



Position Announcement Stewardship Specialist

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) is looking for a **Stewardship Specialist** to support the Sierra Institute's wilderness trails crew through: conducting operational and logistical activities – before, during, and after the field season; providing crew training; and engaging in other field crew support needs as identified. This position will also be responsible for overseeing forest restoration contracts (e.g., hand-thinning) by conducting project inspections, providing guidance to contractors, and monitoring project progress. Additional opportunities for this position to contribute to Sierra Institute's restoration initiatives may be available in alignment in the individual's skills and interest (e.g., field surveys, ArcGIS, technical report writing, etc.). This is an exciting opportunity to support innovative stewardship in some of our wildest places! **Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Position is open until filled.**

This position will entail significant fieldwork, as well as office-based project planning, coordination, and reporting responsibilities. During the field season, this position would be expected to work primarily in the field, with office days interspersed as needed. While in the field, the Stewardship Specialist will be expected to work alongside crews and stay overnight at project sites (oftentimes in the backcountry). Outside of the field season this position will work predominantly from the office with sporadic field work to assess project sites or attend meetings. During the field season, work will fall primarily within the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM Monday-Thursday, though the field season work schedule will require flexibility to accommodate supporting crews, field work and other needs. An alternate schedule may be adopted during the off season upon mutual agreement.

The Stewardship Specialist reports to the Stewardship Project Manager and may assist in the supervision of up to 6 seasonal staff members. The position requires an individual with the technical knowledge to advise crews, leadership skills to motivate, and a collaborative spirit to work effectively with Sierra Institute staff and partners. Additional duties include overseeing restoration contract work and serving as a liaison between contractors and the Collaborative Forestry Team. This position will collaborate with other Sierra Institute staff including: the P-CREW Youth Corps Coordinator to provide opportunities for youth to work alongside professional crews and other staff to support training, forest health, fire management, and developed recreation projects.

The selected applicant will have the opportunity to grow and develop as a Stewardship Specialist under the guidance of, and with support from, an existing management team with extensive experience and training in natural resource management as well as restoration crew deployment and management.

Once established, the Specialist will be expected to work with the Stewardship Project Manager to identify and develop additional opportunities that increase the pace and scale of landscape restoration, with a particular emphasis on expanding Sierra Institute's implementation workforce.

Qualifications

- Minimum of one to three years of experience leading and coordinating field crews such as trails, and fuels management; or comparable work or professional education experience;
- Strong ability and willingness to mentor staff and manage crew dynamics;
- Ability to create a culture of safety, feedback, and continuous improvement within crews;
- Ability to live and work in wilderness backcountry settings;
- Experience with hand and power tool use and maintenance (chainsaws, crosscut saws, brush cutters, loppers, axes, mc leods, and other hand tools);
- Ability to lead and/or coordinate training (safety, tool use/maintenance, field skills, leadership/crew dynamics, working in the backcountry, Leave No Trace);
- Ability or willingness to learn how to oversee contracted restoration work and support project advancement;
- Ability to manage tool and gear maintenance, organization and procurement;
- Proficiency in mapping/navigation and satellite communication systems;
- Strong communication skills and ability to collaborate with federal, state, contractors, and other partners;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel);
- Basic understanding of land management policies, and natural resource issues such as climate change, wildfire, forestry, wilderness stewardship, recreation impact/conflict, and ecological restoration;
- Interest in reimagining and developing the ecosystem restoration workforce of the future;
- A willingness to work and live in a rural, mountainous area that receives snow and ice in winter;
- Team-oriented and self-motivated;
- An ability to bring critical thinking skills, creativity, and laughter to the workplace;
- A personal vehicle for transportation outside of work;

The following qualifications are not required but preferred:

- Current Wilderness First Aid or higher, however training may be provided;
- Experience with workforce development;
- Experience using ESRI ArcGIS or other geospatial platforms.

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

MORE INFORMATION

About the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment:

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) is a community-based organization which actively promotes healthy and sustainable forests and watersheds by investing in the well-being of diverse rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource decision making and programs. 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:

The position is based in the very rural northern Sierra town of Taylorsville, where the Stewardship Specialist will join a talented team of natural resource and rural community development professionals dedicated to landscape restoration and community well-being in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades. 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 a 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 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. 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: Salary will be \$46,000 to \$57,000 commensurate with experience. Sierra Institute offers a competitive benefits package. Staff housing may be available.

COVID-19: Our staff are following COVID-19 safety protocols informed by the latest research and evidence. Sierra Institute requires all staff be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19

How to Apply: Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Stewardship Specialist” in the subject line. Review of applications and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. The position is open until filled. Please call (530) 284-1022 with questions.

