Volunteer Opportunities with the Lolo National Forest

Position: Wilderness Ranger Assistant
Positions Available: 2
Rattlesnake and Welcome Creek Wilderness Areas, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

Contact: Al Hilshey (406)329-3962 ahilshey@fs.fed.us
Dates: Approximately May 15, 2014 – September 30, 2014. A full season commitment is required. Flexibility for college student schedules can be made.
Difficulty: Arduous

Opportunity Description: The Wilderness Ranger Assistant position is an outstanding opportunity for anyone interested in gaining hands on experience in Wilderness Management. Volunteers are trained and certified to use cross-cut saws and axes. As the snow melts in the mountains the Wilderness Crew begins patrols with an emphasis on trail maintenance including: cutting and clearing fallen trees, maintaining water bars, retread work, and brushing. Throughout the remainder of the season, the Wilderness Crew conducts patrols to ensure compliance with Wilderness regulations, perform monitoring, and maintain campsites.

Other duties include:

- Visitor contact and LNT education
- Campsite inventory and rehabilitation
- Invasive weed monitoring and mitigation
- Regulation compliance checks
- Sign inventory and maintenance
- Gathering data for the annual Limits of Acceptable Change Report

Wilderness Ranger Assistants are required to volunteer a minimum of four days a week, Friday through Monday. Holiday work is required. Work days are typically10 hours long, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wilderness Rangers work in remote locations in all weather conditions from rain and snow to extreme heat. Successful applicants need to be physically fit and able to carry food, provisions, and tools for up to four days at a time. Wilderness Ranger Assistants are expected to provide their own gear and food. Select gear items may be provided. Some eight day trips may be scheduled earlier in the season. Previous backpacking experience is required. Professionalism and the ability to communicate and work well with other crew members is also required.

Additional Information:
This is a volunteer position; a stipend is not provided.