Field Monitoring Positions

Field Season: mid/late May – early/mid Sept
$14-16/hr DOE

The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana’s Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, is recruiting 2 seasonal field leaders. Field Leaders will take groups of community volunteers to monitor weed invasions, wilderness character, and recreation impacts in BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Montana. The position involves field data collection, wilderness travel, working with volunteers, and data processing and reporting. The position is based out of Missoula, but work will be primarily in WSAs in the Dillon area and the Pryor Mountains. Field leaders will spend 6 days in the field at a time, and much of the summer in remote places. This is an outstanding opportunity to work in beautiful landscapes, gain valuable field experience, and lead volunteers.

Position Responsibilities

- Use GPS to map weed invasion, wilderness character, and recreation impacts
- Implement protocols to collect weed, recreation and wilderness character data
- Safely lead volunteer groups in a remote and rugged backcountry setting
- Train volunteers in monitoring, restoration, and LNT practices
- Work closely with a co-leader, Institute staff, & Agency partners
- Oversee quality data collection, processing, and reporting
- Transport volunteers to study site; menu plan and prepare backcountry dinners

Desired Qualifications

- Commitment to safety is a must
- Able to carry a backpack of 40 lbs across difficult terrain in varied weather conditions
- Good sense of humor and ability to work as part of a team during long days
- Plant (particularly weed) identification skills
- Understanding of scientific protocols; experience collecting field data
- Organizational skills and attention to detail
- Experience using GPS/GIS (preferred)
- Knowledge of recreational impact monitoring (preferred)
- Leadership experience and excellent communication skills
- Familiarity with regional wilderness issues and natural history
- Experience working with volunteers and diverse groups (preferred)
- Backcountry travel skills; good judgment; ability to handle emergencies
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Wilderness First Responder Certification
- Leave-No-Trace trained (preferred)

To apply: Send a resume or CV, the names and full contact information of 3 references, and a cover letter describing how your interests and experience qualify you for the position to Lisa Gerloff at lisa.gerloff@umontana.edu. Review of applications will start Feb. 10 and continue until filled.