



Botany Technician: Invasive Plant Management Apprentice

May-August 2022

Start and end dates are subject to change

Position Overview

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, in cooperation with Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO), is hiring two Botany Technicians to apprentice with and assist the Lassen Volcanic NP Invasive Plant Management Lead in all tasks associated with non-native plant control in the park. The work will include specific directed control operations, surveys for invasive plants, restoration of disturbed areas, seeding and seed collection, and preparing additional sites for restoration. Control will be done using both manual and chemical control techniques. This position will include the spraying of herbicide. The applicant should be capable of hiking up to six miles daily while carrying a pack weighing up to forty pounds. The position is a field position and will get to visit a large area of the park and includes work in some of the most sensitive and beautiful areas.

This is a great opportunity to learn the plants of the southern Cascades and northern Sierra Nevada, as well as brush up on plant identification skills using dichotomous keys. There will be opportunities to join other resource management crews and gain experience in numerous other tasks. This position is part of an exciting partnership between Sierra Institute for Community and Environment and Lassen Volcanic NP to complete a variety of important restoration planning and implementation activities in the National Park.

Responsibilities

Implementation

The incumbent works as team member to safely apply herbicide, utilize mechanical and non-mechanical control methods for a range of invasive plant species to perform fundamental vegetation management tasks to preserve and protect native plant communities. Invasive plant management is essential to all native plant conservation and this project will provide an incredible opportunity for the incumbent to gain critical skills that may lead to future work in national parks throughout the western US. The position is considered a developmental opportunity and will train the individual in proven and common methods of invasive plant control as well as provide additional training in systematic botany and plant identification.

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

- Minimum of a high school diploma; preferred college or community college

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- experience; must be 18 to apply;
- Demonstrated interest 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 (i.e hike 5+ miles a day with a 30lb pack);
- Knowledgeable and proficient in backcountry travel;
- Sufficient equipment to perform the work, including sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for a range of environments;
- Good communication skills to effectively interact with the public and co-workers;
- Interest in, or familiarity with, principles of vegetation management, botany, or invasive plant biology;
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation;

Preferred

- Bachelor's degree
- Knowledge of, or familiarity with botany and plant identification in California or other western states;
- Any 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;

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.

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 invasive plant management, botanical surveys, and long days of hiking in beautiful places.

Compensation

Compensation is \$17.00 per hour for a minimum of 16 weeks (with potential to extend), weather and fire permitting. Housing in Mineral, CA at the Lassen Volcanic NP headquarters will be offered at a reduced rate. Housing includes a room of one's own and shared bathroom and kitchen facilities in a limited occupancy house.

The Sierra Institute offers a competitive benefits package for field staff including paid sick leave, paid holidays, and a fixed number of paid wildfire and smoke mitigation 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>). All necessary training will be provided, including herbicide safety 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 "Botany Technician – Invasive Plant Management Apprentice" in the subject line.

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Application review and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. Position is open until filled.

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