



## Wilderness Fellowship Program

The Wilderness Stewardship Division of the National Park Service, in cooperation with Everglades National Park and the Intermountain Regional Office, has established an innovative Wilderness Fellowship Program to provide opportunities for students to gain valuable career experience while helping advance stewardship of wilderness resources. Each Wilderness Fellow will spend up to six months in a wilderness park to support the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and associated tasks. Fellows will have the opportunity to take part in training courses, develop inventory and monitoring strategies, produce baseline wilderness character assessments, create public outreach strategies, and gain a deep understanding of NPS culture.

### Meet the 2010 Wilderness Fellows!



*Emily Biesecker*  
Yale University '10

Having completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Management at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Emily is now spending four months at **El Malpais/El Morro** and **Bandelier National Monuments** in New Mexico. Emily's studies are rooted in natural resource management and public and private land conservation. Her research interests have led her across the Northern Rockies, Alaska, and the Philippines. Throughout these research and conservation initiatives, she has also held a wide range of positions, including environmental service-learning trip leader, chair of the Yale Student Environmental Coalition, and director of Student Energy Programs in the University's Office of Sustainability. Upon completion of the Wilderness Fellowship program, Emily plans to work as a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Forest Service National Partnership Office.

Alicia completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Management at Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment and is now spending six months supporting wilderness stewardship efforts at **Everglades National Park**. Alicia completed her Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Notre Dame, during which she participated in field-based projects, data collection, and stream restoration and construction research. Her undergraduate experiences branch from the aquatic-based projects to graduate-level research of wetland restoration and raptor conservation – a project which took her to China to consult water quality issues. During her time at Duke, Alicia served as the Chair of the Society of Wetland Scientists and participated in the 2009 George Wright Society's *Park Break!*. In her free time, she enjoys baking, hiking, and taking pictures.



*Alicia Burtner*  
Duke University '10



*Christina Mills*  
University of North Carolina '10

Christina recently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies with a dual minor in Geography and Spanish at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Christina is now working at **Guadalupe Mountains National Park**, utilizing her background in ecosystem management, GIS, and conservation ecology to assist with data mining, developing a wilderness character assessment, and the writing of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the parks 46,850 acres of designated wilderness. While completing her degree, Christina developed an assessment project of current purchasing policies and created a new sustainable purchasing policy for the town of Chapel Hill. During the 2009 semester, Christina traveled to Botswana to conduct research on community-based natural resource management for the human-lion conflict. In addition to traveling, she also enjoys reading and hiking.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Wilderness Fellows, continued



Monica Patel  
Duke University '10

Monica completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Management at Duke University in May of 2010. For the next six months, she will assist **Buffalo National River** and the Denver Service Center staff, developing the park General Management Plan/Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Monica has volunteered for tsunami-relief efforts in Thailand and worked as a Montessori School educator in the states. Her educational interests followed conservation, natural resource management, and climate change mitigation routes, leading her to work with The Nature Conservancy on a Climate Change Adaptation Project - using geospatial analysis to identify N. Carolina estuarine shorelines vulnerable to erosion. Before her adventure to Buffalo National River, Monica was engaged in a coastal adaptation strategy on Fire Island National Seashore, NY, with the National Park Service. Aside from her career passions, she relishes writing & photography.

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Lisanne graduated in May 2010 with a Masters Degree in Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Lisanne is now spending six months working with the staff of both **Buffalo National River** and the Denver Service Center developing a General Management Plan/Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the park. Prior to her graduate studies, Lisanne completed her Bachelor of Science at Tufts University, focusing on Environmental Studies, Psychology, and Biomedical Engineering Systems. Her international wildlife conservation research has taken her to Costa Rica, Tanzania, the French Alps, and Australia—with her thesis research on jaguar conservation in Southern Belize. She has also taught primary and high school English and Science in the Marshall Islands. In her spare time, Lisanne enjoys singing and playing guitar.



Lisanne Petracca  
Duke University '10



Brian Tarpinian  
Duke University '10

Brian completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Management at Duke University. He is now spending six months at **Lassen Volcanic National Park** in California, assisting with the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Brian earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Earth Sciences from Cornell University. His research focused on the effects of land use on forest trees and ferns and the effects of fish stocking on lake ecology. His research has also included field-based collection, species identification and sorting, and resource organization. During graduate studies at Duke, Brian worked with the Bureau of Land Management, serving as a geospatial data steward and Natural Resource Specialist to improve systematic conservation planning. He instructed a Wilderness Management Course at Duke and participated in the 2010 NPS Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area *Park Break!* In his free time, Brian enjoys hiking, running, and composing music.

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*For additional information, please contact:*

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