

## Wilderness Ranger Trainee 2024 Position Announcement



### Spend the summer outdoors as a Wilderness Ranger Trainee!

**Description:** Deschutes National Forest, in partnership with Discover Your Forest is seeking two individuals to serve as *Wilderness Ranger Trainees* for the summer of 2024.

Wilderness Ranger Trainees will support Deschutes National Forest with work related to Wilderness stewardship. You will report daily to the Deschutes National Forest Wilderness Crew and work alongside U.S. Forest Service staff and Wilderness volunteers to complete daily duties and special projects. Discover Your Forest and the Deschutes National Forest partnership program is passionate about promoting equity while celebrating the diversity of our community and providing empowering opportunities.

**The Wilderness Ranger Trainee Program** is as follows:

- **Age requirement:** 18-30
- **Salary:** \$19/hour
- **Term of Service:** 640 hours (~16 weeks)
- **Certification:** Upon completion of full-service hours, each Wilderness Ranger Trainee will receive the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority certificate. PLC Hiring Authority provides 2 years of non-competitive hiring status\*. (*\*Non-competitive hiring status is the ability to apply and be considered for permanent vacancies within the Forest Service without competitive examination or competing with career or career-conditional employees under internal merit staffing procedures for any position which eligible. Candidates applying under this authority are considered with other non-competitive status candidates.*)
- Trainees will be provided conservation education and exposure to natural resources management through mentorship and experiential shadowing opportunities.
- All participants, based on personal interests, will have additional opportunities to explore other Forest Service specialties.
- **Housing is not offered through this program.**

**Primary duties include:**

- Provide education to visitors at trailheads and in the backcountry. Education topics include trail/campsite/forest conditions, Wilderness Regulations and compliance, Leave No Trace ethics and best practices, and general Wilderness Stewardship information.
- Restore illegal and inappropriate campsites and trails to improve habitat, specifically around riparian areas.
- Clean up campsites and day use areas to mitigate recreation impacts to wilderness resource.
- Monitor and document use patterns.
- Clear and maintain wilderness trails to minimize recreation impacts.
- Document prescribed treatments to public lands by use of photos or videos
- Complete project narratives for reporting purposes
- Participate in all trainings and orientations

**Secondary duties include:**

- Clearing areas of dangerous fire fuels.
- Building or repairing fencing to protect vulnerable habitat.
- Restoring trails and waterways.
- Habitat restoration.
- Assisting with driving and project logistics.
- Conducting tool/equipment/vehicle inventory tracking and maintenance.

**Qualified candidates will be/have:**

- Must be a US Citizen and pass a background check.
- A current driver's license with good driving record.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to easily talk to large groups of people every day.
- Exceptional work ethic, enthusiasm, and a high degree of flexibility.
- Commitment to serve a minimum of four -10-hour days, Thursday-Sunday, with weekend work required. Work weeks will average 40hours.
- Service will consist of primarily day excursions with 1-2 opportunities for an overnight wilderness outing.
- **Ability to spend long days in the field under varying weather conditions.**
- **Ability to hike over rough, uneven terrain.**

**What is the education value to the applicant?**

- The term of service will allow the Wilderness Trainee to put into practice their academic knowledge.
- Enhance employment opportunities in Natural Resources and with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Gain a broad perspective of wilderness management and sustainability through exposure to a variety of duties.
- Discover strengths and weaknesses.
- Opportunity to network with a diverse group of professionals: formal and non-formal educators, scientists, and U.S. Forest Service specialists.
- Gain valuable hands-on experience on projects in an outdoor setting.
- Cultivate resources from experts on how to develop your personal career pathway.

**Partnership Overview:**

This opportunity is made possible through a partnership between the Deschutes National Forest and Discover Your Forest. Staff from each partner supports the Wilderness Ranger Trainee. General guidelines for partner roles are:

**Forest Service staff provides:**

- Experiential, in the field, training and support.
- Daily supervision and delegation of work tasks and direction.
- Additional educational opportunities.

**Discover Your Forest staff provides:**

- Time sheets, hours tracking, and payroll.
- Additional support to both partners and Trainees as needed.
- Career Pathways workshop and information sharing.
- Delivers PLC Hiring Authority Certificate upon successful completion of service hours.

**Onboarding & Orientation:**

Reference checks and a two-part criminal history background check will be conducted on all final candidates, as required for this position. Selected candidates must complete U.S Forest Service onboarding and attend all required Forest Service trainings/orientations.

**Questions and How to Apply:**

- For more information contact
  - Charles White, Deschutes National Forest Wilderness Volunteer Coordinator
    - 541-419-4478; [charles.white1@usda.gov](mailto:charles.white1@usda.gov)
  - Davey Pearson, Discover Your Forest's Volunteer & Career Pathways Program Manager
    - 541-383-5530; [davey.pearson@discovernw.org](mailto:davey.pearson@discovernw.org)
- To apply:
  - Email Cover Letter and Resume to both, Charles White at [charles.white1@usda.gov](mailto:charles.white1@usda.gov) and Davey Pearson at [davey.pearson@discovernw.org](mailto:davey.pearson@discovernw.org).
  - Please include your outdoor experience and interest in the Natural Resources field in your cover letter.
- **Please apply before close of business Sunday, March 31, 2024.**
- Interviews will be held the weeks of April 8 – April 19, 2024
- Selections will be made by May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- **Anticipated Start Date - June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
- **Anticipated End Date – September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
- **Once a trainee starts, they must be available to serve full-time**