



Wood Utilization Project Specialist

***Position is open until filled, with review of applications beginning on December 17, 2021.
Anticipated start date is early January 2022.***

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment's Wood Utilization Project Specialist will have primary responsibility for advancing the organization's wood product campus at Crescent Mills, and will support the organization's work to improve forest health and community well-being by serving a critical bridge function from the organization's landscape management to rural community development projects. This is an exciting opportunity to lead development of an innovative wood product campus that is a cornerstone of landscape restoration and community revitalization efforts following the 2021 Dixie Fire. *This is a potential multiyear position with long-term growth potential for increased project responsibilities, and potential for assuming increased staff leadership responsibilities.*

Key responsibilities for this position will include: Identification and recruitment of wood utilization businesses, potentially including biomass-to-hydrogen, biomass-to-electricity, cross-laminated timber production, as well as traditional small-diameter wood products such as post and pole, firewood, etc.; and the development of non-traditional public-private partnerships to support the acceleration of innovative business models; and cooperative marketing. Complete knowledge of all systems and products is not expected, but a desire to learn and advance innovative work is essential. The position requires an individual capable of handling a dynamic set of responsibilities with diverse skill sets required to move projects from the conceptual phase through implementation.

The Sierra Institute's Wood Utilization program focuses on rebuilding rural economies by turning low value wood into high value products that facilitate forest restoration while creating reliable living-wage jobs for rural residents. The Project Specialist is expected to participate in all aspects of the organization's Wood Utilization program, operating with significant

independence under the supervision of the Executive Director. The Wood Utilization Project Specialist must be capable of handling internal and external coordination among staff and partners, serving in a leadership role at times, overseeing diverse activities from business partnership development to supply contracting, and will be required to balance a variety of project work. The Sierra Institute's work is highly collaborative, requiring a willingness and commitment to working closely with other staff and external partners to advance this work. Positioned at the intersection of numerous organizational efforts, the position will work closely with key leadership staff, including the Stewardship Project Specialist, Rural Development Program Manager, and Operations Manager.

The Project Specialist will be expected to play a key role in building and maintaining strong relationships with partners, and the position may require supervision of full-time employees and/or contractors. This position works primarily indoors in an office setting, and is required to work at a computer for the majority of each day. Field work may occur, particularly during the summer and fall seasons. Some travel for meetings, site visits, and workshops is expected (up to 20%), with occasional overnight stays (generally less than 1 night per month). Work will fall primarily within the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM Monday-Friday, though some variation is expected to accommodate field work and other needs.

More Details

About the Sierra Institute: The [Sierra Institute](#) promotes healthy forests, watersheds, and communities by investing in the well-being of rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource management. Our work is grounded by the concept of triple bottom line values, supporting initiatives that simultaneously benefit the environment, economy, and equity within a given landscape. Sierra Institute strives to cultivate innovative projects through a collaborative-minded office culture—staff often work on interdisciplinary projects both internally and with external partners. Sierra Institute staff must be adaptable, finding their roles must expand to fit the needs of specific projects and partnerships. The diversity of our work provides an opportunity to think critically about how communities engage with natural resource management, from workshops to assess community capacity to field trips with high school students to marking timber. Staff routinely draw on the expertise and background of others to improve our collective work, and the Workforce Coordinator should expect to be an integral member of this team. In addition, Sierra Institute supports a flexible work schedule and a close-knit staff that provide a welcoming sense of community.

Location: Sierra Institute is located in Taylorsville, CA (pop. 154) and lies within a large mountain meadow referred to as “Indian Valley,” that includes the communities of Greenville and Crescent Mills. Taylorsville is an historic small town, with a long history dating back to the construction of the first flour mill in the Pacific Northwest in 1856. Downtown Taylorsville is home to two historic establishments, the Taylorsville Tavern, a favorite watering hole for loggers, and Young’s Market, a revitalized country store and sandwich shop that first opened its doors in 1862 that is – debatably – home to the oldest working cash register in the nation manufactured in 1914. The community of Taylorsville has long been a blend of long-time residents, ranchers, loggers, and newcomers drawn to the area for its beauty. Taylorsville offers unique, rural community events that bring the community together, such as the Silver Buckle Rodeo held over the 4th of July, the Holiday Light Parade the Saturday after Thanksgiving; and New Year’s Eve fireworks in the fields across from the Tavern. Taylorsville is surrounded by many outdoor recreation opportunities such as Lake Almanor, Plumas and Lassen National Forests, and Lassen Volcanic National Park. These adjacent public lands feature untouched backcountry routes in winter, and endless, empty dirt roads to explore in summer. Adventure lies just out the back door of the office!

Compensation: The wage for this position will be commensurate with experience. The Sierra Institute maintains a competitive benefits package, including health and dental benefits. Retirement benefits accrue after the first year. The incumbent is also eligible for paid holiday, vacation, and sick leave consistent with Sierra Institute's benefits package.

COVID 19: We are following COVID -19 safety protocols informed by the latest research and evidence. The position will involve in person work in Taylorsville and surrounding regions. However, at times, and based on regional rates of COVID 19 we may move to remote work, or hybrid in person/at home work. This will depend on programmatic needs, as well as local, state and federal public health guidelines.

How to Apply: Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with "Wood Utilization Project Specialist " in the subject line. Please call (530) 284-1022 with questions.

Help Us Promote Healthy Forests and
Vibrant Rural Communities.