stores, post offices, drug stores and restaurants, among other amenities. The cities of Boise and Lewiston in Idaho and the city of Missoula in Montana are each located within a half-day (or less) drive from the wilderness trailheads and provide a full range of commercial, transportation and emergency services. Interns should expect to spend much of the first month of the season based out of Missoula, Montana, attending a variety of different wilderness trainings.

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 to measure trends in wilderness character; 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 both hardcopy and digital format, including the input of data into databases and filing 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 9 days on and 5 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 backcountry.

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.
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 with 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 May 20, 2014 and working through August 23, 2014.

Compensation

Housing will be provided at either at the Forest Service stations or at other housing locations surrounding the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness or Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. All sites are located in (or near) the spectacular Bitterroot Mountains and Salmon River 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 is an AmeriCorps internship. A bi-weekly living allowance of $804 is provided, along with a food stipend of $8 per day when working in the backcountry. Interns who successfully complete the internship will also receive a $1175 educational award through AmeriCorps, which can be applied to a variety of educational expenses.

Transportation

Interns personal vehicles will likely have to be used for most travel throughout the summer. When personal vehicles are used for any work-related activities, compensation will be at the rate of 30 cents per mile.

For interns who do not have a personal vehicle available, transportation can be arranged through the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church 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 through towns surrounding the wilderness areas 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 during non-work time, it may be possible to make personal arrangements with other staff to share transportation in personal vehicles to Missoula, Boise, or elsewhere. For travel during non-work days, it is recommended that interns have a personal vehicle available.

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.

Equipment

All work-related equipment will be provided, such as shovels, crosscut saws, GPS devices, cameras, etc. Two uniform shirts will also be provided to each intern. Interns may use a limited selection of Forest Service, Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation or Montana Conservation Corps 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 Frank Church Foundation. Interns will be required to provide their own pairs of brown Ben Davis work pants, which are required uniform components (pairs run approximately $30 each). 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
- 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 Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church 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 Eric Melson (contact information listed below) to discuss any such interests.

The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
The Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation (SBFC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the primary partner of the Forest Service in stewarding the 1.3-million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, 2.4- million acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and the surrounding wildlands. Our mission is to connect citizens and communities to assist in the stewardship of these areas. Our purpose is not to replace Forest Service programs, but to build a Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return constituency among, communities, individuals, universities, tribes, the Forest Service and other groups in the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources across these wilderness areas and the surrounding wildlands. The SBFC’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 and Montana Conservation Corps. It is designed to develop the nation’s next generation of wilderness leaders.

The Montana Conservation Corps
The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) is a nonprofit organization that empowers youth and young adults through hands-on conservation service and education. Each season MCC enrolls several hundred young adults from across the country, age 18 and up, in their AmeriCorps program. Their members live, learn and serve together in some of our country’s wildest places. They complete conservation projects in local communities, national forests, state and national parks, wildlife refuges and federally-designated wilderness areas. Participants receive the experience of a lifetime through challenging projects and the rigors of camp life, coupled with education and aimed at creating engaged citizens and lifelong environmental stewards. All of these factors create an ideal situation for personal growth that leads to increased confidence, communication and leadership skills, and the ability to work well with people from all walks of life.

www.selwaybitterroot.org
**Application Process**

A detailed cover letter and resume should be submitted no later than **February 21, 2014** to:

**Hardcopy:** Eric Melson, Frank Church-River of No Return Program Director
Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
P. O. Box 1886
Boise, ID 83701

OR

**Digital:** [emelson@selwaybitterroot.org](mailto:emelson@selwaybitterroot.org)

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

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

For additional questions or information, please call Eric Melson (Frank Church-River of No Return Program Director, Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation) at 208.830.0924 or e-mail at [emelson@selwaybitterroot.org](mailto:emelson@selwaybitterroot.org). For general information on the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot, Payette or Salmon-Challis National Forests, please visit [http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater), [http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot), [http://www.fs.usda.gov/payette](http://www.fs.usda.gov/payette), or [http://www.fs.usda.gov/salmonchallis](http://www.fs.usda.gov/salmonchallis), respectively. For information on the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, please visit [http://www.selwaybitterroot.org](http://www.selwaybitterroot.org). For more information on the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness or Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, please visit [http://www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net).