



Position Description

Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship

Position Title: Forestry Stewardship and Outreach Specialist

Host Site: California Tahoe Conservancy

Site Supervisor: Milan Yeates, Community Forestry Program Supervisor

Term: Full Term Fellow, 1920 hours (approximately 11 months at 40 hours/week)

Position Location: South Lake Tahoe, CA

Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship Program Background:

Sierra Corps is a Forestry Fellowship program implemented by the Sierra Nevada Alliance that aims to increase workforce capacity for forest health restoration, biomass utilization, and wildfire resilience projects in the Sierra Nevada. The Alliance places Fellows with partners throughout the region for forest-health related employment. Fellows bring their education, skills, and expertise to engage in fellowships that provide assistance in assessment, planning, permitting, project management, and other essential forest restoration and wildfire resilience work. The Sierra Corps is a program that allows you to advance your career in environmental conservation by working as a forest health project specialist developing skills in project management and contributing to the increase in pace and scale of forest restoration at a time when it is critically needed.

For this position, you will be a Fellow for Sierra Nevada Alliance, completing your fellowship and working under direct supervision by the California Tahoe Conservancy.

Compensations and Benefits:

- \$26/hr, full-time
- Employer-provided Health Insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave as identified in the Sierra Nevada Alliance Employee Handbook
- A total of \$3,650.00 stipend to be used during the Fellowship term, itemized as follows:
 - \$1250 travel stipend
 - \$500 supplies stipend
 - \$500 equipment stipend
 - \$1400 training stipend

Time Commitment: Fellows are required to complete project specific work and professional development activities and trainings over 1920 hours (approximately 11 months, working 40 hours/week). Some weekend, holiday, or night shifts may be required. All Fellows are required to commit to the full term of their Fellowship position. Paid holidays, accrued vacation, and sick

leave are also included in this time commitment. The position starts in February 2024 and will conclude upon completion of 1920 hours, approximately January 2025. **Position begins February 2024.**

Host Site Description:

The California Tahoe Conservancy is a state agency, established in 1985, with a mission to lead California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

California's ten state conservancies play an integral role in conserving, protecting, and restoring natural resources and providing public recreational opportunities. Together, the conservancies comprise a coordinated effort, bringing government resources to designated regions of State and national significance.

At the Conservancy, we know the importance of building an organization that is as diverse as the communities we serve. We believe in maintaining a workplace where employees from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and lived experiences can thrive. Working together, our team is positioned to better improve the lives of all Californians.

Position Description:

Within the nearly 4,700 Conservancy-owned parcels are approximately 5,500 acres of forested land, the majority of which is located within and adjacent to communities and infrastructure. The Conservancy improves forest health and reduces risks from wildfire on these Conservancy lands. On adjacent lands, staff coordinates with fire agencies and other land managers for projects consistent with the Forest Action Plan. This complementary work enhances community wildfire protection and reduces risks to Conservancy lands.

The position will be based in California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Fellow will be expected to work in-person throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin and in the South Lake Tahoe office with hours varying depending on the season. Some weekend, holiday, or night shifts may be required.

Most days will be spent at the office or in the field where the Fellow will be expected to stand, walk, or sit for long periods of time. The work does require lifting materials which may weigh up to 50 lbs. Office work will also be expected including recordkeeping, attending meetings, writing reports and emailing.

Responsibilities:

Stewardship Agreement Pilot (40%)

- The Fellow will pilot a Stewardship Agreement Program for the Conservancy. This program allows homeowners located adjacent to a Conservancy parcel to do defensible space/fuels reduction work on that Conservancy parcel if it falls within specific parameters. Tasks include meeting with homeowners who would like to join the program, assessing parcels prior to issuing agreements, and

returning to the property after work has occurred to ensure the guidelines are followed.

Outreach and Communications (30%)

- The Fellow will act as the community outreach contact for the Conservancy's Forestry program. This includes representing the Conservancy at firesafe chapter meetings and community events such as the Community Expo and Firefest and attending Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Fire PIT meetings. The Fellow will also generate new outreach on the California side of the Basin with neighborhoods.

TCSI Diversified Funding Research (10%)

- The Fellow will work with the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative lead to generate a report on diversified funding opportunities for the region. This includes research on the types of funding and models that could be used to move the region toward a restoration economy.

Field Work (10%)

- The Fellow will assist with forestry project preparation fieldwork on Conservancy lands. This includes working with forestry aides to delineate project boundaries and mark trees for removal. They may also assist with other field needs such as wildlife surveys. The Fellow will also assist with the Conservancy's pre and post project vegetation monitoring program. This includes using specialized forestry equipment to collect data in the field as well as post-processing and data management in the office.

Professional Development and Sierra Nevada Alliance (10%)

- The Fellow will have an average of approximately four hours per week to plan and participate in professional development opportunities that align with their goals as well as directly support their success at their host site. If there are professional development opportunities that are longer than 4 hours, the excess time will be subtracted during another week. One full workday per month (8 consecutive hours) to attend to Sierra Corps responsibilities, including our monthly meeting and a Fellow(s) respective professional development. These will most likely be scheduled as the last Wednesday of each month. The Fellow will develop monthly reports, and participate in monthly fellow meetings and check-ins with Sierra Nevada Alliance supervisors. They will also plan and budget their use of professional development stipend and complete timesheets.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Forestry, Natural Resources, Environmental Science, or a related field.
- 1-2 years of combined experience with the following:
 - Forest health monitoring and assessment
 - Conservation planning
 - Project management
 - Natural Resource-based fieldwork
 - Environmental analysis and research

- Ability to work independently and gather the necessary information to complete assigned tasks.
- Ability to work well within a team.
- Strong desire to work in a forest health-related career, ideally in the Sierra.
- Ability to commit to the term length.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbally and in writing

Desired Qualifications:

- A basic understanding of California laws and regulations relating to forestry and natural resources management.
- Collaborative, adaptable and able to prioritize emergent and ongoing tasks.
- Experience leading small groups/teams.
- A passion for forestry and natural resources management
- Able to identify and solve problems.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to lift up to 50lbs
- Ability to operate specialized outdoor and technical equipment
- Ability to stand, walk or sit for extended periods of time
- Ability to work in field conditions. The field setting includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - Inclement weather, which can mean rain, ice, snow, flood events, extreme heat, fire
 - Adverse conditions, such as working near active waterways or near prescribed fire operations
 - Traversing steep and uneven terrain
 - Remote work sites

Location and Working Conditions:

The Fellow will work on forestry stewardship and outreach on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Fellow will be expected to work in person throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin and in the South Lake Tahoe office with hours varying depending on the season.

Host Site website : <https://tahoe.ca.gov/>

Sierra Nevada Alliance Website: www.sierranevadaalliance.org

Sierra Corps Website: www.sierranevadaalliance.org/sierra-corps-forestry-fellowship-program/

To apply:

Please send a letter of interest and CV/resume to the SNA Forestry Program Director, Taylor Parker, PhD at: Taylor@SierraNevadaAlliance.org. Applications will be reviewed as soon as possible and will continue until positions are filled. The ideal start date for this position is February 2024.