

Title: Wilderness Monitoring and Inventory Team
Location: Lake Havasu, AZ
Close Date: Open until filled, but no later than October 3, 2005.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be currently enrolled in a degree or certification program, or within three years of completion of a degree or certification program (in the natural sciences, recreation or wild land management or GIS fields).
2. Must be authorized to work in the United States without an employer-sponsored work visa, and have possession of a valid social security card.
3. Must be 18 years or older with a valid drivers license.
4. Field experience or can show interest and ability in working in natural settings.
5. Must be comfortable working and camping in the outdoors and at ease in a desert environment.
6. Able to work a flexible schedule and do some overnight travel as part of your position
7. Must have willingness to be trained to operate an ATV in a DOI standard safety course.
8. Working knowledge of GPS and GIS is not necessary, but must be willing to be trained in use of these computerized tools to record environmental data in the field.
9. Be willing to be finger printed and subject to a background check if necessary.

Skills Required

1. Self-directing with ability to work alone or on a team with others.
2. Be effective in making contact with full spectrum of recreational users.
3. Able to work in remote areas under harsh outdoors conditions, walking or hiking over rough terrain..
4. Able to drive a 4-wheel drive vehicles or ATVs over rough trails.
5. Understand and use maps/compasses to navigate to new locations.
6. Able to work in an office setting and adept using a computer.
7. Have high reading comprehension skills and good writing abilities.
8. Work well with computerized equipment (GPS units, Digital Cameras) and software (Microsoft Word, Access and Excel).

Position Description:

Four (4) associates are needed to work both in the BLM office and outside, with up to 2 days a week in the office evaluating public comments or writing reports. The associates will be hired for 120 days (October 2005 thru April 2006) with a possibility of 3 additional months (as needed by the Government). These interns will work on three major projects:

1. Wilderness Monitoring. The Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) manages five National Wilderness Areas in the desert backcountry, one Wilderness Study Area, and portions of 3 other designated Wilderness Areas in CA. The ECO Associates would assist BLM's Wilderness Coordinator in monitoring the designated wilderness area and maintaining the boundaries for these areas.
2. LHFO will be publishing the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft EIS in September 2005. The ECO associates will be assisting in processing comments during the 90 comment period. Tasks could include processing individual comment letters, code comments and entering them in an Access database, and attending public meeting to capture comments.
3. LHFO in the DRMP/DEIS will publish draft route inventory maps. The ECO associates will be responsible for field checking comments from the public on individual routes. The ECO associates will be responsible for creating individual displays for LHFO bulletin boards displaying the existing route inventory for each specific area.

Objectives:

1. To inventory sites along existing wilderness areas, where trespass by vehicles is occurring and recommend solutions.
2. To maintain GIS database and prepare detailed reports on monitoring tasks.
3. To set up monitoring sites for wilderness character and develop procedures to measure conditions for

wilderness character

4. To update the inventory of backcountry recreational facilities in Facilities Administration & Maintenance System database (FAMS).
5. Develop environmental documentation for projects for wilderness restoration projects.
6. To process public comments for the DRMP/EIS per National Environmental Policy Act.
7. To field check public comments on DRMP/EIS and provide recommendation for responses.

Specific Tasks

1. Conduct field evaluations and monitoring of current conditions public lands within designated wilderness, Lake Havasu Field Office's back county and on OHV routes.
2. Conduct record searches of previous inventory data and compare existing conditions.
3. Use GPS and digital photography to collect field monitoring data, including all signs, and recreation facilities.
4. Patrol backcountry 4x4 trails in 4-wheel drive vehicles or ATV and monitor conditions (such as: wilderness conditions; route conditions).
5. Conduct maintenance of all signs, informational bulletin boards, boundary markers, and rehabilitation of vehicle trespass sites at wilderness boundaries.
6. Conduct condition assessments of various recreation facilities.
7. Hike and/or Backpacking into monitoring sites within LHFO wilderness areas.
8. Update route, signs, recreation facilities and wilderness files in LHFO office Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
9. Categorize comments using BLM approved process and enter comments into a database.
10. Data entry of comments, and inventory information into either a Microsoft Access databases, FAMS, or Excel Spreadsheet.

Expected Results

1. LHFO will be able to use the data gathered by the associates in formulation of the monitoring program for protection of wilderness values.
2. LHFO will be able to use monitoring data to develop future projects.
3. LHFO will be able to respond to public comments with updated data and reports.

Educational Benefits to ECO Associates

1. Gather field monitoring skills
2. Obtain experience in using GPS to create GIS data to help make resource management decisions.
3. Learn and apply knowledge of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws to management actions.
4. Obtain training in responding to public comments, inventory and recreational assessment systems
5. Obtain experience in working on Resource Management Plans and NEPA requirements.

Background Information: BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office has approximately 30 employees. The offices major recreation management focus is on Lake Havasu and the Parker Strip along the Colorado River. The resource area borders the vital Colorado River waterway from Davis Dam in the north, bordering Nevada, to near the town of Poston, Arizona, in the south. On the California side, the area varies in width from less than a quarter mile to approximately 6 miles west of the river and east of the river to Wenden, AZ and Lake Alamo on the Bill Williams River. The management area encompasses approximately 1.4 million acres of public land, resources, and uses. Along the Colorado River there is a high level of urban interface with BLM lands. The rest of the LHFO is basically vast open and empty portions of the Mohave and Sonoran Desert. Summer time temperatures can reach to 120 degrees (F.). Recreation in the desert consists of dispersed camping and exploring backcountry trails both on foot and in 4 -wheel drive vehicles.

Lake Havasu City has a population of approximately 47,000 – 50,000 people. It is known for the site London Bridge and a popular winter vacation destination. It has a community college and a commercial airport. Typical shopping is available with Kmart, Wal-Mart, JC Penny's, Home Depot, and 5 large grocery stores. Apartments fall within the range of \$400-\$800 a month.

Terms:

Full-time; 25.3 weeks; \$11.82 an hour; Start Date: October 17, 2005; Deadline to Apply: October 3, 2005

To apply: Send your resume, cover letter, and list of contact info for three references to Nicole Ulacky at nulacky@eco.org. Your resume should be tailored to this target job and your cover letter should describe in specific terms how your background matches the duties and qualifications listed in the internship posting. E-mail applications with MS Word attachments are welcome and preferred.