



Position Description

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: *Natural Resource Assistant*

Host Site: Butte County RCD- Feather River Ranger District, Plumas National Forest

Site Supervisor: Sarah Reynolds/Mary Sullivan

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Position Location: Oroville, California. The Feather River Ranger District Office is located in Oroville in the northern Central Valley. The community is the Butte County seat and has an area population of approximately 46,000. The surrounding area ranges up to an elevation of approximately 2,500 feet in the rolling foothills of the northeastern Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Oroville is a full service community. There are many orchards and farmer's markets in and surrounding the Oroville area. Oroville is located adjacent to the Feather River and Lake Oroville with a multitude of recreational opportunities.

Organization Description: The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The phrase, "Caring for the Land and Serving People," captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. The Feather River Ranger District is the gateway to the Plumas National Forest from the northern Sacramento valley. The Plumas National Forest encompasses over a million acres of tree-covered mountains, filled with hundreds of high alpine lakes and thousands of miles of clear running streams. Elevations range from 3,000 to 8,000 feet. The area has four seasons with warm to hot days and warm to cool nights in the summer, and periodic snowstorms in the winter.

Program Description: Butte County RCD in partnership with the Feather River Ranger District provides for quality land management and sustainability of Forest resources to meet the diverse needs of people and our environment. Through management of multiple uses, the agencies are working together to conserve the area's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation and education.

Position Description: This position serves as a Natural Resource Assistant for the Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. The position will work in several resource areas. They will work with Forest Service specialists including archeologist, botanist, hydrologist, fuels specialist and recreation specialists. The position will work in natural resource surveying, monitoring and enhancement. Primary duties include surveying for sensitive plants, archeological site monitoring, fuel assessments and road surveys for hydrological concerns. The Natural Resource Assistant will play a vital part in Non Native Invasive Plant control on the lower elevation portions of the District. Public outreach will be an important part of the position. The Natural Resource Assistant will represent the agency during special events and coordinate volunteer work days. This will include educating the community on important subjects including invasive species and fuel reduction. Environmental education work will involve planning and presenting school programs, including school visits and field trips.

Qualifications: Strong interest in natural resource conservation and environmental education, Bachelor's degree or minimum 3 years of coursework in environmental science, natural resources, environmental education, community development, agricultural science, or resource Related field. A high degree of physical fitness is required – must be able to walk all day, occasionally carrying 25 pounds while working off trail in wildlands in rain or over 90-degree heat. Demonstrated outdoor manual labor experience is required. College coursework or experience related to plant sciences or natural sciences highly desired, GPS/GIS experience a plus. Must be self motivated and able to work independently, keep detailed records, take direction, communicate freely and work well with a variety of people, keep work spaces tidy and organized, and provide a good driving record. Position is subject to successful completion of a background check.

Website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/plumas>

Service Project Major Projects:

Watershed Restoration:

a. Priority Project:

Invasive Weed Removal

- Pull broom (French and Scotch broom) in Slapjack/Challenge CPFR area, Forbestown CPFR area, Pendola area, often in coordination with the District botany and resource crews.
- Develop long term broom control plan for these areas.
 - i. Projected Hours: 160
 - ii. Estimated Acres Restored by member: 20

b. Priority Project:

Surveys for Rare Plants and Invasive Weeds

- Join Botany crew for rare plant and invasive weed surveys April – June, for Challenge CPFR and Strawberry CPFR projects and other projects.
- Map broom and other invasive species independently of botany crew.
 - i. Projected Hours: 160

c. Priority Project

Road Surveys

- Conduct road surveys on Forest Service system and non-system roads.
- Look at hydrologic issues at stream crossings such as undersized culverts, plugged culverts, overtopped culverts, and long lengths of hydroconnectivity.
- Identify non-system roads and record there location and issues.
- Data will be recorded using a Trimble
 - i. Projected Hours: 300
 - ii. Estimated Outcomes:
 - Identify non-system road could be proposed for decommissioning.
 - Identify system roads that need drainage improvements to protect water quality.

d. Priority Project

Fuels Reduction

- Participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for planning future fuels reduction projects
- Conduct assessments/mapping for fuels reduction sites
- Perform fuels reduction/forest health enhancement activities
 - Database entry: planning, and completed fuel treatment activities
 - Fuel loading, photo plot and tree stand exam field data collection
 - Fuel moisture data collection and tracking
 - Burn plan preparation
 - Fire behavior modeling

Projected Hours: 320

Estimated Acres Restored: 6000 (project wide)

Acres Restored by Member (only):

e. Priority Project:

Archeological Site Surveys

- Work with archeology crew during summer months, conduct archeological surveys and site recordings. Sites monitored and recorded included prehistoric and historic sites.
- Work on Passport In Time (PIT) project with volunteers. Planned 2017 PIT project will be surveying for early 1850's remote mining settlements that exist on the Forest.
- Likely will work on an archeological site excavation

i. Projected Hours: 480

Watershed Education and Outreach

Priority Project

a. Priority Project:

Invasive Weed Removal

- Outreach local communities, especially Challenge and Forbestown, to develop community volunteer efforts to control broom infestations.
- Organize community broom-pulling activities.

i. Projected Hours: 40

b. Priority Project:

Tabling/Festivals for FRRD

- Develop FRRD's Wildflower Festival table display and activities in conjunction with FRRD Recreation, Wildlife and Botany personnel, and help with event tabling in April, 2017.
- Help develop FRRD's Endangered Species Fair table display and activities in conjunction with FRRD Recreation, Wildlife and Botany personnel, and help with event tabling in May, 2017.
- Participate in development of other outreach and events, such as the annual Oroville Salmon Fest.
- Work with Fire Prevention staff on other fire prevention public outreach community events

i. Projected Hours: 40

c. Priority Project:

Environmental Education/Volunteer Coordination

- Work with District environmental educator on planning and presenting school Programs, including school visits and field trips
- Assist with coordination of the Project Navidad Program. This is long term program that brings under-represented youths to the National Forest to cut Christmas trees for their families. The program incorporates an educational component that exposes urban youth to the forest and its many uses.
- Assist with staffing Challenge Visitor Center during peak seasons, such as summer weekends and Christmas tree season.
- Plan and present Campfire Program Interpretive Program at Little Grass Valley Reservoir
- Recruit volunteers for restoration projects including trail maintenance and invasive weed removal. Coordinate District volunteer work days.

Project Hours: 180

d. Priority Project:

Fuels Reduction

- Education/Outreach events about the importance of fuels reduction and management for forest health
- Recruit/coordinate volunteers to help coordinate outreach events

Project Hours: 40

5. Member Training and Development:

a. Site Specific Training:

Will receive on-the-ground training in general plant identification, rare species identification, invasive plants identification, use of GPS equipment, map reading, forest road travel, cross-country navigation.

Will receive on-the-ground training in archeological site surveying and recording. Will likely participate in an archeological site excavation.

Will receive on-the-ground training in road assessments for hydrologic issues.

Will receive training in Forest fuel sampling, fuel loading and analysis, database entry and fire behavior modeling.

Total Hours: 1720