



Position Description

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| Position Title | Trail Crew Member (3 positions) |
| Partner Organization | Gifford Pinchot National Forest |
| Website | www.fs.usda.gov/r06/giffordpinchot |
| Project Location | 2455 Highway 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650 |
| Internship Dates: | May 11 to September 11, 2026 (18-weeks, 40 hours/week) |

Position Summary

In partnership with [Mt. Adams Institute \(MAI\)](#), the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will host three Land Stewards interns to serve as a crew of trail technicians. The primary focus of work will be maintaining trails to provide critical access. On occasion, the position will also include managing developed recreation sites to provide clean, safe and welcoming environments to visitors. At times, the position will go on overnight “hitches”, spending multiple nights out in the front or backcountry, in order to access project sites.

Essential Functions

To include, but not limited to:

- Conduct trail maintenance using traditional tools (crosscut saws, hand saws, axe, shovel, chainsaw, etc.) to clear trails, install/repair drainage structures, repair trail tread, and construct bridges. Trails will be accessed via hiking (up to 8 miles a day), backpacking, and camping in a mountainous setting for up to 4 days.
- Support Wilderness management by hiking and backpacking to provide information and education for visitors about low impact camping techniques and wilderness values; using traditional tools for campsite restoration; removing inappropriate structures (fire rings, etc.), and collecting wilderness data.
- Perform basic recreation site maintenance at trailheads where applicable. Such work may include cleaning campgrounds and bathrooms, posting signs, picking up trash, and using hand and power tools to install/repair picnic tables, fire rings, sign boards, and other structures.
- Attend and complete all MAI trainings and internship requirements.
- Complete and submit all necessary paperwork and reports in a timely manner.

Position Requirements

- Selection, placement, and retention are contingent upon passing a criminal history check.
- 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.
- Attend program orientation, MAI trainings, and other required MAI meetings.
- Strong teamwork skills to thrive in a crew-based setting (group of people working to accomplish a common goal).
- Able to work outdoors in mountainous settings, with elevation gain/loss, in a wide range of weather conditions.
- Able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds, while actively hiking.
- Experience hiking and interest in learning to backpack.
- Strong verbal communication skills to work effectively with visitors, crew members, and crew lead.
- Self-motivated and adaptable to changing work priorities.

- Must follow all health and safety policies and procedures, including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the internship.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with trail and recreation site maintenance.
- Experience backpacking.
- Experience with hand and power tools (saws, drills, chainsaw, shovel, pulaski, etc.).

Benefits

- \$9,900 stipend for 18 weeks; \$550 weekly (before taxes).
- Housing (see more information below).
- Professional development, trainings, and networking opportunities.
- Live and work in a beautiful setting with many opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Observance of federal holidays (site-specific).

Housing

- Forest Service bunkhouse-style housing is available at no cost to the intern.
 - 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 crew 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

- Interns are responsible for travel to and from the office/crew barn (which is walkable if residing in bunkhouse).
- Agency vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- It is highly recommended that Interns have their own vehicle transport for supplies/travel for days-off. It is the responsibility of the intern to get between the housing and the amenities of town.

Other Considerations

- Interns will need to have hiking boots (Vibram soles, all leather and 8" high) for the position. It is highly recommended that the boots are broken in prior to starting the position. The Forest Service can provide a backpacking pack, sleeping bag and pad, tent, and backcountry cooking gear.
- 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 carries work in the populated areas.

About Mt. Adams Institute

[Mt. Adams Institute \(MAI\)](#) 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 a 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