

SHEARER GUARD STATION

Volunteer Host Opportunity



Location & Area Description: The Shearer Guard Station is located deep within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, on the Moose Creek Ranger District, in the Nez Perce National Forest. It is approximately 17 trail miles from the Paradise trailhead on the upper Selway River, accessed from the Magruder Corridor road off of Highway 93 near Darby, Montana. The area can also be accessed from several other trailheads around the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Hamilton, Montana is the nearest full service community. Missoula, Montana is the closest commercial airport. 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 Shearer Guard 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. Shearer airstrip is approximately 2600 feet above sea level with one grass runway surface.

The Station is located on a low bench, within site of the Selway River. The station is remote, but can at times be busy with Forest Service crews working out of the Station and visitors. The Station is often very quiet and much time would be spent alone. Volunteers need to be self-sufficient, self-motivated, and able to entertain themselves.

Volunteer Host Duties:

- Greeting visitors to the Shearer Guard Station, airstrip, and Selway River area.
- Providing assistance to visitors in appropriate campsite selection; providing information about the Wilderness area, Shearer Guard 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 District personnel as needed with various Station projects that arise.

Services Provided to Hosts: Volunteer Hosts at Shearer Guard Station stay in the historic log cabin. Two cots with comfortable pads are provided. The cabin is also equipped with a wood stove, propane burner, cooking utensils, table & chairs, gas lanterns and an outhouse. Water is available at the cabin from a nearby creek. Water must be boiled or chemically treated before drinking. There is no electricity, radio, internet, or cell phone coverage.

Hosts will receive an orientation to Shearer Guard 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 Shearer airstrip with a charter flight service; however, the Forest Service is not able to pay for flights. Hosts need to bring their own sleeping bag, 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 Shearer Guard 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.

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.