

Wilderness Stewardship Division Washington Office

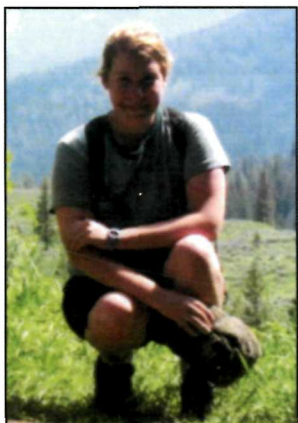
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wilderness Fellows

The Wilderness Stewardship Division of the National Park Service, in cooperation with Everglades National Park and the Intermountain Regional Office, has established an innovative 'Wilderness Fellowship' Program to provide opportunities for students to gain valuable career experience while helping advance stewardship of wilderness resources. Each Wilderness Fellows will spend up to six months in a wilderness park to support the development of a wilderness stewardship plan and associated tasks. Fellows will have the opportunity to take part in training courses, develop inventory and monitoring strategies, create public outreach strategies, develop baseline wilderness character assessments, and gain a deep understanding of NPS culture.

Lets Meet the 2010 Wilderness Fellows!



Emily Biesecker
Yale University '10

Currently finishing her Masters Degree in Environmental Management at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Emily will spend 4 months at El Malpais/El Morro and Bandelier National Monuments in New Mexico. Emily's studies are rooted in natural resource management and public and private land conservation. Her research interests have led her across the Northern Rockies, Alaska, and the Philippines. Throughout these research and conservation initiatives, she has also held a wide range of positions, including environmental service-learning trip leader, chair of the Yale Student Environmental Coalition, and director of Student Energy Programs in the University's Office of Sustainability. Upon completion of the Wilderness Fellowship program, Emily plans to work as a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Forest Service National Partnership Office.

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Alicia is completing her Masters Degree in Environmental Management at Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment. Alicia will spend 6-months supporting wilderness stewardship initiatives and planning at Everglades National Park. While obtaining a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Notre Dame, Alicia participated in field-based projects, data collection, and stream restoration and construction research. Her undergraduate experiences branch from the aquatic-based projects to graduate-level research of wetland restoration and raptor conservation – a project which took her to China to consult water quality issues. During her time at Duke, Alicia co-taught a Wilderness Management course, served as the Chair of the Society of Wetland Scientists, and participated in the 2009 George Wright Society's *Park Break!*. Prior to this summer, Alicia worked for the Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife in Indiana and as an aquatics laboratory technician. In her free time, she enjoys baking, hiking, and taking pictures.



Alicia Burtner
Duke University '10

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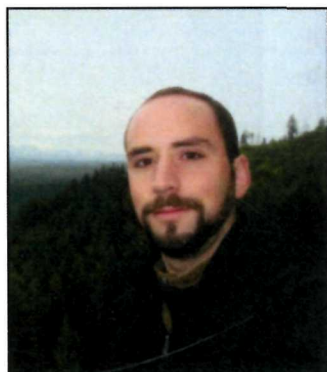
Christina Mills
University of
North Carolina '10

Christina is completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies with a dual minor in Geography and Spanish at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Christina will work at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, utilizing her background in ecosystem management, GIS, and conservation ecology to assist with data mining, wilderness character assessment, and the development of a wilderness stewardship plan for the parks 46,850 acres of designated wilderness. While completing her degree, Christina developed an assessment project of current purchasing policies and created a new sustainable purchasing policy for the town of Chapel Hill. During the 2009 semester, Christina traveled to Botswana to conduct research on community-based natural resource management for the human-lion conflict. In addition to traveling, she also enjoys reading and hiking.

Lisanne will graduate in May 2010 with a Masters Degree in Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Lisanne will spend 6 months working with the staff of both Buffalo National River and the Denver Service Center developing a General Management/Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the park. Prior to her graduate studies, Lisanne completed her Bachelor of Science at Tufts University, focusing on Environmental Studies, Psychology, and Biomedical Engineering Systems. Her international wildlife conservation research has taken her to Costa Rica, Tanzania, the French Alps, and Australia—with her thesis research on jaguar conservation in Southern Belize. She has also taught primary and high school English and Science in the Marshall Islands. In her spare time, Lisanne enjoys singing and playing guitar.



