



Wilderness Trail Crew, Crew Leader
April/May - October 2022

Start and end dates are subject to change.

Employment term accommodations may be made for applicants with school or other obligations.

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) in collaboration with Lassen National Forest (LNF) is hiring one crew member to serve as Crew Leader for a unique opportunity to contribute to forest restoration and improvement of backcountry recreation infrastructure within designated national forest and wilderness areas of the LNF. Qualified individuals with an interest in wilderness management, trail work, and the active management of ecosystem services are encouraged to apply. The Wilderness Trail Crew, consisting of a Crew Leader, four Crew Members, and a Crew Member Apprentice will spend the season performing a variety of trail maintenance projects in wilderness and non-wilderness areas of the LNF Almanor Ranger District. Work will include benching of trails, maintenance of water bars, brush clearing, and clearing of downed logs and hazard trees. Work will primarily be completed using hand tools and non-mechanized equipment such as crosscut saws. The Crew may also assist as necessary other activities to advance landscape restoration in the region.

The Wilderness Trail Crew Leader will serve as the field supervisor of the Crew performing trail restoration activities within the Almanor Ranger District of the LNF. The position will lead a crew working cooperatively to learn how to safely perform trail maintenance, hand thinning, limbing, low-stumping, and bucking of dead and small diameter trees. The position will be responsible for leading the crew in re-establishing and maintaining access to designated trails in order to increase accessibility to public lands within the LNF including diverse wilderness landscapes.

Additional crew tasks may also include rearranging fuels in preparation for prescribed fire or managed wildfire, including piling and lopping and scattering. The Crew Leader will be expected to facilitate positive engagement between the Crew and youth as the Crew may periodically work alongside local youth corps to accomplish project objectives.

As some work will be conducted in designated wilderness areas, the Crew Leader is expected to lead by example and ensure all crew members 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 wilderness in line with the 1964 Wilderness Act and for adherence to minimum visual retention standards in the USFS Scenery Management System.

The work required of the crew involves objective hazards. The Crew Leader is expected to serve as a role model and lead the crew in practicing 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 Leader will receive training on crosscut saw use and will assist in and delegate tasks for equipment management, including tool repair and maintenance. The Crew Leader will also provide training in the aforementioned skills to the crew.



Qualifications

Required

- Minimum of 2-years combined field experience in forest or other natural resource management, this may include but is not limited to corps work, wildland fire, research and survey work within the environmental field, land conservation, etc.
- Minimum 6 months leading a field crew in carrying out trail maintenance and other forest restoration tasks
- Knowledge and technical skills needed to conduct trail maintenance activities.
- Ability to educate and train crew members in skills needed to safely and successfully complete trail maintenance projects.
- Ability to hike 4-8 miles a day with a weighted field pack, ample water, and tools.
- Ability to perform physically taxing work in all weather conditions in rugged mountainous environments.
- Experience with crosscut saws.
- Experience working in backcountry remote settings.
- Interest in, or familiarity with, principles of wilderness land management
- Ability to provide a clean driving record
- Ability to pass a federal background check
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation.
- Ability to safely drive a vehicle while towing a utility trailer on dirt and gravel roads
- Current wilderness medical training certification (e.g., WFA, WFR, WEMT); CPR
- Full COVID vaccination status (vaccinated and boosted)

Preferred

- Certification in S-212 (Federal Wildland Chainsaws)
- Leave No Trace or other backcountry ethics training;
- Interest in, or familiarity with, forested ecosystems of the Northern Sierra;
- Experience with forest restoration and/or fuels management using mechanized or non-mechanized equipment

Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Skills or experiences that can fill in for desired qualifications may be considered.

Compensation

Compensation is \$19.00 per hour for approximately 4 months weather and fire permitting. Health benefits through Sierra Institute are not available for this position, but may be obtained through Covered California (<http://www.coveredca.com/>). Field staff will be provided monthly sick time, paid holidays, and a set number of paid wildfire mitigation leave. Paid wildfire mitigation leave is intended to mitigate work days impacted by wildfire and smoke.

Necessary training will be provided, including crosscut saw safety and use (limbing, and bucking), as well as defensive driving in order to operate federal vehicles.

While working, the crew will be provided an opportunity to camp for multiple nights within various locations on the Lassen National Forest including the diverse wilderness areas of the Ishi Wilderness and Caribou Wilderness. Housing is not provided on off days.

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Promoting healthy and sustainable forests and watersheds by investing in the well-being of rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource decision-making and programs.



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 supports initiatives that simultaneously benefit the environment, economy, and equity within a given landscape. Sierra Institute is located in Taylorsville, CA (population 154), and lies within an area referred to as “Indian Valley” that includes the communities of Greenville and Crescent Mills. Indian Valley offers uniquely rural community events and is surrounded by public lands including Plumas and Lassen National Forests.

How to Apply

Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Wilderness Trail Crew - Crew Leader” in the subject line. Please include where you heard about the job in the text of the email (please be as specific as possible). Position is open until filled, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please call 530.284.1022 or email jobs@sierrainstitute.us if you have questions.