



Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Butte County Resource Conservation District - Oroville	
Position Title:	Type:
Forest Health Technician	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Term <input type="checkbox"/> Half Term

Organizational Background: *The mission of the Butte County Resource Conservation District is to protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing land owners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects. Nimble and neutral, our RCD can work on diverse projects, so one day you may be helping volunteers plant 500 baby oak trees, while the next you may be editing video footage for an educational presentation, and the next you're out improving mountain bike trails. RCDs can work on private, City, State, or federal lands – often coordinating them all at once because conservation shouldn't stop at a property line.*

A special district whose Board members are appointed by County supervisors, our RCD is accountable to the public it serves. We receive no direct taxpayer money and are completely funded by competitive grants and contracts. Working here provides great exposure not just to the conservation issues confronting California's forests, rivers and farm land, but also to the wonderful complexities of democracy itself.

The position is located in Oroville, CA, a historic Gold Rush mining city that celebrates its many immigrant heritages as well as the endurance of its Native Californian nations. At the foot of the wild Sierras, Oroville offers immediate access to countless trails, paddling the Feather River or Lake Oroville, great salmon and steelhead fishing, and some of the richest botanical biodiversity in interior Northern California. Alternatively, some SNAP members may choose to live in nearby Chico, a dynamic and unique college town that loves its music, art, trails, bikes, food and beer. Oroville is the county seat, and Chico the cultural capital, of Butte County: a place famous for its citrus and nut orchards, its amazing wildflowers, its riparian oak woodlands, and its rice fields that sustain millions of migrating Pacific Flyway waterbirds each winter. On a tragic note, Butte County is now also famous for the Camp Fire, the most destructive wildfire in California history. The SNAP member will have opportunities to participate in post-Camp Fire watershed recovery and in restoring watershed to health to ensure that such a disaster never happens in Butte County again.

Number of Member Positions at this Site: 2

Site Supervisor's Name(s) and Title(s):

- *Wolfy Rougle, Conservation Project Coordinator*

Position Description: *Tending the land is the central human responsibility. BCRCD exists to give Butte County land managers the tools they need to sustain climate- and fire-resilient landscapes, including through reforestation, forest maintenance, and prescribed fire. As a key player in Butte County's sustained recovery, the SNAP member will help*

provide private and public land owners with climate-smart reforestation, access to prescribed fire resources, and science-based forest management advice.

The SNAP member will work closely with BCRCD staff to manage the following projects:

- *Tree and plant giveaways for landowners affected by the Camp Fire*
- *Prescribed fire education and coordination, including joining on-the-ground community burns through our Butte Prescribed Burn Association*
- *Post-Camp Fire/post-North Complex ecological monitoring, including GIS mapping, etc*
- *Create short Web videos about forest health, teaching landowners how they can get assistance to manage their lands*
- *Help improve and repair natural-surface roads and trails (often the biggest non-point-source of pollution in a forested watershed)*
- *Help install post-fire climate research forestry plots; help monitor oak woodland restoration projects*
- *Depending on grant opportunities, help develop salmonid habitat improvement projects in collaboration with numerous stakeholders.*

Site-Specific Training Provided: *The Member will have the opportunity to participate in various trainings depending on Member interest and what is going on, gaining proficiency in fire ecology, Sierra foothills botany or wildlife biology, forestry technician work (e.g., measuring plots, making maps to develop forest management plans) and the principles of environmental review on forest health projects. Prescribed fire training will definitely be a big part of the service year; Members will have the opportunity to participate in multiple community burns and the fall 2020 Butte TRES, which BCRCD will co-organize. Depending on Member need and interest, trainings on GIS software, LiDAR, hydrological monitoring, chainsaw operation, etc. can be arranged.*

Things to Note: *This position requires significant field work. Applicants should be able to lift at least 40 pounds, work in hot and cold conditions, be comfortable in the woods, and hike up to 10 miles a day with a light day pack while doing roads or trails assessments. The applicant should have a valid driver's license and a means of reliable transportation. **Excellent verbal communication skills**, comfort talking on the phone, a willingness to address potentially traumatic issues like fire and Californian history, and the ability to work with a wide range of people are all essential. The applicant should be comfortable reading and interpreting scientific articles and discussing evidence-based conservation strategies with stakeholders in both plain and professional language. The applicant will be given a lot of autonomy and should be someone who enjoys working independently as well as on a team.*

Desired Qualifications:

Natural Resources Education and Work Experience is strongly preferred.

You should be able to drive and have your own vehicle for commuting (4wd not necessary as a high-clearance/4wd vehicle is provided when needed. However, a regular commuting vehicle is not provided.).

Experience organizing and leading volunteer workdays

Experience documenting events through photography and video

Wilderness First aid and CPR training is a plus

Experience in construction or crew leadership is a plus (for working with forestry contractors)

Forestry or Tree Planting experience is a plus

Any background working with land managers and agencies is a plus

Prescribed fire experience or some previous fire training is always a plus.

WORK HOURS		
8-hour days	10-hour days	10+ hour days
88%	10%	2%

Housing Offered through Site: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Vehicle provided for Placement Site work: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	---

TYPE OF WORK							
Field Work <i>(field surveys, planting, invasive pulls, maintenance, etc.)</i>	Office Work <i>(lab analysis, data entry, GIS, writing, etc.)</i>	Travel <i>(travel to field work and project Sites)</i>	Restoration and Assessment <i>(water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, fish surveys, etc.)</i>	Education <i>(teaching, citizen science, etc.)</i>	Volunteer Recruitment & Management	Member Training <i>(Site-specific training, conferences, and development opportunities)</i>	Other <i>(gear and equipment maintenance, outreach, etc.)</i>
30%	40%	5%	13%	0%	5%	17%	0%