

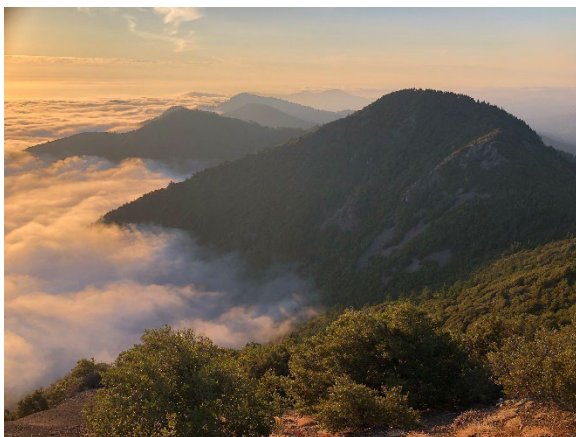


**Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
King Range National Conservation Area**

**Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Internship
Summer 2026**

Location:

The King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) is a spectacular meeting of land and sea as mountains thrust straight out of the surf with its crown jewel, King Peak (4,088 feet), less than three miles from the ocean. King Range is the Nation's very first National Conservation Area, designated in 1970. The King Range NCA covers 68,000 acres of public lands and extends along 35 miles of coastline between the mouth of the Mattole River and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Congress once again recognized the uniqueness of the King Range NCA by officially designating 42,585 acres as wilderness under the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act on October 17, 2006. Here the landscape was too rugged for highway building, forcing State Highway 1 and U.S. 101 inland. The remote region is known as California's Lost Coast and is only accessed by a few back roads. With 85 miles of wilderness trails and 24 miles of mountain bike trails, the recreation opportunities here are as diverse as the landscape.



Position Description:

Wilderness Ranger Interns (Volunteers) are integral members of the BLM Arcata Field Office and King Range NCA. Work will primarily take place in the backcountry, completing wilderness patrols and trail maintenance. Interns will train with BLM staff and work in small groups of 2-4 to accomplish a wide variety of duties including, but not limited to:

- Backpacking in the wilderness for up to 4 days at a time, carrying a load of up to fifty pounds including personal gear, tools, and personal protective equipment
- Undergoing rigorous risk management training and field assessment to plan and successfully execute wilderness patrols, mitigate risk, and advise public lands users on best practices
- Leading biweekly patrols along the Lost Coast Trail, providing safety information to visitors, highlighting Leave No Trace ethics, and enhancing visitor experience
- Completing wilderness campsite naturalization, marine debris removal, invasive species removal, and marine mammal monitoring



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- Collecting data from visitor contacts to better inform management decisions, including campsite usage, wilderness permit compliance, and impacts to natural resources; processing data in Excel following each patrol
- Performing maintenance on wilderness trails to BLM trail maintenance standards, using a variety of hand tools including crosscut saws
- Tabling at trailheads on Fourth of July Weekend to provide safety and educational information to visitors

Park Rangers bring a wide range of expertise and passions, and we are committed to supporting interns in developing additional projects that align with their unique backgrounds and interests.



Training Provided:

- First Aid & CPR
- Defensive driving & 4x4 driving
- Wilderness Act of 1964 and wilderness management
- Backcountry trail maintenance and crosscut saw use
- Tool maintenance
- Campsite inventory and rehabilitation

- Public contact methods
- Leave No Trace ethics
- Data collection and organization
- Risk management for field personnel
- Radio use and communications
- Emergency management
- Natural and cultural history of the King Range
- Wildlife surveying and plant surveying



Compensation:

As a volunteer position, monetary compensation will be based on the BLM US Camp rate of \$40 per day (estimated \$200 per week). Housing is available at the King Range barracks at no cost for interns. This location is equipped with private single and double rooms with shared kitchen, entertainment room, showers, bathrooms, and laundry. Upon completion of 250 hours of volunteer service, interns qualify for the “*America the Beautiful*” entrance pass to federally managed public lands.

Equipment:

BLM will provide all work-related tools, personal protective gear, and specialized equipment (bear can, stove & fuel, water filter, etc.). Backpacks and tents may be available. Interns must supply their own



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sleeping bag and hiking boots. Uniform shirts and hats will be provided and required when in the field.

Transportation:

Due to the remote location of the duty station, public transportation is NOT available. The use of a personal vehicle is required for commuting to/from home and duty station, located in Whitethorn, CA, approximately two hours from Arcata. Carpooling is encouraged. BLM work trucks will be used for all work-related activities.



Academic Credit:

King Range staff will work with volunteers and their respective colleges to provide all necessary coordination, documentation, and evaluation for credit toward any course work.

How to Apply:

Please submit a detailed resume and cover letter by Monday **March 23, 2026**. Your resume should include all relevant work and volunteer experience, relevant coursework

or academic programs, and certificates and trainings completed to date.

Email khallahan@blm.gov to submit your resume and cover letter, subject "RE: Wilderness Ranger Internship".

Please direct all questions about the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Internship to Kacie Hallahan at 707-986-5420 or via email.

After the closing date of **March 23, 2026** King Range staff will contact qualified applicants for an interview and will make every attempt to complete the selection process by **April 03, 2026**.

All general questions about the King Range NCA can be answered by anyone at the King Range Project Office at 707-986-5400.





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Date	Team A	Team B
June 3 - 7	Training - Lost Coast Trail	Training - Lost Coast Trail
June 10 - 14	Training - Lost Coast Trail	Training - Lost Coast Trail
June 17 - 21	Lost Coast Trail	Northslide Peak TH to Miller Loop Trail
June 24 - 28	Saddle Mountain TH to Buck Creek Trail	Lost Coast Trail
July 1 - 5	Black Sands Beach Trailhead Hosting & Lost Coast Trail	Mattole Trailhead Hosting & Horse Mountain Creek Trail
July 8 - 12	Rattlesnake Ridge Trail	Rattlesnake Ridge Trail
July 15 - 19	Horse Mountain Creek Trail	Lost Coast Trail
July 22 - 26	Rattlesnake Ridge Trail	Rattlesnake Ridge Trail
July 29 - August 2	Lost Coast Trail	Lost Coast Trail
August 5 - 9	King Crest Trail (N-S)	King Crest Trail (S-N)