

Methow Trails

Methow Trails Internship Practicum

Salary: \$13.69 per hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks (*paid by the Office of Sustainability*)

Supervisor: Erika Halm, Outreach and Access Manager

Period of Employment: June 21, 2021 – August 27, 2021. Dates can be negotiable if needed by the student. 3 days per week.

Overview

We connect people, nature, and communities through a world-class trail system. Methow Trails is the largest cross-country ski area in North America.

The trail system includes over 200 kilometers (120+ miles) of cross-country ski trails in the winter months, and is recognized as one of the finest trail systems in North America for Nordic skiing, mountain biking, trail running and hiking. Methow Trails was founded in 1977. Since its humble beginnings, the non-profit organization has grown and has facilitated the development of North America's largest Nordic ski trail system, transforming the once- disconnected series of trails within the region into an elaborate network containing over 200 kilometers of all-season trails surrounded by more than a million acres of national wilderness and forest lands. Today the network of trails generates about \$4.5 million directly, another \$4.1 million indirectly, and another \$2.7 million annually through related industry earnings in the Methow Valley. Additionally, some 49 full-time jobs and 159 seasonal full-time and/or part-time jobs can be directly attributed to the network of trails and adjacent lands.

Primary winter uses of the trails include Nordic or cross-country skiing, fat biking, and snowshoeing. In the summer, the trails become a mecca for mountain bikers and hikers. Other trail uses include equestrian riding, dog walking, running, nature observation, and access to fly-fishing areas. We provide free access in the non-winter months, and charge for use on most (but not all) trails during the winter. Pass sales from the winter period fund year-round operations. We provide FREE ski access to kids 17 and under and seniors 75+ every day of the season.

The intern will gain insight into general operations of our organization, including trail building/maintenance, landowner outreach and communication, and community projects such as our Twisp-to-Winthrop Trail (TWiN Trail) connection. We anticipate 1 day/week working out in the field on trail projects, and 2 days/week working on projects related to community outreach and access. This will likely be a combination of in-office and from-home work, depending on COVID-19 guidelines. Schedule can be somewhat flexible.

Responsibilities

The intern will be working on a combination of office work (~2/3) and trail work (~1/3).

Office work will include projects such as: the Winthrop to Twisp Community Trail ("TWiN Trail") planning and development, landowner outreach, trail user outreach, general administrative tasks, and some customer service. Sample office-based responsibilities might include:

- Updating and managing TWiN Trail landowner map (Google Earth) and landowner database (CRM software), including some data entry
- Preparing TWiN Trail landowner communications such as mailings, pamphlets, or digital media such as videos or newsletters
- Attending landowner meetings or listening sessions
- Answering trail user questions about the trail network and representing Methow Trails
- Digitizing legacy landowner paperwork
- Trail event prep
- Other tasks as assigned

Projects in the field include trail maintenance or trail building under supervision of our Trails Manager or Trails Technician. Sample trail-based responsibilities might include:

- Cutting, limbing and chipping trees
- Brushing established trails
- Building and refurbishing trails
- Building and refurbishing trail-related structures
- Prepping the trails for events

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Ability to perform office/computer work
- Reliable transportation
- Familiarity with basic computing programs such as Microsoft Office suite
- Familiarity and comfort with Google Earth mapping software
- Ability to work on the trails (lift and carry ~50 lbs, wear safety equipment, follow safety instructions)
- Ability to work in a team, give and receive feedback, and willingness to abide by all COVID-19 safety guidelines including mask wearing and social distancing
- Ability to work alone and complete projects in a self-directed manner
- Comfortable around dogs (we have several office dogs)

Educational/Professional Benefits

- Experience working in a thriving, keystone non-profit within a community significantly impacted by climate change
- Gain knowledge of the development and outreach necessary for a significant, multi-year phased development project (TWiN Trail)
- Experience all sides of a trail-based organization including trail work
- Opportunity to apply your educational experience to help make our organization and projects succeed. We are not looking for simple data entry help (though there will be some). We want your skills!