



Collaborative Forestry and Youth Stewardship Apprenticeship

January – June 2022 (with possible extension)

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) is looking for one motivated individual to fill the position of Collaborative Forestry and Youth Stewardship Apprentice. The selected applicant will work at the intersection of community and natural resources on collaborative forest and watershed restoration, as well as supporting youth involvement in this work. The position duties will be tailored to the individual interests and skills of the selected applicant, and may include outreach and capacity-building work to promote resilient forest ecosystems and rural communities, support for implementation of forest restoration, and support of youth engagement programming to develop the next generation of stewards. The apprentice will join a talented team of natural resource and rural development professionals dedicated to landscape restoration and community well-being in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades, and will have the opportunity to work closely with diverse partners and land managers in a highly collaborative environment. Apprenticeships will last a minimum of six months, and may be extended up to nine months by mutual agreement. **Applications are due by December 20th, with an anticipated start date of January 2022.**

Job Duties: The selected candidate will have the opportunity to advance their knowledge and professional skills while contributing to meaningful outcomes for rural communities and landscapes through involvement with a suite of Sierra Institute projects. Project areas described below provide an overview of the core efforts the selected apprentice will contribute to. These are meant to provide a general understanding of the position, and may not capture all responsibilities.

Collaborative Restoration Planning and Implementation (~75%): The Sierra Institute in partnership with the South Lassen Watersheds Group, a collaborative group planning for the future of forest management, climate resilience, and economic development in critical upper watersheds, to accelerate restoration across an 850,000-acre landscape. Active projects include large landscape restoration planning on a 150,000 acre multi-jurisdictional restoration project, planning for reintroduction of prescribed fire in a recommended Research Natural Area, implementation of fuels management in preparation for prescribed fire in wilderness areas, and integrated forest-meadow-stream restoration across several project areas. Potential responsibilities include: conducting background research for large-landscape, cross-boundary planning, supporting landowner outreach and engagement, post-fire recovery and restoration planning, and implementation of forest restoration. The apprentice may also be asked to engage in an array of field activities including natural resource monitoring and inventory, project preparation work, and implementation of forest and watershed restoration on public and private lands. The apprentice's primary responsibilities will be tailored to individual interests and abilities.

Youth Stewardship (~15%): Sierra Institute's flagship youth stewardship program, P-CREW, is an immersive experiential work opportunity on northern California's public lands for youth from rural and urban areas. Participants forge unexpectedly strong friendships, develop leadership and job skills, explore diverse and wild forests, all while building pride and confidence in themselves through social and emotional learning. The selected apprentice will help Sierra Institute's P-CREW staff prepare for the 2022 season, including updating systems for tracking crew project accomplishments, supporting the recruitment process, and developing natural resource education materials.

General Organizational Support (~10%): As a member of Sierra Institute's professional staff, the apprentice will contribute to the organization's overall pursuit of its mission. Responsibilities may include participating on field trips with youth, assisting with administrative duties in the main office, or other organizational support activities.

Qualifications

Required

- An undergraduate or advanced degree in forestry, wildlife, hydrology, or related natural resources field;
- Basic understanding of land management policies, and natural resource issues such as wildfire forestry, and ecological restoration;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and ESRI ArcGIS;
- A desire to work and live in a rural, mountainous area that receives snow and ice in winter, and may experience wildfires and/or periods of wildfire smoke in summer;
- A team-oriented perspective with a productive level of self-guidance and initiative;
- An ability to bring critical thinking skills, creativity, and laughter to the workplace;
- A personal vehicle for transportation outside of work;
- A strong interest to learn about rural issues and engage with rural communities.

Preferred

- Demonstrated knowledge of collaborative resource management and community involvement;
- Experience with technical field forestry activities, such as forest inventory, timber sale preparation and administration;
- Experience conducting resource surveys independently and as part of a group (e.g., common stand exams, wildlife surveys, water resource surveys)
- Demonstrated ability and effectiveness in working with youth in a natural resource setting.
- Interest in post-fire forest restoration

Please note these qualifications are what we believe is necessary to ensure the selected applicant is successful in this position, however we encourage all who are interested to apply and highlight how their experience and background will make them successful.



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 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 applicants should expect to be an integral member of this team. In addition, Sierra Institute supports a flexible work schedule that encourages employees to take advantage of our location by getting out to exercise in the sunshine mid-day. A close-knit staff will provide a welcoming sense of community to ease the transition to our rural county.

Location: Sierra Institute is located in Taylorsville, CA (pop. 154) and lies within a large mountain meadow referred to as “Indian Valley”, which includes the communities of Greenville and Crescent Mills. Taylorsville is an historic small town, with a long history dating back to the construction of 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. Adventures lie just out the back door of the office. The Dixie Fire burned nearly a million acres in 2021, with lasting impacts on local communities and the landscape, however, beauty is still abundant in both burned and unburned areas.

Compensation: The apprentice will receive approximately \$2,000/month, plus shared housing and the option to participate in the organization’s health insurance benefits. The Sierra Institute will provide fully furnished, utilities-paid accommodation within a 15 minute drive of the Sierra Institute office.

How to Apply

Please send your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references as **one pdf** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Collaborative Forest Management Apprenticeship Spring 2022” in the subject line. Please include where you heard about the job in the text of the email (please be as specific as possible). **Review of applications will begin immediately, applications due by December 20th, 2021.** Please email us at admin@sierrainstitute.us if you have questions.