Natural Resource Social Science Internship

May 2018 – October 2018

The internship will be a minimum of six months, with the possibility of extension. Start and end dates may be flexible for the right candidate.

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment is looking for a motivated individual to fill the position of Natural Resources Social Science Intern. The selected applicant will work at the intersection of community and natural resources on collaborative forest and watershed restoration. Work will include both applied research and capacity-building work to promote resilient forest ecosystems and rural communities. Travel to rural communities throughout the state to conduct related work and research may be required. The duration of the position is six months, with the possibility of extension. Position is open until filled, review of applications will begin on March 1, 2018.

Job Duties

Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement (SCALE) Project: 50%
SCALE is the mechanism for collaboration between forest collaboratives in California. These groups are united in their purpose to advance landscape scale, often times multijurisdictional, forest restoration while improving local socioeconomic conditions. SCALE identifies and addresses shared barriers to success among these groups. Intern duties related to this project will include forest and watershed management research, collaborative forestry policy analysis, interview assistance, and extensive meeting coordination support.

Socioeconomic Monitoring: 30%
Triple-bottom line benefits, and their assessment, is an increasingly prominent cornerstone of many U.S. Forest Service restoration initiatives, including new forest planning. Collaborative forest restoration efforts are becoming more widespread across the U.S. and strive to simultaneously improve forest and watershed health as well as rural, forested communities’ well-being. In order to evaluate progress towards collaborative forest restoration goals, thorough and comprehensive socioeconomic monitoring methodologies must be developed and applied. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to be part of a team working on socioeconomic monitoring activities, including data collection and processing, interview assistance, and capacity assessment workshop support.

Other Social Science and Organizational Support: 20%
Sierra Institute administers a variety of other social science programs, including natural resource education, a summer youth program, and forest stewardship activities. The selected applicant may have the opportunity to engage with these projects during the internship. The intern will be expected to contribute to the overall organizational success in addition to assigned projects – this may include participating on field trips with youth or assisting with administrative duties in the main office. In addition, the intern will be expected to work with staff to pursue opportunities to engage in community activities (i.e., helping with community events, attending community meetings, hosting extra-curricular activities for youth) that contribute to the social fabric of our small, rural community.
Qualifications

Required
- An undergraduate or advanced degree in the social sciences, natural resources or related field;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Experience with qualitative and quantitative social science research methods;
- 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 mountainous area that historically receives snow and ice in winter months;
- 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;
- In-depth experience conducting community surveys and/or stakeholder interviews
- Proficiency with Adobe Creative Suite or other graphic design software;
- Experience with event coordination, online surveys, webinars, website management, and/or utilizing other computer software programs;
- Experience using ESRI ArcGIS.

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
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 many outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, biking, and climbing within its surrounding public lands including Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Compensation
The intern will receive approximately $1,200/month, plus shared housing, with the potential to opt-in to health insurance benefits. The Sierra Institute will provide fully furnished, utilities-paid accommodation within walking distance of the Sierra Institute office.

How to Apply
Please send your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references as one pdf to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with “Natural Resource Social Science Internship” 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, though review of applications will begin on March 1, 2018. Please call 530.284.1022 if you have questions.