



Wilderness Fuels Module Swamper, Crew Member Apprentice

May – October, 2021

Start and end dates are subject to change

Introduction

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) in collaboration with Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) are providing 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, crew members will spend approximately 18 weeks performing fuels reduction work to promote future prescribed and/or managed fire activities.

The WFM Swamper Crew Member Apprentice will work as a member of a six-person crew, and under the supervision of a Crew Lead and a Wilderness Fuels Module Sawyer crew, to perform wilderness fuels reduction activities within LVNP. The position will work cooperatively to learn how to safely perform hand thinning, limbing, low-stumping, and buckling 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 to accomplish project objectives. Other tasks and duties, including but not limited to mechanical hand thinning using chainsaws, may be assigned as appropriate to advance forest restoration objectives in Plumas County.

Responsibilities

Implementation

Crew members will be provided on the job training to work as a team to safely 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. Crew members may be asked to assist in the supervision of, and delegation to, youth crews assisting with the aforementioned activities.

The Crew Member Apprentice will be provided on-the-job training to assist as directed in the construction of fire line to facilitate future entries. This may entail the removal of brush, and exposure of mineral soil to meet fuel reduction objectives.

In all work, crew members are 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 crew members involves objective hazards. Crew members are expected to practice situational awareness, directly addressing and/or raising safety concerns as they arise. Training will be provided to ensure ability to safely execute job functions.



The Crew Member Apprentice will receive extensive on the job training on crosscut saw use and will assist in equipment management, including tool repair and maintenance.

Qualifications

Required

- Minimum of 2 months 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;
- Interest in, or familiarity with, principles of wilderness land management;
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation.

Preferred

- Leave No Trace or other backcountry ethics training;
- Interest in, or familiarity with, forested ecosystems of the southern Cascades;
- Interest in and/or experience tree bucking using mechanized or non-mechanized equipment

Physical Requirements

Crew members will be expected to walk 4-8 miles per day with a weighted 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, crew members will be provided an opportunity to camp for multiple nights in a developed campsite within Lassen Volcanic NP.

Compensation

Compensation is \$14.50 per hour for a minimum 18 weeks, weather and fire permitting. There may be potential to extend the season dependent on the acquisition of additional projects aimed at advancing forest restoration objectives in Plumas County.

The Sierra Institute offers a competitive benefits package for field staff including paid sick leave, paid holidays, and a fixed number of paid climate leave days according to time employed to cover extreme weather and environmental events that prohibit an employee's ability to work safely. Health benefits through Sierra Institute are not available for this position, but may be obtained through Covered California (<https://www.coveredca.com>). Necessary training will be provided, including crosscut saw safety and use (limbing, and bucking).

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 - Swamper Crew Member Apprentice" in the subject line. Review of applications and interviews will begin March 10th, 2021 and will be conducted on a rolling basis. Positions are open until filled.



Questions or for more Information

Please direct any questions to Danielle Berry, Stewardship Project Manager via email jobs@sierrainstitute.us or by phone (530) 284-1022.