



USDA Forest Service Resource Assistant Program

Position. Heritage Program Resource Assistant

Duration. 8 Month Fellowship (32 weeks): Starting June 2023 – February 2024 (dates are dependent upon the start date)

Location. Salmon-Challis National Forest, North Fork Ranger Station
11 Casey Rd, North Fork Idaho, ID 83466

Reports To. The Information Assistant/Community Engagement Assistant will report to the Community Engagement Specialist.

Job Overview

The Heritage Program Resource Assistant will support the Heritage Department on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The hired individual will be assigned to create a digital site frequency model for program use and provide support as needed to the Heritage Program. Creation of the site frequency model will require the use of ESRI's ArcMap GIS software and large-scale scanning equipment to digitize a legacy land use dataset. The incumbent will develop a robust spatial analysis skillset through work on this project as they will be trained on how to manage information in Forest Service databases such as: Natural Resource Manager (NRM), IWEB Heritage Application, Global Information Systems (GIS), Forest Service electronic files, and the care and organization of hard copy files such as legacy reports, archaeological and historic site forms, maps, photographs, slides, and other archival materials. Additionally, the incumbent will have the opportunity to participate in other Heritage Program goals. Such as field work tasks including pedestrian survey, archaeological site monitoring, and innovative outreach and education application utilizing new technology.

Assignments include:

- Coordinate with heritage staff to develop a digital site frequency model for program use. This will include use of large-scale scanning equipment, ArcMap GIS software, and clear communication with Heritage Program managers to synthesize an accurate and functional model to help with future site inventory strategizing.
- Assist with Heritage data collection in the field, and records synthesis and management in the office. This could include digitizing the information into GIS, and scanning reports/site records for electronic access.

- Database management, including:
 - Heritage SDE corporate GIS layers and hard copy land use data maps
 - Heritage NRM database training and management.
- Review files to update GIS of permit areas for outfitter and guides.
- Update and improve the Salmon-Challis National Forest webpages for recreation and heritage. This may also include improved information for campgrounds on Recreation.gov and/or OnCell app data.
- Coordinate with recreation staff in documenting accomplishments of projects funded by the Recreation Enhancement Act.

Qualifications:

- An independent, self-motivated, creative, and resourceful individual.
- Knowledge of recreation management preferred. Archaeology/historic architecture interest or experience ideal.
- Basic GIS skills required.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and computer skills.
- Able to work with diverse groups of people.

Program Benefits

- Upon verification of 960 hours of service, RA will be issued a Noncompetitive Hiring Authority and Direct Hire Authority, which can be used to apply for vacancies.
- Housing may be available.

Position Requirements

- A desire to serve and promote public land stewardship and an ethic of service.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations such as: project partner(s), colleagues, community volunteers, youth and the general public.
- A commitment to the goals of the U.S. Forest Service.
- A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a team.
- The ability to work independently.
- A willingness to ask questions for clarification and job completion.
- Work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a college degree, or near completion.

- Regular and reliable attendance and dependability.

About the Region:

The Intermountain Region (R4), headquartered in Ogden Utah provides administrative oversight and support to thirteen National Forests and one National Grassland in Utah, Nevada, eastern California, western Wyoming, and southern and central Idaho and covers 31,816,792 acres in the National Forest System. There are approximately 2,200 permanent employees in Region 4.

About the Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf/>

The Salmon-Challis National Forest covers over 4.3 million acres in east-central Idaho. The Forest is bounded by the Bitterroot Range on the Montana border to the east, and to the west includes over 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness.

Rugged and remote, this country offers adventure, solitude and breathtaking scenery. Mt. Borah, Idaho's tallest peak, and the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River are within the Forest's administrative boundaries. The area is a destination for hunting, fishing, whitewater rafting, and many other popular recreational pursuits. The Forest features diverse, rough topography and geologic conditions, and miles of streams with anadromous fish spawning habitat creating a highly complex land management situation. There are six administrative units on the Forest: Salmon-Cobalt, North Fork and Leadore Ranger Districts (North Zone) and the Challis-Yankee Fork, Lost River, and Middle Fork Ranger Districts (South Zone).

The terrain varies greatly from rolling, arid hills to steep, forested slopes. Solitude, hiking and camping opportunities abound in the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness and surrounding mountains. Mountain biking and off-road motorcycle opportunities are plentiful as well. The Forest is well known for its hunting and fishing opportunities.

