Wilderness Stewardship Organizations

Covid Response Strategies

**Potential Volunteer Strategies**

Statewide stay-at-home orders and future limitations on travel will affect the ability of most organizations to plan for the use of volunteers in the near term. Consider the following when planning volunteer engagement:

* Does your volunteer strategy change under a Covid risk? What are the implications to your organization’s liability, health and safety of employees, and the volunteers of potential infections.
* Bringing people to the backcountry from urban areas may potentially increase risks of transmission and spread of infections, with impacts to rural health organizations. Can you make do with more local efforts and with changes to agreements? How do you tap into local workforces and adjust recruiting, training, and project design?
* What are realistic timeframes for ramping up a seasonal workforce given the uncertainty of Covid-19 infection rates? Start-up will be conditioned on a number of items including:
  + Relaxation or the end of State-wide stay at home orders
  + Following future state guidance on employees returning to work for your industry
  + Your organization’s ability to provide protective equipment, a safe work environment, and protocols in place, including a Covid Response Plan, to handle the risk of infections and transmission of the Covid virus.
  + Your local agencies policy on use of volunteers and availability of projects.
* State and local government will make the call on social distancing
  + May require testing
  + May vary area by area because of different infection rates