Great Burn Conservation Alliance Stateline Crew

Dates of employment: June 1- Sept 30, 2020. Potential to extend into October.

About the position: This position covers 2 roles, 1) Volunteer trip leader for GBCA sponsored backcountry stewardship trips, and 2) Completes backcountry lake inventory along the ID/MT stateline. It is estimated that the position will be approx 70 hours in June, 160 hours in July, 160 hours in August, and 70 hours in September. This schedule can be flexible, but ultimately depends on snowpack.

About GBCA: GBCA's primary mission area is the 275,000-acre Great Burn Recommended Wilderness, located in the Lolo and Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forests on the Montana/Idaho border. This inventoried roadless area has been recommended for wilderness designation for over 40 years. It contains 33 high mountain lakes and over 40 free-flowing streams, and spans three distinct ecosystems. GBCA also works to protect a much larger landscape encompassing 1.8 million acres of national forest land that surrounds the Great Burn in the northern Rocky Mountains. This huge swath of wildlands consists of 42 inventoried roadless areas between Lolo and Lookout passes in the northern Bitterroot Range along the Montana / Idaho stateline.

Volunteer trip leader:
GBCA hosts up to 7 multi-day backcountry volunteer stewardship trips every summer. This is a great chance to introduce the general public to the Great Burn and surrounding roadless areas, especially those new to the area or new to backpacking. These trips are informal, fun, and a great way to meet folks. Trip leaders are responsible for pre-trip logistics, meal planning, educating participants of Leave No Trace ethics, and ensuring the safety of the group while in the field. Stewardship projects will range from hand pulling and/or mapping weeds, campsite inventory and clean up, and pit toilet installation.

Stateline Lake Inventory:
For the last 10 years, GBCA has collected data on the state of backcountry alpine lake campsites and their associated trails throughout the Superior and Ninemile Ranger Districts, along the Bitterroot Mountain Divide. The primary goal of these surveys is to assess the baseline condition of campsites at each alpine lake and then monitor the change in impact on a three-year interval. Lakes included in the surveys are all those not accessible by road, ranging from Lookout Pass to Lolo Pass. This includes a total of 44 lakes. Due to the remote nature of the area, it is often necessary to link several lakes into one trip, usually 2-4 days. Accessibility to each lake varies, and applicants should be comfortable with off trail travel and navigation.

Specific data collected includes:
Lake Campsites Data:
- USFS High Lakes Site Impact Form at each campsite encountered (with associated photos and GPS points)
- General observations of wildlife and human use
• Offer management recommendations for potential campsite restoration and trail maintenance.

Weeds Data:
• Inventory all encountered noxious weeds at lakes or on trails
• Detailed inventory/monitoring of specific weed populations, based on USFS priorities
• Analysis of surrounding landscape, potential for spread, possible weed seed sources etc.
• Management recommendations

Requirements:
• Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification
• Maintain a positive attitude and work as a productive team member.
• A basic knowledge of Rocky Mountain flora and fauna, especially ability to identify noxious
  weeds.
• Experience with ecological interpretation or teaching
• Good oral and written communication skills
• Ability to keep neat and accurate records and reports
• Basic computer proficiency: email communication, Microsoft Word, digital image downloading
  and sharing.

Physical Requirements:
Crews must be in good physical condition and be able to hike extended distances in rough terrain. Experience with extended wilderness travel, backpacking, and Leave No Trace is required.

• Ability to hike up to 15 miles a day for several days at a time, in terrain that can be steep, rocky, or uneven.
• Willingness to work long, hard hours in all weather conditions
• Ability to lead a group in a positive, courteous, and safe manner

Transportation: A reliable, personal vehicle is required to arrive safely at trailheads. GBCA will reimburse mileage from Missoula at a rate of $0.58/mile.

Gear: Personal backpacking gear is required for this position. Some group gear may be provided, including water filters, first aid kit.

Compensation: Wages $14-16/hr DOE. $20 per diem when in the field.

For more information about the organization visit www.greatburn.org

To apply: Submit cover letter, resume, and 3 references to Hayley Newman, 406.240.9901, hayley@greatburn.org. Position is open until filled, with first application review March 10th.