



SUPPORTING STEWARDSHIP OF THE  
ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH  
WILDERNESS AND FOSTERING  
APPRECIATION OF WILD LANDS.



# SUMMER 2024 WILDERNESS STEWARD INTERNSHIP

with the Absaroka-Beartooth  
Wilderness Foundation and the  
U.S. Forest Service

Love working outdoors and  
connecting with others?  
Passionate about wild lands?

Come Join our team! The ABWF  
is seeking three Wilderness  
Steward Interns for the summer,  
May 15th through September  
15th, 2024.

# Job Responsibilities

Each Wilderness Steward Intern will work with U.S. Forest Service crews and ABWF staff and volunteers in the Custer Gallatin National Forest's Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Two Trails positions will be stationed with the Gardiner Ranger District in Gardiner, Montana or with the Yellowstone Ranger District at the historic Boulder Ranger Station an hour from Livingston, MT. One Wilderness Ranger position will be stationed with the Beartooth Ranger District in Red Lodge, Montana.

Each position will include backcountry hitches as long as 9 days at a time, requiring hikes with heavy packs and hand tools as many as 12+ miles a day.

## Work Duties

### Your summer will entail:

- Manual labor on a variety of wilderness stewardship projects including trail maintenance, site restoration, and weed eradication.
- Visitor contact and outreach work including education on wilderness ethics and regulations, and collecting visitor use monitoring data.
- Logistical support of and participation in ABWF educational events and volunteer trail projects.
- Positively representing the USFS and ABWF to a wide variety of wilderness visitors, volunteers, and community partners.





# Qualifications

## Qualified candidates will have:

- (a)** Ability to do rigorous manual labor effectively and cheerfully outdoors in a high elevation, mountain environment, in weather conditions ranging from cold wet snow to hot dry sun. Backcountry hitches will require up to 9 days living and working in remote backcountry conditions with no modern facilities or conveniences. This is physically demanding work.
- (b)** Ability to live, work, and communicate as a team member with USFS crews (5-6 trail crew professionals) and ABWF crews (5-7 volunteers plus ABWF staff). The Stewards must also work cooperatively with other ABWF and USFS staff including wilderness rangers, district rangers, trail crew supervisors, and forest managers; and in some cases may need to work independently by themselves.
- (c)** Wilderness experience – applicants **MUST** have previous experience backpacking in remote environments, including experience planning, packing, and cooking for themselves on multi day overnight backcountry trips; navigating on and off trail; and hiking as much as 12+ miles a day in high elevation mountain terrain. They should also have much of their own backpacking equipment (hiking boots, sleeping bag, tent, etc. – equipment like trail work tools and bear spray will be provided)
- (d)** Ability to work with a variety of trail maintenance hand tools, including crosscut saws, pick/adze, Pulaski, rock bar, shovel, and rake. Experience in construction, cleaning stalls, farming, sports, etc. are a plus!
- (e)** Desire to develop as a professional conservationist. Desire to gain skills and experience in conservation work through both the public sector (i.e. USFS) and private sector (i.e. nonprofit groups like the ABWF).
- (f)** A passion and appreciation for Wilderness and its many values (recreational, cultural, ecological, economic, etc.) that they are excited to share with other wilderness visitors.



## Preferred candidates

**will have:**

- (a) Previous trail crew experience or experience in manual labor, backcountry data collection, or playing team sports
- (b) CPR, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, and/or Wilderness First Responder Certifications
- (c) Ability to commit to the entire 16-week season that ends in mid September

## Compensation

**In addition to developing skills and experience,**

Wilderness Steward Interns will receive a \$1,200 to \$1,700/month tax-free stipend and shared housing at USFS bunkhouses (which include a mix of shared and individual rooms, shower facilities, and shared kitchens and living areas).

**To Apply:**

**Send a cover letter, resume, and three references in PDF form to our Program Manager, Lauren, at [lswett@abwilderness.org](mailto:lswett@abwilderness.org)**

**Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.**