



## Position Description

<b>Position Title</b>	Trail Crew Member (3 positions)
<b>Partner Organization</b>	Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman">www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman</a>
<b>Project Location</b>	201 East 2nd St. Joseph, OR 97846
<b>Internship Dates:</b>	May 4 to October 16, 2026 (24-week position, 40 hour/week)

## Position Summary

In partnership with [Mt. Adams Institute \(MAI\)](#), Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will host three Land Stewards Interns to serve as Trail Crew Members.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Recreation Program manages 2 large wilderness areas, 1,200 miles of summer trails, and over 70 developed recreation sites spread across 1.2 million acres. This position will support the Forest's mission of providing high quality and safe opportunities for visitors. The interns' focus area will be maintaining backcountry trails to provide critical access to backcountry destinations. The interns may also support other recreation program areas in (a) managing developed recreation sites to provide clean, safe, and welcoming environment for visitors; and (b) performing wilderness stewardship projects to improve conditions in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, which has been protected since 1930. The Interns will also engage with visitors, providing information about the area and education on Leave No Trace ethics. At times, this position will go on overnight "hitches", spending multiple nights out in the backcountry at a time, in order to access project sites. [View photos from past projects in the area here.](#)

## Essential Functions

To include, but not limited to:

- Conduct trail maintenance using traditional tools (crosscut saws, hand saws, axe, shovel, 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.
- Occasionally, the interns will support other departments on the Forest with the following:
  - Perform recreation site maintenance including cleaning campgrounds and bathrooms, posting signs, collecting fees, and tools to install/repair picnic tables, fire rings, sign boards, and other structures.
  - 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.
- 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.
- Able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds.
- Experience hiking and interested in learning to backpack.
- Strong verbal communication skills to work effectively with a variety of visitors, partners, and co-workers.

- Self-motivated and demonstrates flexibility to adapt to changing work priorities.
- Strong teamwork skills to thrive in a crew-based setting.
- 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

- Backpacking experience.
- Experience with hand and power tools (saws, drills, chainsaw, shovel, pulaski, etc.).
- Experience with trail maintenance.

## 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.

## Housing

- A \$750 per month housing allowance is provided. This payment is deposited monthly and is taxable.
- Forest Service bunkhousing is available to rent:
  - The housing is 6 miles south of Joseph, within walking distance to Wallowa Lake and Eagle Cap Wilderness trailheads. [View photos of the housing here.](#)
- 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.
- Intern is responsible for travel to and from the office/crew barn.
- 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

- The Intern will need to have the following personal gear items for the position: hiking boots, backpacking pack (suggested: at least 65L), and a sleeping bag (suggested: 20 degree). The Forest Service can provide a tent, sleeping pad, and backcountry cooking gear.
- While the office location is in Joseph, OR, this position will generally start work 6 miles away at the recreation crew "Barn" facility just outside of Enterprise, OR. The crew Barn is 12 miles from the bunkhouse.
- Elevations in the area range from below 1,000 feet to almost 10,000 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 will mostly occur during spring, though summer thunderstorms are relatively common.
- Enterprise is considered a full-service community with a great hospital, K-12 schools, restaurants, and grocery stores (Safeway is the largest). The nearest Walmart is located 70 miles away.
- Enterprise has a population of 2,100, so the Intern should expect a small town experience. Joseph is a popular summer tourist destination; the area hosts a variety of musical events, rodeos, tribal gatherings and car shows

during summer months. Visitors come from all over to experience the "Little Alps" of Oregon as the area provides a base for more remote trips into the Wallowa Mountains, Eagle Cap Wilderness, and Hells Canyon.

- Verizon 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 a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

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## How to Apply

Submit the following to Erica Keleher at [erica@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto: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](mailto:erica@mtadamsinstitute.org)

[mtadamsinstitute.org](http://mtadamsinstitute.org)