The Bitterroot National Forest is looking to permanently fill a Recreation Specialist. The position is located at the West Fork Ranger District, 18 miles southwest of Darby, Montana.

**Outreach Response:**
Those that are interested or desire further information about the position should contact the supervisor, Forest Recreation, Wilderness & Trails Program Manager Becky Shufelt by email at Rebecca.shufelt@usda.gov.

*The deadline for the Outreach Response is December 31, 2020.*

**Major Duties of the Position:**
This position is a Natural Resource Specialist (Recreation) for the Bitterroot National Forest. The duty station of the position is the West Fork Ranger Station, but the position has program responsibilities across the forest. The position is primarily the special uses permit administrator for outfitter and guide permits, with additional duties in the wilderness and trails program.

The responsibilities include (but not limited to):
- Implements wilderness, recreation, special uses and trail plan objectives.
- Administers all aspects of the Forest Service unit’s Outfitting and Guiding special uses including issuance or reissuance of permits, permit preparation and issuance, administration of permits on the ground, and dealing with permit holders to attain compliance with conditions of permit and Forest Service Manual direction. Works with B&F and Resources in carrying out correct business management procedures related to outfitting and guiding permits.
- Processes special use applications including on-the-ground investigations of site suitability, screening levels, and preparation of associated NEPA reports. Prepares special use permits, prepares and tracks bills for collection, and performs evaluations. Performs annual inspections of permittees and prepares reports.
- Deals with Forest users and permit holders to promote a cooperative relationship and ensure compliance with Forest Service policies and regulations. Exercises significant discretion to implement policy and operational changes based on findings of Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) studies.
- Participates in conducting the NEPA process as an IDT member, or providing technical input within the Recreation program. Assists in the preparation of Minimum Required Decision Guide (MRDG). Is responsible
for implementing MRDG at the project level.

- Performs inventories and monitoring to determine resource conditions and proposes rehabilitation plans.
- Initiates public contact in the field to educate visitors and protect resources.
- Uses INFRA, SUDS, TRACS and other databases to maintain unit information in order to monitor wilderness, special uses, trails and recreation program activities.
- May perform animal packing duties, such as packing, securing, and transporting explosives and other sensitive cargo into backcountry wilderness areas by strings of horses and mules. Is responsible for maintenance and care of pack and saddle stock and for operation and maintenance of specialized equipment used in transporting livestock.
- Performs other duties as assigned.
- The position will supervise two GS-7 wilderness rangers and one resource assistant.

ABOUT THE AREA:
The Bitterroot Valley is a river basin about 65 miles long from north to south and as much as 10 miles wide, bordered to the west by the dramatically carved Bitterroot Mountains and to the east by the gentler Sapphire Mountains. The valley is considered the banana belt of Montana. Summer temperatures are warm (normally in the low 90s) and winter temperatures mild with only occasional below zero readings.

Centrally positioned along the Bitterroot River, the town of Hamilton is a full service community of over 4,000, and the surrounding immediate area of over 12,000. Hamilton is located 45 miles south of the larger college community in Missoula. Ample community and real estate information is available on the web. A good place to start is the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce website http://www.bitterrootvalleychamber.com/ General housing is available from Stevensville to Conner. Housing prices range from $130,000 to $250,000+ for 3 bedroom/2 bath homes and rentals of that size home are from $700 to $1,000+. Apartment rentals are from $300 to $500 month for 1 bedroom and $500 to $600+ per month for 2 bedrooms. There is limited government housing available.

Hamilton and the surrounding communities provide several excellent dining and nightlife opportunities ranging from two popular local breweries, steakhouses, pizzerias, a sushi restaurant, sports bars and western saloon-style bars. During the summer months, there are several popular restaurants specializing in locally grown produce and meat. The towns in the Bitterroot Valley also host a variety of outdoor events, such as the Hamilton Farmer’s Market, the Darby Logger Days, and the Western Heritage Days in Stevensville (just to name a few). Missoula, located only 45 miles north on Highway 93, also offers a multitude of diverse restaurants, bars, and activities.

The southern half of the Bitterroot Valley is home to the communities of Darby, Conner and Sula. For more information on the valley schools, visit http://montana.schooltree.org/Ravalli-County-Schools.html or http://www.trulia.com/school-district/MT-Ravalli_County/Hamilton_School_District_3/ These small, western communities provide spectacular scenery, excellent recreation access and an enjoyable country lifestyle. The Bitterroot Valley contains 7 school districts
which represent the 7 communities in the valley. The Bitterroot College Program (BCP), located in Hamilton, offers University of Montana College of Technology (UM-COT) courses and UM general education courses.

RECREATION
The Bitterroot Valley provides ample outdoor recreation opportunities for every outdoor enthusiast. World-class hiking trails are located only minutes from town, providing access to several choice destinations extending into the Selway-Bitterroot, Frank Church River of No Return, and Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Areas. There are over 20 well-maintained developed campgrounds within close proximity to the Valley available for family camping and picnics. Several lakes, which are accessible by vehicle, provide a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The Bitterroot River and its tributaries provide excellent opportunities for floating and fishing all summer long. Big game hunting and wildlife viewing are popular activities throughout the Valley due to our abundant populations of bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, moose and mountain goats. Winter provides ample opportunities to cross-country ski, snowshoe, snowmobile and downhill ski at the local ski resort, Lost Trail Powder Mountain.

The towns of Hamilton, Darby, Stevensville, and Corvallis have several city parks and trail systems along the Bitterroot River. There are 2 golf courses (one near Hamilton and one near Stevensville).

Indoor recreation activities in Hamilton include a bowling alley, movie theater, play house, Performing Arts Series, a few shopping centers, and several fitness centers (one with a pool).

FOREST OVERVIEW
The Bitterroot National Forest, its three Ranger Districts (Stevensville RD, Darby-Sula RD, and West Fork RD), and Trapper Creek Job Corps cover 1.6 million acres in west central Montana and Idaho. Approximately 1,500 miles of wilderness and non-wilderness trails provide experiences for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, motorcyclists and ATVs.

Approximately 50% of the Forest is designated wilderness - including portions of the Selway Bitterroot, Frank Church River of No Return, & the Anaconda-Pintler – and another 25% of the Forest is inventoried roadless. Neighboring national forests include the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Lolo, and Beaverhead-Deerlodge in Region 1 and the Salmon-Challis and Payette in Region 4. The Forest lies in 3 counties, Ravalli and Missoula in Montana and Idaho County, Idaho.

The Forest has been a leader in wilderness fires for over 40 years and more than 600,000 acres of the Forest have burned since 2000. This presents a challenging mission to provide quality public access on fire-affected trails, especially in wilderness settings.
If you wish to express interest in this position, please complete this Outreach Response Form and send to Becky Shufelt, rebecca.shufelt@usda.gov, by December 31, 2020.

Position Title: Recreation Specialist
Series/Grade: GS-046/0401/0301-07/08/09
Location: West Fork Ranger District; Darby, MT

APPLICANT INFORMATION
Name: ____________________________ E-Mail Address: ____________________________
Current Title, Series, Grade: ____________________________
Current Organization/Location: ____________________________
Current Appointment: [ ] Permanent [ ] Temporary [ ] Term [ ] Not Current Employee

If you are NOT a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following authorities:
[ ] Reinstatement [ ] Person With Disabilities
[ ] Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability [ ] Former Peace Corps Volunteer
[ ] Veteran’s Employment Opportunities (external Recruitment Project)
[ ] Act of 1998 [ ] Demonstration Project
[ ] Other [ ] Other

Comments, noted experience or needs for consideration:

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Revised 6/6/2003

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