



## Trail Crew Program in the Boulder Creek Wilderness

### EMPLOYER'S DESCRIPTION

Source One Serenity is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving veterans through outdoor recreation and land stewardship projects in the Umpqua National Forest. One of these projects includes doing trail work in reopening and maintaining some trails in the Umpqua National Forest. Through volunteer engagement since 2020, we have restored more than 30 miles of trails. Trail work became also very meaningful for veterans and community members and this aspect furthers Source One Serenity's mission.

This is what one of our volunteers said:

"For me contributing to trail work allows veterans and other members of our society to get out and experience the healing power of nature in ways that might not be possible if these trails did not exist. I find meaning in sweating and straining in manual labor across from other veterans who find purpose in hard work that ultimately benefits the greater good of our community."

### TRAIL CREW PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program provides trail crew members with meaningful challenges and opportunities for personal growth and professional development. The trail crew works on trails in the wilderness in accordance with the directives of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-577; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) that prohibits the use of motorized/mechanized equipment. More than 5 miles of the Boulder Creek Trail #1552 are already cleared, but the upcoming section will be even more arduous due to its steepness, dense thickets of regrowth, downed trees, and trail finding. Crew members will carry loads up to 30 lbs, and travel for distances of up to 10 miles per day.

Work will be implemented on one or two seven-day-long hitches depending on the number of trail crew members. The crew shall consist of 3-9 members. Workdays will be 5-9 hours long. Crew members will camp in or around the wilderness area.

The objective of this project is to re-open the Boulder Creek Trail, last cleared approximately 20 years ago. Hundreds of large diameter logs have impeded passage during this time causing the trail to all but remain visible. These areas are in need of special attention including brush work, log bucking, recutting the trail's tread, and repairing any areas that would easily be eroded by human activities causing further degradation of the wilderness's primitive character.



## **ABOUT BOULDER CREEK WILDERNESS**

The work in the Boulder Creek Wilderness became important because the most popular long-distance trail in the Umpqua National Forest, the 79-mile North Umpqua Trail (NUT), has sustained major damage, over 43% of it caused by the massive wildfires in 2020 and 2021. A severe winter snowstorm in 2019 also greatly affected many trails in the area. The lower part of the Umpqua National Forest will remain hazardous for the next several years, and many trails may not reopen for some time. These events have diminished recreational opportunities in Douglas County for local residents and visitors to this rural community. The wildfires and the 2019 winter storm have required an unexpectedly heavy volume of work for the Umpqua National Forest, and so providing additional capacity through volunteers and trail crews was necessary.

The Boulder Creek Wilderness is a 19,886-acre wilderness area with numerous small waterfalls and rapids that connect the series of quiet pools that make up Boulder Creek, a tributary of the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River. The wilderness is unique because of its prominent ridge-top rock features, some of which are off-the-beaten-path climbing areas. Boulder Creek Wilderness is popular in the summer with backpackers and in the fall with hunters. However, due to a series of wildfires over the past 25 years, many trails have not been maintained in the Boulder Creek Wilderness, making safe travel difficult and in some areas impossible. Douglas County Search and Rescue has witnessed an increase in cases of lost people in this area. For example, in July 2018, a hiker was lost in Boulder Creek for nine days, and then ultimately rescued by helicopter. Due to some downed trees on the trail near Boulder Creek, Source One Serenity's volunteers saw a user-created trail that is causing erosion and due to the high degree of slope on which they are traveling, the site is hazardous for hikers as well as trails crews who have to repair the damage.

## **TERM SCHEDULES**

- June 25 – July 2

If the work is not completed during the first hitch, the second hitch:

- July 8 – July 16.

The dates are subject to change due to unpredictable situations such as weather conditions or other circumstances.

## **COMPENSATION**

Trail crew members will be hired under the 1099 Form and the amount will be disclosed during an interview.



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## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Required Skills and Experience**

- Experience working on trails or other outdoor work that demonstrates the ability to perform arduous physical work in the outdoor environment and changing conditions. ·
- The ability to hike long distances on backcountry trails carrying heavy loads and performing physical labor. Participate in a seven-day backcountry work project.
- Use of hand tools such as long-armed-loppers, handsaws, crosscut saws, hoes, Pulaskis, axes, etc.
- Adaptable to working in changing environmental conditions, project schedule changes, and shifting needs.
- Ability to work well with other crew members on a daily basis, as well as independently. Maintain professional work environment with peers and strong verbal communication
- Approaches work with a positive attitude and sense of humor; has good communication skills.
- The use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited during the field hitch.

If after reading this page thoroughly, you have questions, please call 541-580-5655. or email [elena@sourceoneserenity.org](mailto:elena@sourceoneserenity.org).

### **HOW TO APPLY**

We take applicants through a screening process and an interview. [Apply here](#) or use the link to the application under Apply HERE on the site <https://sourceoneserenity.org/2022/05/31/sos-trails/>.

Source One Serenity is an equal opportunity employer.  
Applicants who are veterans a plus, but not required.

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS POSITION? CONTACT:**

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