USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Salutes VetsWork and GreenCorps!

The Forest Service is proud to partner with the Mt. Adams Institute to help sponsor VetsWork and GreenCorps, career development programs for veterans interested in working in the natural resources and public land management fields. The programs place veterans into a variety of internship positions with National Forests across Oregon and Washington.

VetsWork and GreenCorps help agencies accomplish important work while providing veterans with valuable opportunities to develop new skills, learn new information, build their professional networks, and, ultimately, help secure permanent employment – a win-win.

Our deepest thanks to the Mt. Adams Institute, VetsWork, GreenCorps, and all our veterans!

Meet our VetsWork and GreenCorps employees:

for the greatest good

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Cynthia Armentrout

Archaeology Technician
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

"Working directly with the zone archaeologist is like having an awesome professor and you are the only student. You get to attend lectures surrounded by herds of elk, overlooking a river basin, which you just hiked miles to get to. "

Austin Candela

Facilities & Recreation Intern
Mt. Hood National Forest

"For those of you that recall the C.C.C... the works of that generation are prevalent throughout the forest and that importance of historic preservation is an obvious shared value amongst the folks working here."

Chelsea Fields

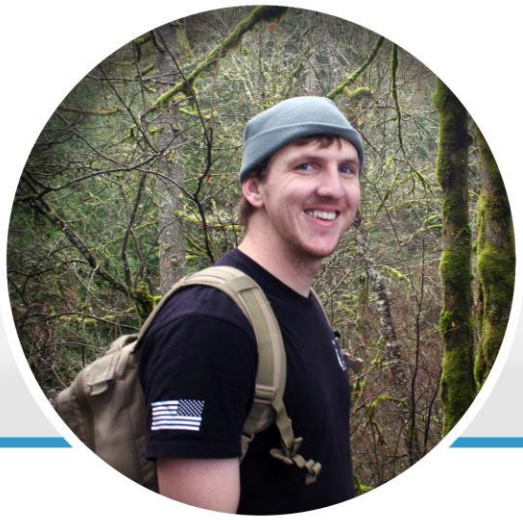
Conservation Education & Wilderness Assistant
Umatilla National Forest

"I am thrilled to share the natural world with a younger, technology driven generation."

Matheau Corris

Wilderness Specialist
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

"Things seem to slow down when you get into Joseph ... No one here acts like what they have to do is more important than what everyone else has to do."



Benjamin Morrison

Developed Recreation Technician
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

"As a kid living in Georgia I would run around the neighborhood barefooted, climbing trees, building forts, and exploring the woods "

Jimmy Pardo

Natural Resources Intern & VetsWork Outreach Coordinator
Gifford Pinchot National Forest / Mt. Adams Institute

"MAI has provided the path. I just had to walk it … and carry a crosscut or chainsaw, my pack, radio, GPS, extra-socks, maps and a light weight positive outlook. "

Zachariah Sumner

Community Engagement Specialist Intern
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

"I didn't realize how amazing the footage of the mountain was until it reached my laptop. But I did have an "in the moment awareness" of the amazing wildlife I was capturing on film."

Jonathane Schmitt

Invasive Species Specialist Intern
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

"Through interactions with the natural world I realized that I wanted a career outdoors in some capacity."

Zachary Teel

Volunteer and Youth Engagement Coordinator
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

"Understanding the processes within nature which make the air cleaner, the soil softer, the flora so vibrant and enduring…
This is the new magic in which I see the world."

Matthew West

WDVA & Center for Natural Lands Management Intern
VCC South Sound Intern Coordinator

"By healing the Earth we heal ourselves. By offering veterans a chance to heal the Earth I have witnessed incredible transitions of incredible people doing incredible work."

David Brown

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"I always loved helping people and being outside. I do what I can to help, so once I saw the VetsWork GreenCorps program I knew I needed to jump on the bandwagon."

William Aldous

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"I wanted the chance to work with other Vets preserving our natural resources...building comradery, working for a common goal in the great outdoors, developing job skills and making connections."

David Dorsey

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"When I found the post online for the AmeriCorps VetsWork Program, I knew this was the chance I'd been waiting to discover."

Thomas Gulker

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"I decided to become a VetsWork GreenCorps intern because of the exciting opportunity to explore an adventurous occupation in wildland firefighting"

Clint Middleton

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"Becoming a wildland firefighter would allow me to use all my passion into one and at the same time learn a new critcal skills while serving my community."

Michael Simpfenderfer

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"What excited me the most about my experience here is my future. I feel that my future now is much brighter."

Russell Vansteel

GreenCorps Member/Umatilla Vets Crew
Umatilla National Forest

"I love that I get to satisfy my thirst for adrenaline. It helps me calm my warrior spirit and allows me to have more patience and compassion..."