



Taos Soil and Water Conservation District

220 Chamisa Road, Taos, NM 87571 ~ Phone (575) 751-0584 – Fax (575) 751-9253

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Taos County Economic
Development Corporation

April 9th, 2024

Student Forest Monitor – Summer Season Short-term, Part-time Position

SUMMER SEASON PERIOD: **May 30th, - September 1st, 2024**

LOCATION:

This position is based in **Taos, New Mexico** with field work in forest treatment sites throughout Taos County. Taos SWCD will provide transportation from our district office (220 Chamisa Road) to field sites near the communities of **Arroyo Seco, Valdez, and San Cristobal, and Taos Canyon.**

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a **short-term, entry-level position** intended to provide three unique experiences for students or emerging natural resource professionals in Taos County:

- 1. Introduction to the tree species of Northern New Mexico and;**
- 2. an introductory field experience in measuring ecological change and;**
- 3. an exposure to regional forest management challenges and decisions.**

Student forest monitors will assess the ecological changes resulting from forest thinning treatments on two projects in Taos County using the region 3 Common Stand Exam protocol. The monitoring information collected will be compiled, summarized, and shared with active forest managers for each of those two projects.

Weekly work will consist of two 8-hour days of field work and ½ day of data entry, data analysis or training, (not to exceed 20 hours per week). Students will receive on-the-job training in basic forest stand and fuels monitoring techniques. Students will work in teams of 2-5 people, along with a supervisor, to measure pre- and post-treatment forest conditions and fuel loads on 1/10 acre plots.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Taos Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking qualified individuals (16+ years) with demonstrated interest in natural resource science and management,

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forestry, or wildland firefighting careers. Current students or individuals in the application process to relevant educational programs will be given preference.

Prior experience conducting scientific field surveys is not required for this position. However, skills in the following areas may be weighed positively in the applicant selection process: *data entry and analysis, plant or insect identification, orienteering, GPS usage, First-Aid/CPR, teamwork and/or leadership experience, public communication skills, wildlife habitat knowledge, and wildland fire experience.*

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work consistently and efficiently on all monitoring protocols as part of a team.
- Maintain a safe work environment to ensure both physical and mental well-being.
- Maintain a positive and professional attitude.
- Be willing to reflect on your experience and share feedback in a group setting.
- Respect the natural environment and community resources.
- Manage timesheets, field data sheets, and equipment transport.
- Have reliable transportation to and from the Taos SWCD office for the duration of the season.

PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Frequently hike uneven terrain and while carrying up to 30 pounds for as many as 5 hours per day.
- Work primarily in the outdoors (80% time) and in all weather conditions.
- Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the forest monitoring work.
- Follow COVID-19 safety protocols as guided by the State of New Mexico Department of Health.

COMPENSATION: starting at **\$18 / hour**

TO APPLY, SUBMIT:

1. a resume with two (2) professional references
2. a brief letter of interest that describes your current educational status, career or study goals, your qualifications for this position and your ability to meet the job requirements.

Applications can be submitted by email to gpowell@tswcd.org or delivered in person at the TSWCD District Office, 220 Chamisa Road, Taos, N.M. between the hours of 9-4pm, Monday-Friday.

Application deadline: **May 10th, 2024**