



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Recreation Program Specialist

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting July 2024 through February 2025 (dates are dependent upon the start date).

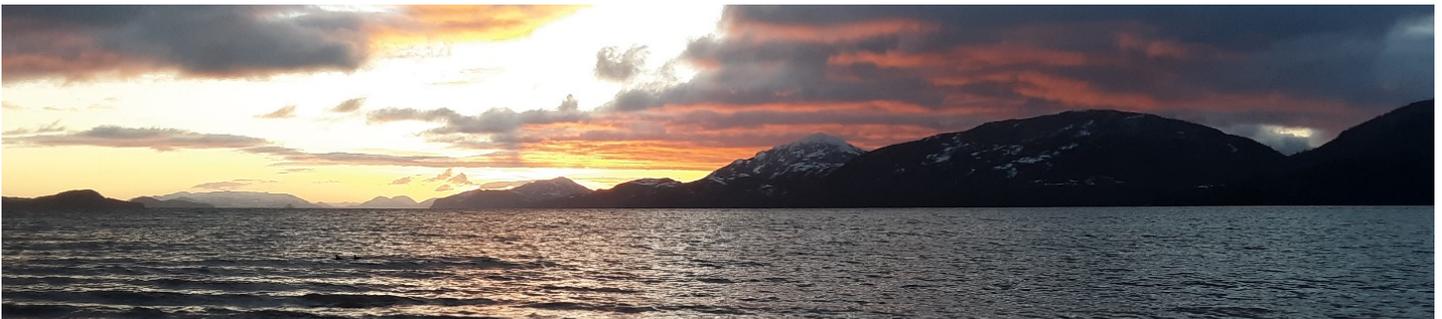
Location. Chugach National Forest
Cordova Ranger District
612 2nd Street
PO Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574

Reports To. The Rec Program Specialist will report to Cordova Ranger District Recreation Planner

Job Overview

This is an exciting multi-discipline position working for a Forest Service district recreation program. Core program work includes recreation data collection, public information/education program delivery, agreement/contract monitoring, developed recreation site operations/maintenance, cabin maintenance, trails maintenance, and road maintenance. This position will implement sustainable trail techniques; assist in recreation operations and planning; engage potential and existing stakeholders to foster shared stewardship; and support developed recreation, trails, cabins, and resources programs with field operations on Cordova Ranger District.

The RA will work with permanent and seasonal staff to manage a sustainable recreation program. The position is primarily office based in winter and split between office and field during the summer months. The RA will need to bring a positive attitude, willingness to work in inclement (wet) weather, and interest in experiencing the complexities of managing remote sites in a logistically challenging setting. The position will include interdisciplinary collaboration and active partnership engagement while working to safely maintain and manage recreation infrastructure in a remote Alaskan community located in a temperate rainforest climate.





Responsibilities and Duties

- Trail maintenance –
 - Assist with annual and deferred trail maintenance projects on district-wide trails
 - Support priority maintenance projects on Crater Lake Trail and Pipeline Lakes Trail
- Recreation data collection –
 - Assist in completing Developed Recreation Site and Feature Condition Surveys
 - Assist in completing annually assigned Trail Assessment and Condition Surveys
 - Support integration of Survey123 into trail surveys
 - Improve public trail information in AllTrails app
- Public information/education program delivery –
 - Engage potential and existing stakeholders to develop and foster a shared understanding toward achieving a sustainable trail system and explore ways to better balance a desire for more trail opportunities with current and anticipated resources
 - Increase the diversity and number of volunteers and community partners regularly engaged in work with the U.S. Forest Service on Cordova Ranger District
 - Schedule and coordinate community volunteer projects with local organizations including City of Cordova Trails Committee, Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP), Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) and Native Village of Eyak (NVE)
 - Develop and present public programs such as interpretive talks and guided hikes
 - Assist in writing articles or produce a Story Map highlighting CRD recreation activities
- Agreement/contract monitoring –
 - Assist with managing an interpretive merchandise agreement and bookstore
 - Assist with monitoring trail brushing and other contracts as assigned
- Developed recreation site operations/maintenance –
 - Assist with recreation site and trailhead routine and deferred maintenance
 - Support district staff to patrol Ibeck Creek during Coho sport fishing season
 - Support Crooked Creek Information Site (CCIS) operations in Valdez as directed
- Cabin and road maintenance –
 - Support annual cabin and road maintenance as directed
 - Support planning for deferred cabin and road maintenance and construction projects

Qualifications

- Require a versatile, self-motivated individual with existing knowledge or desire to build a skill set including project management, partnership coordination, interpretive and educational event planning, recreation infrastructure maintenance, and professional trail building skills.
- Relevant academic majors include Parks and Recreation Management, Recreation Planning, Recreation and Tourism, Ecotourism, Sustainable Recreation and Tourism, Outdoor Resource Management, Public Lands Manager, Professional Trail Construction and Planning.
- Critical to bring a positive attitude, willingness to work in inclement (wet) weather and ability to complete physically demanding work in remote outdoors settings.



Minimum Requirements

- Completion of 2 years at an accredited university, an Associate's degree, or higher
- US citizenship or permanent residency. RAs must undergo a government background check if selected.
- Participation in US Forest Service Orientation Training scheduled for June 2023

About the Chugach National Forest and Cordova, Alaska:

The Chugach National Forest is a 5.9 million acre forest in southcentral Alaska, the second largest and northernmost forest in the U.S. national forest system. It encompasses a geographically diverse area including the Prince William Sound and surrounding Chugach Mountains, eastern Kenai Peninsula, and the Copper River Delta. Cordova is a small fishing community situated on the southeast shore of the Prince William Sound and is accessible only by air and water. Cordova Ranger District is approximately 2.6 million acres and is a unique ranger district with a management emphasis on fish, wildlife, recreation, and information/education. The district has a number of exceptional resources including the 700,000 acre Copper River Delta, numerous spectacular glaciers, over 40 miles of developed hiking trails and 90 miles of primitive trail, 16 public use cabins, and a wide variety of fish and wildlife resources including trumpeter swans, dusky Canada geese, grey wolf, moose, brown and black bear, mountain goat and all five species of Pacific salmon.

Cordova is located at the extreme northern zone of the Pacific Northwest temperate rainforest and has a maritime climate which is characterized by cool summers, mild winters and heavy year-round precipitation. Summer temperatures average between 50 and 65 °F, with highs occasionally reaching into the upper 70's in July and August. Total precipitation averages 168 inches annually in Cordova. January, the coldest month, averages 23 degrees Fahrenheit, and average annual snowfall is 116 inches. Cordova has a permanent population of approximately 2,500 persons. With the summer influx of fishermen, cannery workers, and service industry personnel the population grows to approximately 5,000. The city operates a first-class harbor and port, provides excellent cultural facilities such as the museum and library, and celebrates six major community festivals each year.

