



Wilderness Stewardship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

The U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Conservation League launched the wilderness stewardship program in 2016. This program creates and supports a cooperative relationship among our community, ICL, the U.S. 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, Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness, Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness, recommended wilderness areas in the Salmon-Challis National Forest and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

If you love these wild places, enjoy being out in them and have an interest in becoming a volunteer steward, then this volunteer program is for you! The 2021 wilderness stewardship season will run from May through early November.

***NOTICE: Due to the impact of COVID-19 in Idaho, the activities, timeline and training of the Wilderness Stewardship Program may be adapted to the circumstances. We are working closely with the U.S. Forest Service to follow their guidelines for field work on public lands in Idaho. For more information, contact Hannah Smay, hsmay@idahoconservation.org.**

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 Wildernesses, 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 May 30th to November 1, 2020.

Q. What are the benefits of volunteering?

- 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 and know that 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 distances 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?

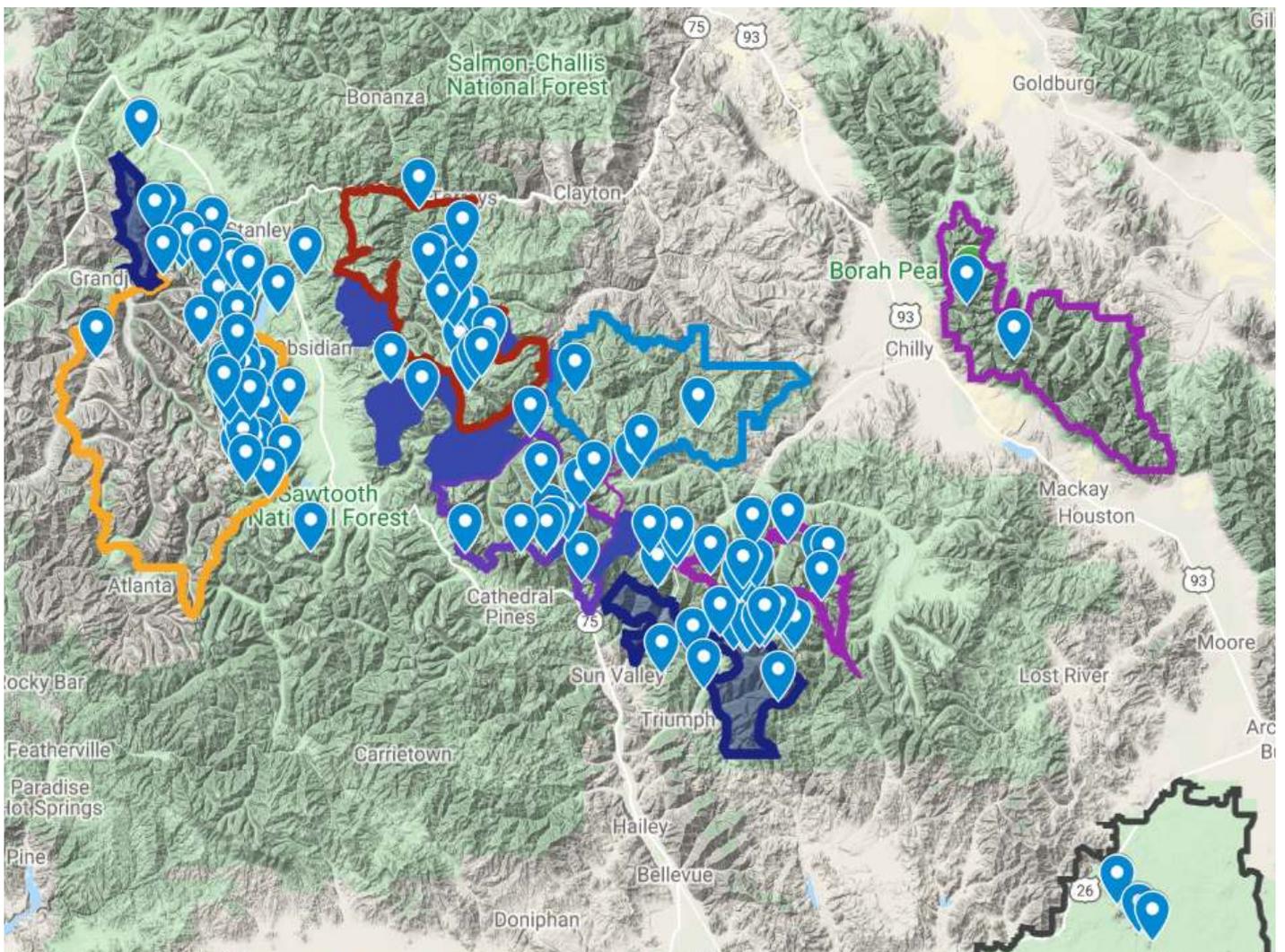
- A. ICL and the Forest Service will provide...
- Maps
 - Name tags
 - Work gloves
 - Trash collection kit
 - Write-in-the-rain notebook

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 the Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak, White Clouds, Sawtooth Wildernesses, the recommended wilderness areas on the Salmon-Challis National Forest (Pioneer Mountains and around Mt. Borah) and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Here's the map of where stewards patrolled in 2019.



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

A. In previous years, a one-day training provided for the wilderness stewards on covered...

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

Due to COVID-19, we are adapting to circumstances and hope to provide modified training to new stewards this spring.

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

A. If you are interested in becoming a wilderness steward, contact Hannah Smay at hsmay@idahoconservation.org.

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

A. Check out [ICL's past blogs about the Wilderness Stewards](#). If you have any questions, contact Hannah at hsmay@idahoconservation.org.