



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Winter 2023

NPS UNIT: Buffalo National River **Position #: 1274**

Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant
Number of positions available: 1
Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences
Position Keywords: Wilderness, Monitoring, Stewardship, Preservation
Location: Harrison, Arkansas
Can this position be fully remote: Yes

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: The SIP Intern will support the development of the wilderness character “building blocks” for Buffalo National River Wilderness Area. The primary deliverable will be a wilderness character narrative and wilderness character baseline assessment, and wilderness character monitoring framework. Wilderness Character is defined as a holistic concept based on the interaction of (1) biophysical environments primarily free from modern human manipulation and impacts, (2) personal experiences in natural environments relatively free from the encumbrances of modern society, and (3) symbolic meanings of humility, restraint, and interdependence that inspire human connection with nature. Taken together, these tangible and intangible values define wilderness character and distinguish wilderness from all other lands.

The National Park Service administers over 44 million acres of wilderness designated by Congress in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This constitutes over 40% of the entire National Wilderness Preservation System. The NPS also administers over 26 million acres of lands identified as eligible, proposed or recommended wilderness. The National Park Service is responsible for preserving wilderness character on these lands in accordance with both the Wilderness Act and NPS wilderness policy. The deliverables of this project are directly related to the National Park Service mission and Organic Act mandate to preserve the natural and cultural resources and the Wilderness Act mandate to preserve wilderness character.. Over 83% of National Park Service acreage is managed as wilderness, thus wilderness character monitoring serves an important purpose on the majority of NPS lands and waters.

Work Products: The SIP (Wilderness Character) intern will be responsible for completing the following tasks for the Buffalo River Wilderness Area:

- 1) Wilderness character narrative describing the attributes, values and condition of the wilderness area.
- 2) Wilderness character baseline assessment, including developing measures and associated data needed to monitor wilderness character (required pursuant to Director’s Order #41, Section 6.2, Wilderness Character.
- 3) Wilderness character monitoring framework needed to identify changes and trends in wilderness character

These deliverables will be developed in accordance with the Interagency Wilderness Character Monitoring protocol developed in the "Keeping It Wild 2, An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System" guidance document, provided in NPS Reference Manual #41 as Level 3 policy. The baseline assessment will be prepared in accordance with the NPS Wilderness Character Monitoring Technical Guide.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



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The primary work environment will be sedentary in nature, in an office/indoor setting. Periodic site visits to the field, including the Buffalo National River Wilderness Area, will also occur for orientation and data collection purposes. Some of those site visits may require overnight camping in the wilderness area.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelors degree preferred, but not required. Two years of college level academic work may be considered, Preferred academic fields include but are not limited to wilderness management, natural resources management, parks and recreation management, outdoor recreation management, natural, biological or physical sciences, and political science. Preferred skills include technical writing, data management, communications and a strong acumen in science and research is also preferred.

The intern's work will require close collaboration with interdisciplinary staff specialists at Buffalo National River. Strong communication and collaboration skills will enhance the intern's ability to succeed in the internship.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veterans up to age 35. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

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VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is **REQUIRED** for this position.

If the SIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the SIP's ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. SIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a SIP from driving a park vehicle include: SIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver's search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver's liability insurance while the intern is driving a NPS vehicle for their SIP position. If the SIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

HOUSING

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. In-park housing will be available. Specifically, the housing will likely be located near the Ozark Campground (approximately 30 minutes, 17 mile drive to headquarters) or nearby in the town of Jasper (approximately 30 minutes, 19 mile drive to headquarters). The intern will share a furnished single-family home with seasonal park staff members and/or other interns but will have access to their own private lockable bedroom. The kitchen, bathroom, and living room will be shared between house occupants. . The intern will need to bring personal items (pillow and bed linens) and any special kitchen items (i.e. Keurig, etc) basic kitchen items are provided (dishes, utensils, etc.). House does include washer and dryer. Driving to the nearest grocery store in Jasper, AR takes approximately 5 minutes from Ozark housing shorter, of course, if living in Jasper.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 10/17/2022

Number of Weeks: 20

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

20 Weeks (\$480.00/week = \$9600.00)



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RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The SIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the SIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the SIP position, the SIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,638 - \$6,195 pre-tax education award that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 SIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional SIP position.

Partners

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.

