



2014

# WILDERNESS VOLUNTEER RANGER

## OPPORTUNITIES with the SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST in California

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

*John Muir...Bob Marshall...Aldo Leopold...Arthur Carhart...Howard Zahniser...names that inspire awe and gratitude for their lifelong dedication to protecting America's great Wilderness. The Sierra National Forest is seeking wilderness volunteer rangers to carry on their passion and enthusiasm for protecting and preserving our Wilderness areas. Come spend the summer working in the *spectacular and awe-inspiring high Sierras*. Rangers will experience the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness Areas, as well as the lesser-known Dinkey Lakes, Kaiser and Monarch Wilderness Areas. Interested? Please read on to find out more about what could become the **summer experience of a lifetime!***

## **Weekender Wilderness Volunteer Ranger Program**

### ***Position Summary***

The Weekender Wilderness Volunteer Ranger will be an integral member of the Sierra National Forest wilderness team. The volunteer will be expected to take on many of the duties of a full-time wilderness ranger, but on a part-time, intermittent basis. The volunteer will primarily be working with a full-time wilderness ranger, but may be required to work alone or with volunteer groups from time to time. No salary is provided for this position.

This opportunity is designed for working people, who may only have weekends available for volunteering on the forest. **The commitment is for a minimum of 8 days of work during the coming summer season.**

The participants will have opportunities to join longer backcountry tours, weekend volunteer trips, or conduct individual projects. Volunteers will interact with various Forest Service managers and decision makers in the course of their work. They will experience the "behind the scenes" activities of the Forest Service.

The scheduling of the individual volunteer will be arranged by that volunteer as their time/schedule permits, and will be at their discretion. The only mandatory attendance will be very

few training/orientation days for the group as a whole.

### ***Effective Dates***

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 until approximately September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The position may end earlier to accommodate the volunteer's schedule or weather. The scheduling of the individual volunteer will be arranged by that volunteer as their time/schedule permits.

### ***Work Location***

The Sierra National Forest includes almost 580,000 acres of designated wilderness. The wilderness areas which fall completely or partially in the Forest include the John Muir Wilderness, Ansel Adams Wilderness, Dinkey Lakes Wilderness, Kaiser Wilderness and Monarch Wilderness. Elevations of these wilderness areas range from approximately 3,300 feet on the San Joaquin River to 13,986 feet at Mount Humphreys, with the vast majority of designated wilderness land lying above 7,000 feet. This spectacular landscape is a mix of granite peaks and valleys, alpine lakes, alpine meadows and mixed conifer forest.

The wilderness office is located in Prather, California. Three work centers, the High Sierra Work Center, Minarets Work Center, and the Wishon Work Center, frequently serve as base stations for wilderness rangers. All three work centers are remotely located. The town of Prather, where a grocery store is available, is approximately 2 hours from each work center. The city of Fresno is located approximately 2.5 hours from each work center and provides a full range of commercial and emergency services.

### ***Responsibilities***

The wilderness volunteer ranger duties may include:

- Assisting with public education projects
- Clearing trails using crosscut saws and other traditional tools
- Installing and repairing wilderness trail signs
- Collecting information about the condition of wilderness trails, campsites, and meadows
- Assisting with habitat restoration projects
- Helping clean up overused campsites
- Learning to identify, map, and remove non-native invasive plants
- Interacting with public wilderness visitors to enhance their understanding of Leave No Trace practices
- Other individual projects as needed that meet the interests and schedule of the volunteer
- The volunteer may backpack for up to nine days at a time in order to complete wilderness projects

This is NOT a rule-enforcement position, but rather a position that interacts with the public in a positive fashion to enhance understanding of wilderness.

### ***Qualifications***

The wilderness volunteer ranger must be able to backpack for multiple days. The volunteer should expect to carry up to a 50+ pound backpack and tools associated with duties (e.g. shovel, saw, etc.). The ranger must be experienced in backpacking and wilderness travel.

The wilderness volunteer ranger must be familiar with, or willing to learn, the details of the Wilderness Act, wilderness ethics, and Leave No Trace principles.

The wilderness volunteer ranger must have good communication skills, as interaction with wilderness visitors will be a primary responsibility.

The wilderness volunteer ranger should be familiar basic computer applications. Additional computer experience with ArcGIS, Microsoft Access, TOPO! and photo editing software is desirable but not required.

The wilderness volunteer ranger should be able to begin work starting after June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, and work through at least mid-September. Flexibility with starting and ending dates is possible.

### ***Compensation***

There is no compensation for the work hours and volunteers must provide their own food.

### ***Transportation***

Government vehicles will be provided for all work-related activities whenever possible. Reimbursement for personal vehicle use is not available.

### ***Stock***

Volunteer rangers may be required to work with stock during the summer. Volunteers who are inexperienced with stock will be taught the basics of riding 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. Rangers may use a limited selection of Forest Service backpacking equipment, but are encouraged to provide their own backpacking equipment. Bear canisters may be required for some trips, and will be provided by the Forest Service if required.

### ***Training***

The ranger will be provided with all required training, including , crosscut saw training, campsite inventory and rehabilitation training and database management training, should any of the above training be needed. Additional training should be expected, such as wilderness management training, stock training and Leave No Trace training.

### ***Documentation of Work***

The volunteer ranger will be required to document work-related activities and present the documentation on a monthly basis to Mike Nolen, Lead Wilderness Ranger and Wilderness Ranger Volunteer Coordinator for the Sierra National Forest.

### ***Application***

A detailed cover letter and resume should be submitted ASAP to Mike Nolen at:

E-mail: [erntrns@netptc.net](mailto:erntrns@netptc.net)

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

- 1 Contact information
- 2 Education
- 3 Work history, including description of work accomplished and supervisor contact information (if appropriate)
- 4 Wilderness travel experience, including trips locations and dates
- 5 Wilderness ranger-related skills
- 6 References
- 7 Cover letter including why applicant is interested in this position

For additional questions or information, please contact Mike Nolen at [erntrns@netptc.net](mailto:erntrns@netptc.net) or 559-908-5015.

For general information on the Sierra National Forest, please visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra.html>. For more information on the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, Kaiser and Monarch Wilderness Areas, please visit <http://www.sierranevadawild.gov> or <http://www.wilderness.net>.