

## **Position Announcement Hydrology Technician**

**Location:** Taylorsville, CA - with project work in Lassen and Plumas National Forests

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

**Compensation:** \$21.50 – 23.00/hr. (commensurate with experience)

**Benefits:** paid sick, holiday, and wildfire mitigation leave

**Training:** hydrologic and geomorphic survey methods, meadow plant identification, and Wilderness First Aid.

### **Position Description**

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) is hiring a Hydrology Technician to complete meadow, stream, and road assessments as part of a collaborative effort to develop and prioritize stream and meadow restoration projects across the last remaining anadromous watersheds in the Sierra Nevada. Work will be completed in partnership with the Lassen National Forest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Point Blue Conservation Science. Meadow assessments will include surveys to assess meadow conditions, including examination of channel morphology, stream bank stability, erosion, and riparian vegetation. Stream assessment protocols will be used to analyze the health of stream reaches based on hydrology, floodplain connectivity, riparian vegetative makeup, bank stability, bedform diversity, water quality, and biological indicators. Road-stream intersections will also be assessed to evaluate restoration need. This is a great opportunity to inform watershed restoration priorities in the northern Sierra Nevada, while honing a range of hydrology field techniques through hands on involvement in a variety of field surveys. The applicant should be capable of hiking up to six miles daily while carrying a pack weighing up to forty pounds.

The position offers a unique opportunity to spend the summer season exploring some of the largest and most biologically important meadow systems in northeastern California. The Hydrology Technician may also have the opportunity to participate in similar activities to advance other collaborative restoration projects. There will be opportunities to join other resource management staff and gain experience in a wide array of natural resource management tasks. This position is part of an exciting partnership between Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, the US Forest Service, and US National Park Service to accelerate restoration in Antelope, Battle, Deer, and Mill Creek watersheds – which support the last remaining wild salmon populations in the Sierra Nevada.

### **Responsibilities**

The incumbent works as team member to safely conduct surveys in remote areas to identify and prioritize restoration actions for meadows and streams. This position will provide an incredible opportunity for the Hydrology Technician to learn fundamental skills in meadow and stream assessment that may lead to future work in watershed restoration throughout the western US. The position is considered a developmental opportunity and will train the individual in proven and common methods of meadow, stream, and road assessments, as well as provide additional training in hydrology and associated botany 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.

## Qualifications

One Hydrology Technician position will be flown at two possible experience levels. In order to qualify for either experience level, you must meet the eligibility and qualifications requirements as defined below:

**Hydrology Technician I** – One year of general experience of any kind that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work with a general knowledge of hydrologic practices and procedures;

OR two full years of study above the high school level that included at least 12 semester hours, or the equivalent, in any combination of courses such as hydrology, geology, engineering, surveying, physical science, biology, or mathematics.

**Hydrology Technician II** – Two full years of general experience of any kind that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work with a general knowledge of hydrologic practices and procedures;

OR successful completion of a full four year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree (a) with major study in an appropriate field of science (i.e., hydrology, geology, chemistry, physics, geophysics, biology, ecology, soils, forestry, physical science, atmospheric science) engineering, construction, or industrial technology, or (b) that included at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, in any combination of courses such as hydrology, geology, engineering, surveying, physical science, biology, or mathematics.

## Other Requirements

- Must be 18 to apply;
- Demonstrated interest in wildland hydrology, this may include but is not limited to geomorphology, forest and meadow ecology, stream restoration, environmental engineering, fisheries, or related fields.
- Ability to perform physically taxing work in all weather conditions in rugged mountainous environments (i.e hike 6+ miles a day with a 40lb 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 fluvial geomorphology, meadow restoration, rural road management;
- A valid driver's license and access to reliable transportation;

## Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge of, or familiarity with northern California specific hydrology, geology, and physical geography;
- Experience working as part of a field crew or team, experience with safety management, and experience collecting and managing field data;
- Any current wilderness medical training certification (e.g., WFA, WFR, WEMT);

Your application and resume must clearly show that you possess the experience requirements. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. Provide course descriptions as necessary.

*A combination of post-high school education, skills, and general experience will be considered to fill qualification requirements.*

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

## Compensation

Compensation will be commensurate with experience and education level, as follows:

**Hydrology Technician I** – \$21.50 per hour

**Hydrology Technician II** – \$23.00 per hour

This is a full-time (40 hours/week) term appointment for up to 26 weeks. 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 road and meadow survey methodologies, meadow plant identification, and Wilderness First Aid.

## 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, transcripts, and contact information for three references as one PDF to [jobs@sierrainstitute.us](mailto:jobs@sierrainstitute.us) with “Hydrology Technician” in the subject line. Application deadline is February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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](mailto:jobs@sierrainstitute.us) if you have questions.