

## Summer Forest Ecology and Wilderness Monitoring Positions

**Field Season: Mid May – Late August  
(with possibility to extend to early October)  
\$14-16/hr DOE**

The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana's Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, in conjunction with the US Forest Service and Southwestern Crown Collaborative, is recruiting **2 seasonal field crew members** to collect data on forest conditions and wilderness character in western Montana. The crew will collect vegetation data in a variety of forest types including recently harvested stands near communities and backcountry wilderness study areas. Crew members will be trained on University and Forest Service inventory and monitoring techniques used for national monitoring efforts. There will also be a few weeks dedicated to conducting a literature review of wilderness fire science. Housing will be available at a Forest Service bunkhouse during some work periods. This is an outstanding opportunity to work in beautiful landscapes and gain valuable field and research experience.

### Position Responsibilities

- Use GPS to map weed invasion, wilderness character, and recreation impacts
- Implement protocols to collect weed, recreation and wilderness character data
- Work with trained crew leader to re-measure old-growth and fire affected monitoring plots (including trees, snags, understory, and down-woody material)
- Train volunteers in monitoring and restoration
- Use GPS, maps, and compass to navigate in a backcountry setting
- Ability to function highly in extreme weather conditions, ranging from hot & dry to cold and wet
- Safely lead volunteer groups in a remote and rugged backcountry setting
- Work independently and 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
- Compile published wilderness fire literature according to proscribed literature review methods
- Read and synthesize published literature relating to the ecology of wilderness fire

### 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 tree and 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)
- Computer literacy (Microsoft word & excel)
- Leadership experience and excellent communication skills
- Familiarity with regional wilderness issues and natural history
- Experience working with volunteers and diverse groups (preferred)
- Backcountry & wilderness travel and camping skills; good judgment; ability to handle emergencies
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Wilderness First Responder Certification
- Good physical condition
- Experience reading and summarizing published, peer reviewed literature

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](mailto:lisa.gerloff@umontana.edu). Review of applications will start April 1<sup>st</sup> and continue until filled.