



Forest Ecologist

Anticipated start date in June/July;

Review of applications will begin on May 29th

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment seeks a qualified individual to fill the position(s) of Forest Ecologist to plan, implement, and evaluate forest restoration projects in the Northern Sierra and Southern Cascades. The selected individual will work closely with Sierra Institute staff, non-governmental partners, and federal land management agencies to advance multiple large landscape restoration projects to improve forest resilience across critical watersheds, as well as support post-fire restoration in the Dixie Fire footprint. This is a tremendous opportunity for a talented natural resource professional who is excited to join a growing partnership effort to expand capacity for scaling up restoration to meet the current forest and fire challenges.

The Forest Ecologist will be responsible for playing a key role throughout the life cycle of projects. During the planning phase, the individual will be expected to contribute to developing proposed actions, collect and analyze field and/or remote sensing data, and analyze potential effects of fuel reduction and forest health activities as an integral member of mixed partner-federal interdisciplinary teams (with potential to serve as lead). The individual will also be responsible for supporting implementation of projects following completion of environmental compliance, including through contract development and administration. As implementation is completed, the individual will have responsibility for evaluating and assessing treatment outcomes to ensure that restoration objectives are met as part of fulfilling an implementation and adaptive management plan.

Current work activities are centered on a 1 million acre focal landscape for the South Lassen Watersheds Group, a collaborative planning effort involving forest and watershed management, climate resilience, and economic development in critical upper watersheds of the North Fork of the Feather River, and Mill and Deer Creeks. The individual will primarily be focused on public lands restoration, but will be expected to support collaborative all-lands work as needed.

The Forest Ecologist is expected to participate in a variety of aspects of the Collaborative Forestry Program, and will work closely with numerous Sierra Institute staff as well as with external partners. This position is funded for an initial two-year term, and has long-term growth potential for increased project responsibilities. Sierra Institute offers a competitive wage and benefits package.

This position works both indoors in an office setting and in the field to collect data, oversee contracts, and complete monitoring activities. Some travel for meetings, site visits, and workshops is expected, with occasional overnight stays. Work will fall primarily within the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM Monday-Friday, though some variation is expected to accommodate field work and other needs.

Qualifications

Required

- An undergraduate degree and three years of work experience, or graduate degree in related field (ecology, biology, natural resources, forestry, etc.);
- Experience performing forestry fieldwork;
- Demonstrated experience with technical writing for natural resource management;
- Thorough understanding of NEPA requirements and processes;
- Ability to meet deadlines both independently and as a team member;
- Detail-oriented, organized, and able to work well on simultaneous tasks;
- Competent at taking detailed project notes;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation;
- A strong desire to engage in land management issues and collaborative landscape management projects.

Preferred

- Prior professional and/or survey experience in Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forests and/or Wildland Urban Interface forest management;
- Direct experience drafting or contributing to the development of NEPA documentation.
- Experience working in post-fire forested environments

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.

Location

A hybrid work arrangement may be negotiated, however the Forest Ecologist will be expected to reside within reasonable commuting distance of the Sierra Institute's office in the rural northern Sierra town of Taylorsville to enable regular engagement in the field with the organization's range of landscape restoration projects.

Taylorsville, CA (pop. 154) lies within a large mountain meadow referred to as "Indian Valley," that includes the communities of Greenville and Crescent Mills. Taylorsville is an historic small town, with a long history dating back to the construction of the 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 locals; 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. Taylorsville is a blended community of long-time residents, ranchers, loggers, and newcomers, drawn to the area for its scenic beauty and cultural richness. 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. Although much of the forest was burned in the 2021 Dixie Fire, many areas remain accessible and beautiful. These adjacent public lands feature backcountry routes in winter, and endless, empty dirt roads

to explore in summer. Adventure lies just out the back door of the office!

Compensation

Anticipated starting salary range \$55,000 - \$75,000, commensurate with experience. The Sierra Institute maintains an extensive benefits package, including health and dental benefits.

Retirement benefits will accrue after the first year, should the position be extended. This position will also be eligible for paid holiday, vacation, and sick leave consistent with Sierra Institute's organizational policies.

How to Apply

Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with "Forest Ecologist" in the subject line. Position is open until filled, review of applications will begin on **May 29th, 2023**. Please call (530) 284-1022 with questions.