

Position Title: Gorge Trail Mapping Project Intern
Reports to: Hybrid: Some in person office work in the TKO (Portland) or WTA (Vancouver) offices Plus online tutorials, meetings and field work
Status: Hourly, Part Time
Duration: 10-20 hours per week, June through September 2023
Compensation: \$20/Hour (up to 120 hours per intern) plus mileage reimbursement



Role of the Gorge Trail Mapping Project Intern

The Gorge Stewardship Network seeks applicants interested in careers in natural resource management to intern with Washington Trails Association (WTA) and Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO). These internships are temporary, seasonal positions for the summer of 2023. Interns will complete an inventory of trails in the Columbia River National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) using GIS compatible mapping software. (See full project background below.)

Essential Functions

1. Working together, independently and with volunteers, a two person internship team will develop a list of all known user-created routes in the CRGNSA.
2. After training in route mapping, data collection and risk management, interns will hike the user-created routes to map and gather data about each route.
3. The interns will work with WTA and TKO staff to recruit and train volunteers to ground-truth the entire inventory by summer's end, working together and separately.

General Responsibilities

Training – 30%

- Participate in initial orientation and training to draft a season work plan.
- Participate in online and in office training to learn how to use mapping software.
- Participate in online and field training to learn about field data collection, radio operation and risk management procedures.

Administrative – 30%

- Communicate regularly with the project team through weekly Zoom meetings and email.
- Virtually work with fellow intern, volunteers and partner organization staff to ensure project completion.
- Conduct online research to identify potential user-created routes from social media, All Trails, Caltopo, Strava and other sources.
- Compile and enter data collected in the field.
- Develop online webinar content to report back on key findings from the project.

Field Work – 40%

- Travel to inventoried use-created routes and hike the route to capture data in the field with a smartphone application.

Desired Qualifications[†]:

- Ability to work with people of diverse races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and economic backgrounds.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks independently.
- Experience with using smartphones and computer software such as email, spreadsheets and word processing.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to collect accurate data in the field.

- Familiarity with topographic maps.
- Experience hiking in the Gorge or similar experience with outdoor field navigation.
- Willingness to work outdoors in various weather conditions, hiking range from 5-10 mile round trip.
- Physical fitness and ability to hike and work on uneven terrain.
- Reliable vehicle with valid driver's license, use of a personal computer and access to a smartphone or app device.

Steps to apply, include the following in the Google Form link below:

- Resume - please include professional and educational experience.
- List of at least 3 references.
- 1-Page Letter of Interest, please include the following:
 - What experience do you have with hiking or other similar outdoor activities? How do you think this experience will help you succeed in this internship?
 - Describe a project or job you did where you had to work as a member of a team. What skills did you learn that could transfer to success working with this team?
 - Describe something you accomplished independently, what skills, experience or talents helped you to succeed and how might those apply to this position?
- Submit these items to the Google Form [HERE](#)

Timeline:

- April 21st - Job posted and resumes reviewed on a rolling basis; candidates invited to interview
- Mid-May - First round of interviews; reference checks
- Position begins when the best candidate is found – ideally no later than June 15th.
- Please note timelines can change, don't hesitate to contact ryan@wta.org &/or steve.kruger@trailkeepersoforegon.org

Project Background:

Hiking is consistently the highest reported recreation activity on National Forest lands in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA), and one of the main activities Gorge Stewardship Network partners are engaged with across the landscape. To increase the capacity of diverse partners, visitors, and communities to steward natural and cultural resources, we need to understand where recreation use may be impacting these resources. Ecological impacts, such as vegetation loss, human waste, and erosion, as well as impacts to cultural resources, are often more associated with unofficial trails, rather than developed recreation site use. User-created routes/Unofficial trails are paths, trails, or road beds that are not part of the official, actively managed trail system. They can be social trails created by soil compaction over time or purposefully constructed trails that were not sanctioned by a land management agency. Currently, no comprehensive map of user-created routes exists for the CRGNSA. This project fills a critical need by creating a data set that can be used to analyze and map the extent and distribution of unofficial trails.

The purpose of this position description is to provide information reflecting current practices. This position description does not constitute nor create any contractual agreement, rights, or obligations. Successful candidates must be willing to submit to a background & criminal history check. This position description may be amended.