Wilderness Stewardship Program
Frequently Asked Questions

The U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Conservation League initiated the wilderness stewardship program in 2016. This program creates and supports a cooperative relationship among our community, ICL, Forest Service and National Park Service that focuses on quality wilderness stewardship to fulfill the intent of the Wilderness Act by protecting and preserving the wilderness character of the Sawtooth Wilderness and the newly designated Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak and Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wildernes, recommended wilderness areas in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

If you love these wild places, love being out in them, and have any interest in becoming a wilderness steward, then this volunteer program is for you! The 2019 Wilderness Steward season will run from June 9th- early November.

Q. What is the goal of the wilderness stewardship program?

A. The overarching goal of the wilderness stewardship program is to restore, protect, and enhance wilderness character within the newly designated Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak and Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wildernes, as well as in the Sawtooth Wilderness, recommended wilderness areas in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, through citizen and community engagement.

Q. Why become a wilderness steward?

A. If you’re like us, you’re already going out and enjoying these beautiful places on your days off so why not become a wilderness steward and help take care of these areas while you’re out there! You can also enjoy your favorite outdoor setting with friends and family while you make a difference for the wild places you love.

Q. Who can become a wilderness steward?

A. A wilderness steward can be any person 18 or older who is committed to volunteering time to restoring, protecting and enhancing wilderness character. If you prefer a group effort, designated wilderness stewards can involve their friends or family members in their conservation work too.
Q. **How much of a time commitment is it to serve as a steward?**

A. Volunteer stewards are committed to a minimum of 4 steward patrols from June 9th to Nov 1, 2019. Stewards can begin their patrols once they have completed training on Sunday, June 9th 2019.

Q. **Why is it important that I volunteer?**

A. Exciting opportunities await you as a partner in the stewardship of Central Idaho’s public lands. You will find many rewards and opportunities to learn new skills, meet interesting and highly motivated people who are experts in their fields, and do meaningful and rewarding work. We are confident that you will benefit from your volunteer experience. We will benefit from your unique background and skills.

Q. **Who is an ideal candidate?**

A. An ideal candidate is someone who…
  - Loves Central Idaho’s backcountry and Wilderness areas.
  - Has solid wilderness travel/decision-making skills.
  - Is in good physical condition to travel long distance at high elevation.
  - Possesses excellent communication skills.
  - Is First Aid/CPR certified. (If your certifications are out of date, we have options for you to renew certifications.)
  - Has knowledge of Leave No Trace (LNT) principles.

Q. **What supplies will be provided for volunteers?**

A. ICL and the Forest Service will provide…
  - Maps
  - Name tags
  - Work gloves
  - In-depth wilderness stewardship training
  - Trash collection kit
  - Write-in-the-rain notebook

Q. **What is a wilderness steward responsible for?**

A. A wilderness steward is responsible for…
  - Transportation to and from trailheads
  - Personal gear
  - First Aid kit
  - Camera/cell phone
  - Optional: Satellite messenger (SPOT or deLorme InReach)
Q. What areas can I become a steward of?

A. You can become a steward of any of our program areas. Including the Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak, White Clouds, Sawtooth Wildernesses, the recommended Wilderness areas in the Pioneer Mountains and around Mt. Borah, and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

Q. What type of training is provided for the wilderness stewards?

A. A one-day training will be provided for the wilderness stewards on Sunday, June 9th. The training will cover...

- The Wilderness Act
- Leave No Trace principles
- Visitor contacts
- Invasive species
- Data collection and trip reports
- Regulations
- Conduct/ethics
- Campsite naturalization
- Dark sky monitoring

Q. I want to become a wilderness steward. How do I apply?

A. If you are interested in becoming a wilderness steward, fill out the application on our website: http://bit.ly/newstewardapplication and submit it by Wednesday, May 15. If you have questions, call Betsy at 208.726.7485. After completing the application, you will be invited to attend our one-day stewardship skills session and training on Sunday, June 9th. After successfully completing this training, you can begin work in your patrol.

Q. How do I find out more about being a wilderness steward?

A. More detailed information will be covered on the Sunday, June 9th, training day. If you have any questions, call Betsy at 208.726.7485.