



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION – WHITE BARK PINE DATA COLLECTION
Posted 3/19/2014

Position Vacancy: White Bark Pine Data Collection Volunteer(s)
Supervisor: Lead Ecologist, [Natural Heritage Program](#); CDT Montana Program Director
Location: Rogers Pass north to Glacier National Park on Continental Divide and surrounding area

ABOUT THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION:

Montana Wilderness Association's mission is to work with communities to protect Montana's wilderness heritage, quiet beauty and outdoor traditions, now and for future generations.

As the nation's oldest grassroots wilderness organization, we pursue our mission by educating and organizing people to protect Montana wildlands and empowering those people to influence and shape policy on Montana wilderness issues.

ABOUT THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA:

Montana's Natural Heritage is a diverse resource for our citizens and economy, and is central to our quality of life. Good information is critical to maintain this valuable heritage as the state grows and develops. MNH is a program of the Montana State Library's Natural Resource Information System and is operated as a special program under the Office of the Vice President for Research and Development at the University of Montana, Missoula. [See website at this link.](#)

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) and Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) are looking for backcountry enthusiasts to volunteer during the summer of 2014 to collect data about white bark pine population along the Continental Divide.

White Bark Pine (WBP) volunteers must have excellent backpacking and camping skills, good interpersonal skills, a strong land ethic and be willing to work in a physically demanding environment. This is a non-paid, volunteer position. The WBP position will be considered a volunteer position and joint support person for MWA and MTNHP.

Project Dates Available – you must be able to work an entire 7 day period. Locations vary from Rogers Pass north through the Bob Marshall Wilderness on US Forest Service lands along the Continental Divide.

- Hitch # 1: June 25-July 1
- Hitch # 2: July 9-15
- Hitch # 3: July 23-July 29
- Hitch # 4: August 6-12
- Hitch # 5: August 20-27
- Hitch # 6: September 3-9

This is a partner project with the MTNHP and MWA, however, all participants will be registered as MWA volunteers via the [CDT Montana volunteer trail stewardship program](#).

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The WBP volunteer position is a great combination of backcountry exploration and observation tasks. Duties will include traveling in the backcountry to assist a project researcher in collection of white bark pine data (presence or absence). All volunteers will be asked to adhere to "Leave No Trace" environmental ethics.



Collecting data will include daily log notes, taking photos, use of GPS for locating, species identification and lots of time in the backcountry enjoying beautiful Montana scenery.

Work projects and locations will require volunteers to backpack for 7 days at a time (a hitch) while carrying all your personal gear, food, and tools. Packs often weigh between 50-60 lbs. You will be camping on the trail for 7 days each hitch while moving camp each day.

Skills gained will include:

- Experience in Wilderness management and field techniques
- Proficient at Leave No Trace outdoor ethics and white bark data collection/identification
- Improved backcountry camping and travel skills
- Increased knowledge of research area (varies based on time of year or hitch)
- Professional public lands experience to boost resume

TRAINING PROVIDED:

WBP volunteer should have basic understanding of and/or some experience in the following field areas though training will be offered on site by project lead with MTNHP:

Wilderness Orientation
Bear Awareness/Safety

Backcountry Living Skills
Backcountry Food & Hygiene

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be able to maintain a positive attitude with a rigorous schedule during field season.
- Backcountry living and travel experience.
- Sound judgment with limited resources; ability to deal with surprises in a calm manner.
- Professional level oral and written communication.
- Ability to communicate and work effectively and diplomatically with people of diverse interests and personalities.
- Ability to work independently with limited supervision in a field and office environment.
- Ability to keep neat and accurate records and reports with great attention to detail.
- Motivation and willingness to complete a job well.
- Ability and willingness to work non-traditional hours, including weekends at times.
- Physically able to lift 50 to 80 pounds and carry a minimum of 100 yards, backpacking experience with full pack between 8-18 miles/day.
- Valid drivers license and clean driving record.

PREFERRED SKILLS AND BACKGROUND:

- Computer proficiency including email communication, knowledge of Microsoft Word, digital photo downloading and sharing, database management and navigation (Excel) and ability and willingness to learn other software as needed.
- Academic experience or equivalent experience in wilderness management, ecology, biology, environmental studies, outdoor education or related field.
- Experience with government agency, outdoor program, or non-profit organization.
- Cross cut saw and chainsaw experience and respective USFS certification.
- Proficiency with GPS and mapping software.
- An eye for photography.



MEALS, GEAR AND TRANSPORTATION:

- MEALS: Meals are responsibility of WBP volunteer while in the field.
- OUTDOOR GEAR: Personal backpacking gear will be required for these positions, most importantly a quality sleeping bag, backpack, tent, rain gear and sturdy leather hiking boots with ankle support. Other backpacking gear may be shared with MTNHP co-workers such as stoves and water filters.
- TRANSPORTATION: WBP volunteers will be scheduled by hitch to meet with a MTNHP project lead. Volunteers are responsible for coordinating meeting times and locations at trailheads with project lead. Travel expenses may be used as tax deduction (consult your tax professional).
- NOTE: MWA may be able provide a stipend to help offset costs of food and travel while volunteering. If available, funds will be dispersed at end of the field season in the fall (October/November). To be eligible, volunteers are required to keep receipts for food purchased, track miles traveled to/from worksite to be eligible to submit reimbursement.

BASIC CONDITIONS OF POSITION:

All employees and volunteers of Montana Wilderness Association are ambassadors of the organization and are expected to support and fulfill the mission of the organization. All employees, regardless of title, must demonstrate the following minimum requirements for continued employment/volunteer consideration. In addition, it is the employee/volunteer responsibility to read, understand and comply with the policies and procedures outlined in MWA's personnel policy.

- Professional Conduct: Comply with established employment policies and practices.
- Maintain confidentiality of organization and employee information.
- Accept direction and provide direction in a cooperative and positive manner.
- Personal conduct: Engage in personal conduct that is honest, respectful, courteous, and dignified as well as legal, ethical, dependable and reliable.
- Competency: Develop and maintain skills, knowledge and abilities required for adequate performance of assigned job duties.

TO APPLY FOR 2014 WHITE BARK PINE POSITION:

- Email a resume **and cover letter** to Shannon Freix, CDT Montana Program Director, at sfreix@wildmontana.org. **Email applications only**. In your cover letter, please tell us why you are interested in this position and why you are a good fit. Be creative; please do not re-state the information you've already shared in your resume. Positions open until filled.
- **Please indicate which project dates you are available to work in your cover letter.**
- Deadline for applications is June 1, 2014. Open until filled.

NOTES:

- Additional paperwork may be required by MTNHP to complete application process.
- Hiring for 5-6 White Bark Pine volunteer positions.
- Natural resource, public lands management, forestry and other outdoor students are encouraged to apply.
- Questions? Contact Shannon Freix at sfreix@wildmontana.org or 406-499-2309.