National Park Service Wilderness Fellowship Program

SUMMARY: The University of Montana Wilderness Institute, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, is looking for three to five qualified candidates for the 2016 Wilderness Fellowship Program. The Wilderness Fellows will be selected to work at National Park Service units to directly support the goals of a collaborative wilderness character monitoring initiative currently underway with the National Park Service.

Primary Wilderness Fellow Responsibilities: NPS Wilderness Fellows will be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

- Participate in a training course, work closely with Park staff, and participate in bi-weekly conference calls with staff from the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Division;
- Develop wilderness character narratives for the assigned wilderness park/unit (if needed);
- Identify wilderness character measures for assigned wilderness park/unit;
- Compile data for selected measures and complete a baseline assessment for wilderness character monitoring;
- Implement inventory and monitoring strategies for tracking wilderness character in the wilderness park/unit;

FELLOWSHIP COMPONENTS: The NPS Wilderness Fellowship program includes the following components:

1. Training: A mandatory 3-day training and orientation session will be conducted in Missoula, MT, June 14 through 16, 2016.

2. Duration and Timeline: This Fellowship will be for a minimum of 14 weeks; including one week of training followed by 13 weeks onsite at an NPS wilderness unit. Applicants are encouraged to consider a second consecutive 13 week assignment immediately following the first assignment. The 2016 Wilderness Fellows Program will be implemented with the following timelines:

- **June 20 – September 16, 2016:** 13 week assignment in wilderness park/unit # 1
- **September 19 – December 16, 2016:** 13 week assignment in assigned wilderness park/unit # 2

3. Locations: Wilderness Fellows will be assigned to National Park Service wilderness parks/units. Specific locations are currently being determined.

4. Experiential Opportunities: Wilderness Fellows will work directly alongside National Park Service staff, regional office staff, external scientists, and others involved in
wilderness character assessments. This will be hands-on, practical experience wilderness assessment and monitoring, as well as participating in other park management activities and operations.

5. **Compensation and Benefits:** Fellows will receive a weekly living allowance of $600 for food and incidentals. Housing will be provided on-site by the NPS at no cost to the individual. While on assignment, fellows will receive workmen’s compensation, social security, retirement (if elected) and unemployment.

6. **Travel:** Travel expenses will be paid transportation, accommodations and meals from the Fellows home to the training session; from the training session to the assigned wilderness park/unit; and from the assigned wilderness park/unit to the Fellows home.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** NPS Wilderness Fellows should possess the following desired Skills & Educational Background

- Deep interest in the National Park Service Organic Act and mission and wilderness management and stewardship in the NPS
- Understanding of the Wilderness Act and the National Wilderness Preservation System
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;
- Research skill and attention to detail;
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively on projects;
- Understanding and ability to use GIS;
- Education: Undergraduate degree minimum with an academic background in one of more of the following disciplines: Wilderness Management, Protected Area/Natural Resource Management, Recreation Resource Management, Parks & Outdoor Recreation Management, Conservation Social Science, Human Dimensions in Natural Resource Management, Environmental or Natural Resource Policy or Law, Natural, Biological, and/or Physical Sciences, or other closely related fields of study.
- 18-35 years of age.

**REQUIREMENTS AND TIME COMMITMENT:** NPS Wilderness Fellows must meet the following requirements and commitments:

- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident.
- Willingness to undergo a required criminal history background check.
- Attend a one week training session (includes travel) at an off-site location followed by a minimum thirteen-week fellowship.

**TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION:** We strongly recommend that the Wilderness Fellows bring a personal vehicle to their selected Park Unit. Experience has shown that isolated conditions at a park may result in a negative experience for Fellows without personal transportation. We can reimburse some (but not all) travel expenses to the park unit, depending on mode of travel, etc.

To learn more about the Wilderness Fellows Program projects, please visit: http://www.wilderness.net to explore the National Wilderness Preservation System and please
visit: https://www.wilderness.net/character to learn more about wilderness character monitoring and the Wilderness Fellows program.

**TO APPLY:** Please submit your resume, thoughtful cover letter including the assignment dates you wish to be considered for, and three professional and/or academic references to the University of Montana Wilderness Institute application portal at https://app.surveygizmo.com/builder/build/id/2686466.

Fellows will be selected for their project sites based on interview results and relevant, related experience to the project and locations.

NOTE: Early consideration will be given as applications are received. This posting may close at any time.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions regarding this position, please feel free to contact Natalie Dawson at the University of Montana Wilderness Institute (406-552-5550) or Roger Semler, National Park Service Chief of Wilderness Stewardship @ 202-513-7220.