



Position Announcement Wilderness Trail Crew, Crew Member

Location: Taylorsville, CA - with project work on the Lassen National Forest Almanor Ranger District

Season Dates: April/May to Oct (*season dependent on weather conditions; start/end dates may be flexible for those with scheduling conflicts*)

Compensation: \$17-\$20/hr (commensurate with experience)

Benefits: paid sick, holiday, and wildfire mitigation leave

Training: FS Chainsaw, FS Crosscut bucking, and Wilderness First Aid.

Position Description

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) in collaboration with Lassen National Forest (LNF) is hiring five candidates to serve as Crew Members 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 trail work, wilderness management, and the active management of ecosystem services are encouraged to apply. The Wilderness Trail Crew, consisting of a Crew Leader and five Crew Members, 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 tread and drainage, brushing, log outs, and hazard tree removal. Work will be completed using hand tools, crosscut saws, and chainsaws. Project work will require backcountry spike camping. Work schedule will be four ten hour days with three days off or eight ten hour days with six days off based on project requirements. The Crew may also assist as necessary with other activities to advance landscape restoration in the region.

The Wilderness Trail Crew Members will work under the direction of a Wilderness Trail Crew Lead, Sierra Institute support staff, and Forest Service project partners to carry out various trail maintenance and restoration activities within the Almanor Ranger District of the LNF. The position will work cooperatively to re-establish and maintain access to designated trails in order to increase accessibility to public lands within the LNF including diverse wilderness landscapes. One of the primary project areas is the Ishi Wilderness; a 41,000 acre Wilderness area composed of rugged river canyons dotted with basaltic outcroppings, caves, and unique pillar lava formations. In all work, the Wilderness Trail Crew will be expected to work collaboratively to complete project goals while also mitigating risks that may arise.

As some work will be conducted in designated Wilderness areas, the crew is expected to follow and work by the protocols 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.

Qualifications

Required

- Minimum of 6-months combined field experience in trails, 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;
- Knowledge and technical skills needed to conduct trail maintenance activities;

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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.

- Experience using hand tools and chainsaws to complete resource management tasks;
- 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 working and living 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 4x4 vehicle while towing a utility trailer on dirt and gravel roads;
- An ability to bring adaptability and improvisation, critical thinking skills, creativity, and humor to the workplace;
- Ability to be punctual, diligent, and thorough in their work and support a similarly strong work ethic amongst crew members;
- Full COVID vaccination status (vaccinated and boosted).

Preferred

- Chainsaw Certification (MTDC or S-212);
- Experience with crosscut saws;
- 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;
- Current first aid or wilderness medical training certification (e.g., WFA, WFR, WEMT).

Skills or experiences that can fill in for qualifications will be considered.

We invite all interested parties to apply including those belonging to Tribal communities, women, POC, and LGBTQ+ persons.

Compensation

Compensation is \$17 - \$20 per hour commensurate with experience. 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 both chainsaw and crosscut saw safety and use (limbing, and bucking), as well as wilderness first aid.

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. Housing is not provided on off days.



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 Member” 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.