



Wilderness Fuels Module, Crew Member

June - October 2020

Start and end dates are subject to change

Introduction

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to fuels reduction activities within a designated wilderness area in a National Park unit. Qualified individuals with an interest in active management of forested landscapes for ecosystem resilience, wilderness land management, and/or the use of fire as a tool to promote ecosystem health, are encouraged to apply. Weather permitting, the incumbent will spend five months performing fuels reduction work in Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) to promote future prescribed and/or managed fire activities.

The incumbent will work as a member of a six-person crew, and under the supervision of a Crew Lead, to perform wilderness fuels reduction activities within LVNP. The position will work cooperatively to perform hand thinning, limbing, and bucking of dead and small diameter live material within a 2,400-acre unit in a designated wilderness area. The position will be responsible for rearranging fuels in preparation for future entries, including piling and lopping and scattering. The position will periodically work with youth and young adult crews to accomplish project objectives, and may be asked to assist in supervision and delegation of these crews. Other tasks and duties may be assigned as appropriate to further crew objectives.

Responsibilities

Implementation

The incumbent works as team member to safely fall, buck, and limb live and dead trees using non-mechanized equipment (e.g., crosscut saws, axes, etc.) in undeveloped wilderness areas. Fuels are rearranged, either by piling or lopping and scattering depending upon fuel loading, to facilitate future prescribed fire. The incumbent may be asked to assist in the supervision of, and delegation to, youth and young adult crews assisting with the aforementioned activities.

The incumbent will utilize provided silvicultural prescriptions and/or remove fuels based on designated cut trees, depending upon the complexity of the location. The incumbent will be expected to recognize tree species, defects, and environmental hazards in executing the prescription and cut tree mark, calling attention to unnecessary risks and flagging hazard trees for future removal using mechanized equipment.

The incumbent will assist as needed in the construction of fire line to facilitate future entries. This may entail the removal of brush, exposure of mineral soil, and additional tree falling to meet fuel reduction objectives.

In all work, the incumbent is expected to uphold the ethics of wilderness land management, working to minimize the visual and ecological impacts of human intervention and practicing Leave No Trace principles. Training will be provided to inform decision making in the wilderness in line with the 1964 Wilderness Act and for adherence to minimum visual retention standards in the USFS Scenery Management System.

Operations and Safety

The work required of the incumbent involves objective hazards. The incumbent is expected to practice situational awareness, directly addressing and/or raising safety concerns as they arise. Training will be provided to ensure the incumbent's ability to safely execute job functions.

The incumbent will assist in equipment management, including tool repair and maintenance.

Qualifications

Required

- Formalized training and/or experience falling trees by mechanized and/or non-mechanized means, and ability to produce relevant certification(s);
- Minimum of two years' combined field experience in forest or other natural resource management, this may include but is not limited to biological research and survey work, land conservation, wildland fire, etc.;
- Ability to perform physically taxing work in all weather conditions in rugged mountainous environments;
- Minimum two-year degree from an accredited college or university; will consider equivalent work experience as a substitute for education component.
- Interest in, or familiarity with, principles of wilderness land management;
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation.

Preferred

- Current wilderness medical training certification (e.g., WFA, WFR, WEMT);
- Leave No Trace or other backcountry ethics training;
- Interest in, or familiarity with, forested ecosystems of the southern Cascades;
- Experience with tree falling, and/or certification as Faller 3, Faller 2, or Faller 1;
- Certification in S-212 (Federal Wildland Chainsaws).

Physical Requirements

The incumbent will be expected to walk 4-8 miles per day with a field pack, ample water, and tools over rough terrain and in variable weather conditions, which will likely include high temperatures in the summer months. Strenuous and repetitive physical effort will be associated with fuels reduction activities, including the use of a crosscut saw and rearrangement of fuels.

While working, the incumbent will be provided an opportunity to camp for multiple nights in a developed campsite within Lassen Volcanic NP.

Compensation

Compensation is \$20 per hour for a minimum 16 weeks, with likely extension to 20 weeks. Weather and fire permitting. Benefits are not available for this position. The incumbent will be required to pass an agency background check in order to access park vehicles.

Necessary training will be provided, including one week crosscut saw safety and use (falling, limbing, and bucking) and basic first aid.

How to Apply

Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Wilderness Fuels Module Crew Member” in the subject line. Position is open until filled, review of applications will begin **ASAP**. Please call (530) 284-1022 with questions or contact our Stewardship Project Coordinator, Danielle Berry, at dberry@sierrainstitute.us.