



Collaborative Forestry Apprenticeship

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) is looking for one motivated individual to fill the position of Collaborative Forestry Apprentice. The selected applicant will work at the intersection of community and natural resources on collaborative forest and watershed restoration. Work will include applied research, collaborative facilitation, and capacity-building work to promote resilient forest ecosystems and rural communities. Sierra Institute has been a leader in facilitating collaborative resource management processes for the last thirty years. This is an exciting opportunity to join a team of experienced facilitators, as well as working day-to-day with natural resource professionals and community development experts. Apprenticeships will last a minimum of nine months, with the potential for a transition to full-time, regular employment. **Review of applications will begin on March 20, 2023, with an anticipated start date of late May/June.**

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 Natural Resource Management (~60%): Sierra Institute is actively engaged with a number of collaboratives working to advance landscape scale, cross-boundary forest restoration while improving local socioeconomic conditions. The apprentice will support Sierra Institute's work with existing collaboratives, including the South Lassen Watersheds Group and the Burney Hat Creek Community Forest and Watersheds Group. In addition, the apprentice will play a key role in emerging work focused on working directly with communities to plan and implement forest restoration on private lands. This work is a critical element of our large landscape work with public land management agencies, and builds on the foundational work of informal community groups like the Taylorsville Firewise Committee and the Friends of Warner Valley to ground restoration in community values. Sierra Institute is currently partnered with Friends of Warner Valley, which represents a group of private landowners in Warner Valley, CA, to build a management plan for the watershed. Warner Valley is a multijurisdictional landscape that includes Lassen National Forest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and both industrial and non-industrial private lands. Since the 2021 Dixie Fire, which heavily impacted the Warner Valley area, Friends of Warner Valley is interested in convening relevant land managers to build a cohesive land management plan for the area. This plan would provide a pathway forward for unified land management that would enhance forest health, restore the meadow system, enhance recreation opportunities, protect wildlife, and more. Apprentice duties related to this work may include collecting information on the Warner Valley area, researching forest and watershed management, coordinating meetings and workshops for diverse stakeholders, and developing a natural resource management plan with local landowners, agencies, and industry.

Collaborative Restoration Planning and Implementation (~30%): 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 a million-acre landscape. In support of this work, the apprentice will work with staff on numerous projects. Active projects include large landscape restoration planning on two ~170,000 acre multi-jurisdictional restoration projects, as well as advancing implementation of fuels management in preparation for prescribed fire in wilderness areas, and integrated forest-meadow-stream restoration across several project areas. Activities may include,



but are not limited to, providing planning process support, conducting background research for environmental planning, and engaging in an array of field activities including forest monitoring and inventory, project preparation work, and implementation of fuels reduction and forest restoration on public and private lands.

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 in 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 the social science, natural resources or related field;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Basic understanding of land management policies, and natural resource issues such as wildfire forestry, and ecological restoration;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel);
- A willingness to work and live in a rural, mountainous area that receives snow and ice in winter;
- 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;
- Experience living and/or working in a rural setting and a strong desire to learn about rural issues.

Preferred

- Demonstrated knowledge of collaborative resource management and community involvement;
- Experience with qualitative and/or quantitative social science research methods;
- In-depth experience conducting community surveys and/or stakeholder interviews;
- Experience with online surveys, webinars, website management, and/or utilizing other computer software programs;
- Experience using ESRI ArcGIS.

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 Sierra Institute: 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 that lie just out the back door of the office.

Compensation: The apprentice will receive \$16.50/Hour, 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.

How to Apply

Please send your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references as **one pdf** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Collaborative Forestry Apprenticeship” 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 on **March 20, 2023**. Please email Bella Bledsoe at ibledsoe@sierrainstitute.us if you have questions.