

River Steward – Snake River Canyon

Seasonal Position | In partnership with Friends of the Bridger-Teton & Bridger-Teton National Forest

Reports to: FBT Project Manager (admin); Lead River Ranger (on the ground)

Effective Start Date: Mid-May 2026 (but as late as June 8, 2026)

Employment Classification: Seasonal full-time position (three positions at 30–40 hours/week) and seasonal part-time (one position at less than 30 hours/week)

Working hours: Full-time: 30–40 hours/week; part-time (less than 30 hours/week)

Rate of Pay: \$19.52/hr (GS5); full-time positions include benefits

Benefits for Full-Time Employees: Paid holidays, paid time off (PTO) accrual, and access to medical, dental, and vision insurance; limited USFS housing may be available for non-local staff (not guaranteed).

About the Role

Join a collaborative, boots-on-the-ground team working to protect and steward the Wild and Scenic Snake River Canyon. As a Friends of the Bridger-Teton River Steward, you will work closely with Bridger-Teton National Forest river rangers to support safe, responsible recreation along one of Wyoming's most iconic river corridors.

This is a highly public-facing, outdoor position focused on visitor education, site presence, and day-to-day stewardship of river access sites. River Stewards serve as an important link between visitors, Forest Service staff, and the broader river community.

Key Responsibilities

River Site Management & Visitor Contact

- Conduct daily patrols of river recreation sites, with an emphasis on high-use boat ramps during peak season
- Manage visitor flow at launch sites and provide clear, friendly guidance to reduce congestion and safety concerns
- Serve as a visible, approachable presence along the river corridor

Visitor Education & Outreach

- Educate visitors on river safety, Leave No Trace ethics, new fee structures, and applicable forest regulations
- Answer questions and provide up-to-date information about river conditions, access points, and seasonal considerations

Fee & Data Support

- Maintain self-service fee kiosks and assist visitors with proper use
- Upload daily transactional data and complete basic monitoring reports related to river and facilities use and outfitter activity

Facility & Resource Stewardship

- Maintain river recreation sites by removing trash, performing light landscaping, and ensuring facilities remain clean and functional
- Support protection of natural and cultural resources through observation, reporting, and visitor engagement

On-Water Presence (Optional but Encouraged)

- Float designated sections of the Snake River to make on-water visitor contacts and assist where appropriate
- Provide “eyes on the resource” and reinforce a positive stewardship presence on the river
- River skills can be taught; prior experience is helpful but not required

Information Kiosk Staffing

- Staff the river information kiosk, which is open seven days per week, to provide timely, accurate information to floaters and other river users
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Preferred Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with a passion for public service
 - Ability to engage respectfully with diverse visitors in dynamic, sometimes fast-paced environments
 - Comfort using tablet computers or similar technology for data collection
 - Interest or experience in river recreation (rafting, kayaking, swiftwater safety) is a plus
 - Physical ability to work outdoors in varied weather, stand and walk for extended periods, and lift moderate weight
 - Ability to work independently while collaborating closely with partners and supervisors
 - Demonstrated initiative, problem-solving skills, and good judgment
 - Valid driver’s license
 - First Aid/CPR certification preferred
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What Makes This Role Unique

This position offers the opportunity to work at the intersection of **federal land management and nonprofit partnership**. River Stewards gain hands-on experience in recreation management and environmental education while building professional relationships with both Forest Service staff and nonprofit conservation professionals.

You'll leave this role with:

- Practical experience supporting Wild and Scenic River stewardship
 - Insight into how nonprofits and federal agencies collaborate on public lands
 - Exposure to potential career pathways in natural resources, recreation management, and conservation
 - A strong professional network within the river and public lands community
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Benefits for Full-Time Employees

- Paid holidays
- PTO accrual
- Access to medical, dental, and vision insurance
- Opportunities to develop whitewater rafting and kayaking skills, with regular training in swiftwater rescue, wilderness first aid, and search and rescue.
- Be part of a collaborative team dedicated to protecting and stewarding a unique natural resource.
- Gain hands-on experience in recreation management and environmental education.
- Learn new skills and deepen your understanding of Wild and Scenic River stewardship.
- Build professional relationships and gain exposure to potential career pathways in federal land management.
- Contribute meaningfully to the river community while working in a spectacular outdoor setting.
- Affordable seasonal housing in Jackson, WY (shared housing may apply)
- Training and skill development related to river safety, visitor engagement, and resource protection
- The chance to contribute meaningfully to a special place and its community

Note: Overnight river patrols are not part of regular duties.

Application Process

To apply, please submit the following materials to employment@btfriends.org in an email with the subject line River Steward Application:

- Resume highlighting relevant outdoor or public engagement experience
- Brief cover letter expressing interest and availability for the 2026 summer season
- Three professional or volunteer references

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

About Friends of the Bridger-Teton

Friends of the Bridger-Teton (FBT) is a nonprofit partner supporting stewardship, education, and responsible recreation on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Through partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, FBT works to protect access, promote sustainable recreation, and enhance visitor experiences across the forest.