

MOOSE CREEK RANGER STATION

Volunteer Host Opportunity



Location & Area Description: Moose Creek Ranger Station is located deep within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, on the Moose Creek Ranger District, in the Nez Perce National Forest. It is approximately 25 miles from the Selway Falls Guard Station and the Race Creek trailhead, which are accessed from the Selway River Road off of Highway 12 near the small community of Lowell. The area can also be accessed from several other trailheads around the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (all are at least 25 trail miles). Missoula, Montana and Kooskia, Idaho are the nearest full service communities. Missoula, Montana and Lewiston, Idaho are the closest commercial airports. More information about the Moose Creek Ranger District and the Nez Perce National Forest can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/about/moose-creek.shtml>. More information about the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness can be found at <http://www.wilderness.net>.

The Moose Creek Ranger Station and surrounding area serves as a destination for wilderness visitors traveling by foot, horseback, float boat, and aircraft. Adjacent to the station is a backcountry airstrip open for general aviation. While motorized equipment (including aircraft) is generally not allowed in designated Wilderness areas, some airstrips that existed prior to Wilderness designation continue to be maintained as remote portals for visitors pursuing Wilderness dependent activities. Moose Creek airstrip is approximately 2400 feet above sea level with two grass runway surfaces.

The Moose Creek Ranger Station is on the National Historic Register. The Station consists of a cookhouse/office, two bunkhouses, Ranger (volunteer) House, Assistant Ranger House, bath house, barn, corrals, fire cache, and tack shed. There is no electricity, radio, internet, or cell phone coverage. There are propane powered lights, hot water, and refrigeration.

The Station is on a high bench above the confluence of the Selway River and Moose Creek. There is an outfitter camp located close to the station in forested area along the long runway. The station can become very busy at times with Forest Service crews working out of the Station and visitors. The Station can also be very quiet. Volunteers need to be self-sufficient, self-motivated, and able to entertain themselves.

Volunteer Host Duties:

- Greeting visitors to the Moose Creek area.
- Providing assistance to visitors in appropriate campsite selection, providing information about the Wilderness area, Moose Creek Ranger Station, and Leave No Trace techniques.
- Recording daily landings at the airstrip.
- Conducting campsite restoration and clean up as well as trail, airstrip, and cabin maintenance.
- Outhouse cleaning at the airstrip as needed.

- Helping to feed stock (horses and mules) while employees are gone, shoveling manure, moving irrigation pipes, etc.
- Helping District personnel as needed with various Station projects that arise.

Services Provided to Hosts: Volunteer Hosts at Moose Creek Ranger Station may stay in the administrative cabin known as the “Ranger House” that lies at the eastern end of the short airstrip (photo below). The cabin is equipped with a wood stove, propane burner, cooking utensils, beds, running water, toilet, hot water by wood heat, dining room table & chairs, propane and gas lights/lanterns and fridge and freezer space. Potable water is available from a spring that is piped to the station. There is also a cookhouse and bathhouse that volunteers can use along with other employees stationed at Moose Creek.

Hosts will receive an orientation to Moose Creek station upon arrival and will have daily contact with District personnel via two-way radio check-ins when working alone at the Station. Hosts may receive stock support to pack in their food and gear while they hike or ride to the station. Hosts may fly in to Moose Creek with a charter flight service; however, the Forest Service is not able to pay for flights. Hosts need to bring their own sleeping bag or bedding, personal items, and food. The Forest Service will provide a food re-supply to volunteers approximately every two weeks, usually by pack string.

Hosts will receive a volunteer stipend of \$23 per day while working at Moose Creek Ranger Station. Hosts may be accompanied by a spouse, although a volunteer stipend will only be provided for one individual.



Qualifications:

- Basic first aid certification is preferred.
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace techniques.
- Good communication skills and a willingness to interact with visitors.
- Enthusiasm for Wilderness and an interest in learning and sharing information about the area.
- Comfortable in remote and primitive backcountry settings.
- Creative problem solving skills, self-motivation.

Preferred Commitment: Minimum of one month, working a 5 days on with two days off schedule. The objective is for hosts to work a schedule so that when there are no employees at the station, a volunteer is available to greet visitors. **Availability: April through October.**

To apply and for additional information go to www.volunteer.gov/gov/.

Note: Administrative cabins within Wilderness are not available as rentals. They are maintained specifically to assist with the administration of management activities.