

# McKenzie River Ranger District Call for Volunteer Wilderness Rangers



Summer 2014

“The idea of wilderness needs no defense, It only needs more defenders”

*Edward Abby*

Are you an avid wilderness patron? If so, you may be able to make a powerful contribution to wilderness preservation. The United States Forest Service is currently seeking volunteers to work in the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness Areas. Come help us preserve and protect two of the nations great wilderness areas.



## POSITION SUMMARY

Wilderness Ranger Volunteers assist the wilderness program in a variety of ways. Much of the work will depend on the volunteers comfort with particular projects and assignments. Assignments can vary from providing public information from a trailhead, to multi day backpacking and work deep in the wilderness. The staff at McKenzie River Ranger District are willing to accommodate the needs of the individual.



Assignments may include providing education and information to the public, clearing trail, trail restoration and wilderness campsite restoration work. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work at the trailhead, on a day hike or on overnight backpacking trips. As schedules allow, volunteers may have the opportunity to work directly along side professional wilderness rangers and trail crews. Volunteer wilderness rangers are expected to work at least 32 hours over the course of the summer, which is equivalent to two weekends. Northwest forest passes will be available to volunteers.

## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Most work will take place in the adjacent Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas. Trails that run through old growth Douglas fir and cedar forests lead up to the Three Sisters volcanoes. Although a journey through the Three Sisters Wilderness may begin as low as 2000 feet in elevation, the glaciated North, Middle and South Sister volcanoes are all taller than 10,000 feet creating a unique wilderness experience. Within the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas one can find a landscape of lava fields, waterfalls, alpine meadows, lakes and streams. The wilderness areas have over 250 miles of trail including nearly 40 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Unique to the area, one can discover obsidian cliffs used by Native Americans to make tools and weapons. The Obsidian Cliffs is a limited entry area with a rich archeological history. In recent history, the Mount Washington Wilderness has had multiple large fires. The recent fire areas show firsthand the power of nature and disturbance ecology and provide a wonderful opportunity for an education in ecology.



## PRIMARY DUTIES

- Assist the district lead wilderness ranger in the administration and maintenance of the district wilderness areas.
- Initiate public contacts in the field to enhance user's wilderness experience and educate public on wilderness resources.
- Maintain wilderness campsites including site cleanup and restoration.
- Backpack or day hike as comfortable.
- Monitor trail conditions within the wilderness and participate in trail maintenance duties.



## TRAINING AVAILABLE

- Classroom and practical trainings are available annually at 3 locations:
  - Cascade Lock: April 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
  - Westfir: May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
  - Allingham June 7<sup>st</sup> –June 9<sup>rd</sup> public
- All trainings are free and courses include:
  - Cross-Cut Saw Certification,
  - First aid and CPR
  - Trail Maintenance
  - Wilderness Ranger Volunteer Basics
- Many More courses are available. For more info visit:  
<http://www.highcascadesvolunteers.com/Training/ClassDescriptions.html>



## **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT**

The McKenzie River Ranger District Wilderness and Trails staff is committed to supporting volunteer work as much as possible. The district will work to provide “on the job training”, uniform components and radios as necessary. The district will work with volunteers to fit their schedule and commitment levels. As volunteers put in more time, more resources such as full uniforms and vehicle use may become available. For certain projects, stock pack support may be an option. Ultimately, we would like the volunteers to receive as much out of the program as they give to it.

## **DUTY STATION**

The McKenzie River Ranger Station is located approximately 50 miles east of the Eugene/Springfield metro area on Highway 126 near the small community of McKenzie Bridge. More information about these communities can be found at:

<http://www.el.com/To/mckenzievalley/>

## **HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED**

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger, please contact Tyson Cross via phone at (541) 822-7231 or by email at [etcross@fs.fed.us](mailto:etcross@fs.fed.us). Attending volunteer training in the spring is an important first step!

