

Dear Mr. Cleave Simpson,

I am writing to apply for the Project Technician position that I was referred to by my undergraduate mentor Mick Daniel, the Executive Director of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors. In this position I will have the opportunity to contribute to the conservation and effective use of the essential natural capital of the San Luis Valley (SLV), its water. My professional experiences have provided the knowledge and interpersonal skills necessary for me to effectively perform the multitude of tasks that this position requires. Timing and personal circumstances have made this opportunity to build a career within the SLV an ideal next step.

As a former resident of the San Luis Valley, I understand the vital role water resources play in supporting the agricultural economy, social culture, and ecological qualities of the place that shaped who I am. The opportunity to contribute to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District(RGWCD) as the Project Technician would allow me to apply my experience in public communication, conservation planning, and geospatial data analysis to a place I want to protect and understand. The diversity of requirements of this position closely matches my professional ambitions of being allowed to apply a wide range of skills to many areas while being a specialist of a singular location. I have always sought work with mission driven organizations and it is clear that RGWCD is living up to its mission by actively ensuring this dramatic and significant place, we all know as "The Valley", can continue to hold our hearts and support our well being.

Below I have elaborated on five qualities that emphasize the skill sets and personal character that will allow me to be a successful Program Technician.

Professional Experience in Geospatial Analysis: From field data collection to statistical modeling and interpretation of geospatial and satellite imagery I have a multitude of professional experiences integrating geospatial analysis to address specific institutional needs. I hold a graduate certificate in GIS from University of Colorado Denver. I am an active member in the Northern Colorado Geospatial Professional group and have developed a strong community of professional peers that I can call upon for support and advice.

Outdoor Professional: My ability to work with groups of people is built upon my 300 plus days of working as a field instructor in remote outdoor environments. The majority of this work came from my time with the Adams State Adventure Program. This work has given me the communication framework and confidence to have difficult but necessary conversations. It has also taught me how creating an inclusive and respectful group culture is paramount in supporting the overall function of the group.

Facilitating and Educating Groups : Professional training(including certificate) and six years of experience working as an educator/facilitator in a diversity of professional and educational settings has given me the knowledge and toolkits necessary to direct the attention of a group of people. I am extremely grateful to have been mentored by multiple individuals who are outstanding facilitators. It is a learned skill that I am always looking to build upon.

Study of Riparian Systems: I have been involved in five funded research projects that involved riparian and wetland ecosystems. Two of these have been published in peer reviewed journals and one took place on streams within the SLV. Through this work I've come to understand the complexity and necessity of these riparian zones for human and ecological systems in the arid Western states. This experience will allow me to quickly

adapt to the workload of sustaining the San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and the Rio Grande Natural Area Management Plan.

Self directed interest in Water Management in Colorado: Since moving to Colorado in 2007 I've been fascinated with the role water management plays within the state. I've fed this interest by reading several books regarding water management, attending multiple professional events hosted by the American Water Resources Association and participating in the 2015 Watershed Summit in Longmont Colorado. As part of my academic work I've produced a predictive model of snowpack in the Sangre De Cristo Range using satellite imagery, toured Northern Water's Eastern and Western water delivery systems, and produced a report on the varying public and private opinions of Northern Water's Northern Integrated Supply Project.

My driving will to learn allows me to appreciate the challenges that come with each unique human relationship, as well as, the structured processes of evaluating natural systems. Years of experience working within teams has given me the confidence to not be afraid to ask questions, speak out about what I can contribute, and learn from the experience of others. I understand that the success of a project is based on the groups willingness to be inclusive, collaborate, and maintain a shared vision. My time at Adams State University has afforded me a scientific understanding of ground and surface water systems. Working as an environmental educator for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Colorado Mountain Club has allowed me to practice adapting complex scientific knowledge to the general audience. My recent work with the NASA DEVELOP program and the USDA Agricultural Research Service has given me the opportunity to work with land managers and agriculturists to conduct scientific assessments and produce management reports. As a representative of RGWCD I look forward to building upon the skills mentioned above, learning as much as I can, and producing high quality work that will support the mission of the organization.

The San Luis Valley is an isolated and rural place with extremely cold winters and Springs that make you dream of a calm day. It is not for everybody. I lived in the SLV for 6 years and I understand the challenges and benefits that come with the place. I have maintained both a personal and professional community within the Valley. My wife, who was raised in the SLV, is the book keeper for her family's excavation business (Potter Excavation) in Crestone. For the past two years she has been traveling to the SLV to spend 10 days a month in Crestone to complete the in-person requirements of the job. While I try my best to be down there with her, it is not the long term arrangement we wish for. On top of this, we are hoping to start a family and both see immense benefit in having the opportunity for our children to grow up near their extended family and in a rural area. While the list can go on I just want to state again that my personal character is largely a reflection of the relationships and experiences I had while living in the SLV. It is a place I want to call home again.

I thank you very much for your time and I am looking forward to continuing to discuss this opportunity with you in the near future. If there are any questions or concerns, my contact information along with a more detailed account of my professional experiences can be found on my resume. May the snow keep falling and spring come slow.

With regards,
Daniel Carver