Lisanne Petracca
Duke University '10



Brian Tarpinian
Duke University '10

Brian is currently completing his Masters Degree in Environmental Management at Duke University. Prior to Duke, Brian earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Earth Sciences from Cornell University. Brian's research has focused on the effects of land use on forest trees and ferns and the effects of fish stocking on lake ecology. His research has also included field-based collection, species identification and sorting, and resource organization. During graduate studies at Duke, Brian worked with the Bureau of Land Management, serving as a geospatial data steward and Natural Resource Specialist to improve systematic conservation planning. He instructed a Wilderness Management Course at Duke and participated in the 2010 NPS Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area *Park Break!* Brian will spend 6 months at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California assisting with the development of a wilderness Stewardship Plan. In his free time, Brian enjoys hiking, running, and composing music.

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WILDERNESS FELLOW POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Wilderness Fellow (position code: #10057)

Department & Agency: Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Newspaper Advertisement: The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking to fill up to three 'Wilderness Fellow' positions. Wilderness Fellows will live, work, and play in a national park wilderness unit where they will assist NPS staff develop a wilderness stewardship plan. These positions are a unique opportunity to make a direct contribution to protecting wilderness resources and to gain valuable wilderness management experience. Additionally, Wilderness Fellows may have the opportunity to convert to a NPS STEP/SCEP position upon successful completion of fellowship, contingent on funding.

Position Description: Wilderness Fellows will work to directly support the goals of Together Wild, a collaborative wilderness stewardship planning initiative currently underway in the NPS. Major duties include, but are not limited to, developing wilderness character assessments, developing inventory and monitoring strategies, and other duties to support wilderness stewardship planning. Wilderness Fellows must be able to adapt to new environments and situations, communicate effectively both orally and in writing, and be ready to make an immediate impact on the wilderness stewardship planning process. Wilderness Fellows may have the opportunity to convert to a NPS STEP/SCEP position upon successful completion of fellowship, contingent on funding.

Potential Major Duties:

- Develop and refine a wilderness character assessment of the area in question based upon the four primary wilderness qualities: untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and solitude/primitive and unconfined recreation
- Develop inventory and monitoring strategies for a suite of indicators directly related to the wilderness character of the area in question
- Create a public outreach plan to meet environmental compliance requirements
- Explore new and innovative technologies for increasing public involvement in the wilderness stewardship planning process (facebook, twitter, etc.)
- Assist the wilderness stewardship planning point person with other duties directly related to the wilderness stewardship planning process
- Database development

Training Provided: Orientation and training sessions covering the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Planning Process and Keeping it Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character across the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Educational Opportunities: Incumbent works with NPS unit wilderness staff members, regional and Washington Office NPS staff, external scientists, the public, and others involved in NPS wilderness stewardship planning. Excellent opportunity for hands-on on-the-ground practical experience with wilderness stewardship planning.

Work Dates:

- 6 to 12 month fellowships depending on qualifications and commitment. Fellowships start approximately 5/15/2010. Start dates may be flexible within 1-2 weeks.

Requirements:

- U.S. Citizen



WILDERNESS FELLOW POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Willingness to undergo a required criminal history background check

Desired Skills:

- Interest in wilderness, wilderness stewardship and management, national parks, and park management
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- Research skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively on projects
- Valid driver's license
- Knowledge of social media outreach techniques (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

Field of Study/Coursework: Field of study or coursework in one or more of the following subject areas desired: Wilderness Management, Natural Resource Management, Recreation Resource Management, Conservation Social Science, Environmental Policy, Natural, Biological, and/or Physical Sciences.

Project Summary: Together Wild is a strategy developed by the Washington Office Wilderness Stewardship Division to provide parks with the assistance and support needed to develop and implement wilderness stewardship plans. The process is explicitly collaborative and brings together regional offices, parks, scientists, and wilderness specialists to help parks complete wilderness stewardship plans. The long-term goal of Together Wild is to provide parks with a viable and defensible Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP). WSP will provide more effective management of wilderness resources, streamline the compliance and review process, and ultimately protect wilderness character.

Site Description: Wilderness Fellows work within one or more TBD wilderness parks in the NPS. Wilderness is a special portion of the National Park System that American citizens and the U.S. Congress have jointly declared will be kept as wild and natural as possible. NPS wilderness areas represent some of the most pristine and least impacted areas in the U.S.

Housing:

- Housing during orientation/training session provided
- Housing during fellowship provided by participating NPS unit(s). Fellows will be housed on-site in NPS housing.

Transportation:

- Personal vehicle recommended. Wilderness Fellow provides transportation to and from work location. And may service multiple NPS wilderness units during fellowship. Experience has shown that isolated conditions result in a negative experience for SCA interns with no transportation

For additional information, please contact:

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