



Position Description

Position Title	Recreation Technician
Partner Organization	Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Website	www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot
Project Location	Mt. Adams Ranger District, 2455 WA-141, Trout Lake, WA 98650
Internship Dates:	May 11 – October 23, 2026 (24-weeks, 40 hour/week)

Position Summary

In partnership with [Mt. Adams Institute \(MAI\)](#), the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will host a Land Stewards intern to work as a Recreation Technician. The Intern will support recreation projects across the district. The Intern will spend the season maintaining recreation sites and trails while educating hikers on best use practices, regulations, and Leave No Trace principles in the rugged Cascade Mountains.

This position is ideal for a person who has a passion for the outdoors. The project locations vary from established administrative buildings to mountainous recreation areas, with ninety percent of the service and related travel performed outdoors. The position requires strenuous physical exertion, including walking in steep or uneven terrain, heavy lifting, and carrying backpacks up to 50 pounds or more. Exposure to extreme weather and temperature is expected.

Essential Functions

To include, but not limited to:

- Maintain developed recreation facilities including campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads, including toilets, campfire rings, garbage removal and fee collection.
- Demonstrate and educate visitors on rules and regulations
- Clearly communicate with members of the public, volunteers, and Forest Service employees in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
- Keep a daily log of service activities, visitor contacts data, trail survey data, and trail conditions.
- Driving on forest roads in a safe manner.
- Complete internship requirements and submit all necessary paperwork and reports in a timely manner.

Position Requirements

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record, and ability to provide documentation when requested.
- Between the ages of 18-30 years (up to 35 for military veterans), at the start of the program.
- A U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident, or a non-citizen with specific authorization to work in the U.S.
- Ability to commit to the full internship.
- First Aid/CPR certified or willing to get certifications during program.
- Be physically fit, able to walk long distances (5-15 miles/day) carrying heavy loads (+55 pounds) with steep elevations gains.
- Communicate professionally with many different people (land managers, other Forest Service employees, volunteers) in both an office and field setting.
- Have a willingness to serve alone or in small teams and the ability to perform duties with minimal supervision.

- Able to maintain physical health and a positive attitude while performing physical labor in extreme conditions (heat, cold, rain); season will start with snow on the ground and end with snow on the ground, in between it will be hot and dusty.
- Attend program orientation, MAI trainings, and other required MAI meetings.
- Selection, placement, and retention are contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory criminal history report.
- Must follow all health and safety policies and procedures, including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the internship.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience operating chainsaws and power tools desired, but not required.
- Experience leading small construction projects.
- Knowledge of outdoor recreation management and an interest in improving opportunities for people.

Benefits

- \$13,200 stipend for 24 weeks; \$550 weekly (before taxes).
- Housing allowance (see more information below).
- Observance of federal holidays (site-specific)
- Professional development, trainings, and networking opportunities.
- Live and work in a beautiful setting with many opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Provide meaningful service to the local citizens and environment.

Housing

- Forest Service bunkhousing is available to rent. A \$500 per month housing stipend is provided to cover the cost of rent. This payment is deposited monthly with the living allowance (listed above under Benefits) and is taxable.
- The housing is located on site and is furnished with shared common spaces. Utilities are included (water, power, heat), and laundry is accessible. Wifi is available on the compound, but may not be in the specific bunkhouse the intern will be placed in.
- Pets, firearms, alcohol, and drugs (including marijuana) are prohibited in the bunkhouse. Under federal law, marijuana & cannabis products are still classified as a controlled substance. Even though it may be legal in certain states, it is illegal on Federal lands, including campgrounds, buildings, and other facilities.

Transportation Information

- Agency vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- The intern must have their own transportation for supplies/equipment for days-off. It is the responsibility of the intern to get between the housing and the amenities of town.
- Travel reimbursement is provided up to \$750 total to assist with travel costs associated with getting to the site. If traveling by car, Intern must meet MAI's insurance requirements to qualify. More information will be provided during interview.

Other Considerations

- Elevations in the area range from below 1,800 feet to almost 11,000 feet and weather conditions vary widely. For most work sites, high temperatures typically range from the 70s to 90s with lows typically in the 40s-50s; though short snowstorms can occur in the mountains during almost any month. Rainfall occurs mostly during spring/fall, though summer thunderstorms are relatively common.
- Trout Lake is a very small town with an approximate population of 900. Trout Lake is a popular summer tourist destination due to its close access to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Trout Lake has a post office, general store, café, coffee shop, gas station, pizza, and one restaurant.
- Hood River, Oregon (approx. 30 minutes away, including a bridge toll of \$1.75 per crossing for [BreezeBy account holders](#)) is the nearest full-service community with two grocery stores (Safeway and Rosauers), Walmart, a

hospital, multiple restaurants, hotels, gas stations, etc. The town of White Salmon, WA also has a grocery store but will be more expensive for shopping.

- AT&T has the best cell coverage in the area, but all major carriers work in the populated areas.

About Mt. Adams Institute

Mt. Adams Institute is a nonprofit organization based in the rural community of Trout Lake, Washington with a mission of strengthening the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development, and research.

MAI Land Stewards is a career development internship for young adults, ages 18-30 (up to 35 for military veterans) interested in learning more about public lands and natural resources management. Land Stewards interns are placed at local, state, and federal land management agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and environmental nonprofits throughout Washington and Oregon.

Equal Opportunity Employer

MAI celebrates equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and does not discriminate against any person or group based on race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, expression, gender identity, ability, national origin or ancestry, veteran status, social economic class, religion, professional status, pregnancy, or parents/guardians with children. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our Interns and staff with trainings and career development opportunities.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

How to Apply

Submit the following to Erica Keleher at erica@mtadamsinstitute.org:

- **Cover letter** - include your motivation for applying; and your experience as it relates to the position if it is not represented in your resume. If you are applying for more than one position, submit a cover letter for each position you are applying for (3 maximum).
- **Resume**
- **Three Professional References** (former supervisors, mentors, colleagues, etc. - military, civilian, or academic. Do not include family members.
 - Include - Name, relation to you, email & phone number.

Interview Process

1. **Mt. Adams Institute**
 - Screens Applications
 - Conducts interviews
 - Recommends applicants for Service Site interviews
2. **Service Sites**
 - Interviews candidates
 - Conducts reference checks
 - Recommends placement

Additional Information

- [Land Stewards Program Overview](#)
- [Land Stewards Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Questions? Contact:

Erica Keleher
MAI Program Manager
erica@mtadamsinstitute.org
mtadamsinstitute.org