About the Communities:

North Fork, Idaho:

The North Fork District Office is located in North Fork, Idaho, which is located approximately 22 miles north of Salmon, Idaho, on Highway 93. The community of North Fork has a convenience store, post office, fire station, hotels, and restaurants and serves as the gateway for recreational activities on the Salmon-Challis National Forest along the main Salmon River and into the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness. The community of Gibbonsville is located north of North Fork on Highway 93. North Fork Ranger District employees live in North Fork, Gibbonsville, and Salmon. The commute from Salmon to North Fork on Highway 93 is a beautiful drive along the Salmon River.

Salmon, Idaho:

Salmon is the heart of the Salmon River Valley, surrounded by three mountain ranges, situated at the junction of Idaho State Highway 28 and U.S. Highway 93, and at the forks of the Lemhi and Salmon Rivers. The town has a population of about 3,100 and is the seat of Lemhi County which has a population of 8,000. The main industries are ranching, mining, timber, and recreation. Salmon is known as the "White Water Capital of the World" serving as the hub of personal and outfitter, jet boat and rafting river activities. At 4,000 feet elevation, the surrounding terrain varies greatly from rolling, arid hills to steep, forested slopes.

Climate: Salmon enjoys a dry, warm climate during the summer and fall months with daily highs

averaging between 75 to 95 degrees, and nightly lows from 45 to 60 degrees. The climate in winter is ideal for snow sports, the lowest temperatures averaging from 14 to 25 degrees with occasional sub-zero readings.

Shopping and Services: Salmon is a self-contained community with a full variety of shopping, business, medical, and professional services. In addition to basic services, there are a variety of specialty shops and art galleries. Salmon also has nursing and residential care facilities, hospice, and a spectrum of social services. Also, most service clubs and associations are represented. The public library offers computer and other services.

Medical: The City of Salmon has a local 30-bed community hospital affiliated with the major hospital of Missoula, Montana, and provides Life-Flight helicopter, EMT, Search and Rescue units, physicians, dentists, optometrists, and also specialist affiliations with the Western Montana Medical Clinic.

Schools: A variety of pre-schools and day-care centers are available in addition to the elementary, junior and senior high schools. The schools offer numerous extra-curricular activities and sports, and strive for quality education with creative, athletic, and scholastic achievements. Adult education classes are also offered yearly.

Transportation: The Salmon Valley Airport provides charter services, is equipped with night-lights, and can accommodate executive jets and other small aircraft. Major commercial airports are located within 160 miles.

Housing: There are four motels in Salmon and various bed and breakfast accommodations in the surrounding vicinity. A typical three-bedroom house costs \$300,000 and up. Monthly rental for a typical three-bedroom home runs around \$700. Several real estate offices are available. There are also mobile home parks and two in-city campgrounds.

Churches: Salmon has an active church community, school, and fourteen churches representing a large variety of denominations.

Entertainment and Activities: A wide assortment of entertainment is provided by various organizations throughout the year. The Salmon Arts Council provides events for the community presenting a wide range of performers in music, theater, and dance, visual art shows and sales, artist workshops, juried art exhibitions, and other programs for the local schools. The Sacajawea Center offers numerous historical programs and activities. Other celebrations include the Salmon Marathon, the Spokes and Chrome Car Show, Fourth of July Salmon River Days, Lil' Britches Rodeo and the Lemhi County Fair. Salmon also has numerous restaurants, a movie theater, and a fitness center. Recreation facilities include a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, bowling alley, baseball diamonds and an outdoor community swimming pool.

Recreation within the Region:

The Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, federally protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers, are renowned for white-water rafting, kayaking, floating, fishing, and jet boating. Outfitter and guide services are offered and both Salmon and Challis serve as gateways to the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness, encompassing 2.4 million acres, the largest wilderness in the United States outside of Alaska. The primitive mountain areas provides spectacular and abundant hunting (white-tailed and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bear, moose, and cougar). Many species of game birds and waterfowl can also be found. Fishing (trout and steelhead) is open virtually all year. Miles of groomed trails and routes are prepared for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling while down-hill skiing, ice fishing and other winter fun can be enjoyed nearby.