

Position Title:
Southern Sierra Reforestation Technician

Position Description:

The Southern portion of the Sierra Nevada Mountains has experienced devastating impacts from a rapidly changing climate, including numerous mega-fires that have increased the likelihood of a full ecosystem conversion across the landscape. American Forests is currently addressing these impacts through the Sequoia Wildfire Reforestation and Recovery Project (SQWRR), which is a landscape-scale effort to restore and reforest 2,600 acres within priority areas of five wildfire footprints across the region.

The Southern Sierra Reforestation Technician will assist every step of reforestation through on-the-ground implementation of SQWRR. This includes, but is not limited to, laying out units and contract inspections for pre-planting fuels reduction, direct on-the-ground planting, and post-planting release treatments; as well as monitoring and surveying after planting. This position will support cone collection efforts through cone surveying and seed collection contract inspection on the Sequoia National Forest. They will also lead a field surveying and monitoring project to track natural regeneration and assist with analysis and documentation to plan for future reforestation treatments. Over the winter months, the Technician may have the opportunity to assist the Sequoia National Forest with public education and outreach efforts if they are interested. Coordinating closely with a SierraCorps Fellow to complete these activities, this position will also work alongside staff from American Forests, Sequoia National Forest, occasionally, Mountain Home State Demonstration Forest, and other partner organizations as appropriate. Most work will be performed in a field setting, which includes: 1) Varied terrains, dense vegetation (with possible exposure to poison oak, ticks, and mosquitos), and hot, cold, and wet conditions; 2) Severely burned landscapes with standing dead trees and little to no shade; and 3) Most sites are will be accessible within a short distance from a road. Some office work, including data entry, emailing, virtual meetings, tracking and report writing, will also be required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in Forestry, Environmental Science, or related field OR at least 2 years of forestry vocational training.
- Ability to work independently, self-manage and communicate to maintain productivity and American Forests / Forest Service expectations.
- Ability to think creatively, problem solve, and a willingness to find innovative solutions.
- Strong desire to work in a forest health related career, ideally in the Sierra.
- Ability to work with diverse partners and stakeholders, and facilitate productive decision-making.
- Ability to commit to the full fellowship term.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Previous job experience with natural resource management and assessment, conservation planning, project management, and/or environmental analysis and research.
- Experience laying out treatment units based on environmental conditions and a given prescription, navigating using a topographic map and flagging boundaries.
- Experience using GIS.
- Ability to use Avenza.
- Experience safely operating a 4WD vehicle on unpaved forest roads.
- Experience with leave-no-trace vehicle-based camping.
- Basic knowledge of ecology of Sierra mixed-conifer forests.
- First Aid, Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The majority of activities will be field forestry, which includes the following:

- Ability to lift 40 lbs. and carry the load in a pack or vest.
- Repetitive tasks with few breaks.
- Work in adverse weather conditions including but not limited to high heat, rain, snow, smoke, dust, and cold temperatures (within reason).
- Walk, hike, or stand for extended periods of time with others and alone in steep, rugged, brushy, and/or remote terrain under adverse weather conditions.
- Ability to drive lengthy distances to a project work site.

Trevor Cirillo
20 Lane 2
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401)256-4661

October 6, 2022

Seth Connolly, SNA Partnership Program Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Seth Connolly,

I am writing you to apply for the Sierra Nevada Alliance's posting for the Southern Sierra Reforestation Technician. I am a student at the University of Rhode Island in the process of earning my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Management. I discovered the job listing through the Texas A&M University Natural Resources job board.

As noted on my resume, I am well suited for this position both mentally and physically. My six years in the Boy Scouts have left me well adjusted to spending time in the wilderness. My troop went on monthly camping trips in both hot and cold weather, with these excursions regularly including a several mile nature hike. An important tenet of the Boy Scouts is "leave no trace," which I strictly adhere to when wilderness camping. Several courses throughout my education at URI have contributed to my fitness for the Reforestation Technician position. Conservation Biology educated me on the topics of ecological succession, a very important process in reforestation after wildfires. Through the courses Concepts in GIS & Remote Sensing and Soil, Land Use & Environment, I have attained understanding of GIS and proficiency with ArcGIS software.

In the 15 years since the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership was founded, tens of thousands of acres of habitat have been restored. The work that the Sierra Nevada Alliance puts into environmental programs is inspiring and shows the passion for nature that its members possess. I share this same passion for the environment and would be thrilled to interview for the position of Reforestation Technician. It is my firm belief that my background and drive would make me an invaluable asset to the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

I deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Trevor Cirillo

Trevor Cirillo
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401)256-4661
trevor_cirillo@uri.edu

Education:

B.S. in Environmental Science & Management
May 2023, GPA: 3.06/4.00

University of Rhode Island: Kingston, RI

Relevant Coursework:

- Conservation Biology
- Soil, Land Use & Environment
- Concepts in GIS & Remote Sensing
- Introductory Ecology

Professional Experience:

Janitorial Staff, Bonnet Shores Beach Club
June-July 2017

Narragansett, RI

- Utilized John Deere “Gator” Utility Vehicle in off-road conditions to ensure trash bins around campus were emptied in a timely fashion
- Gained experience performing work in non-pristine conditions

Vehicle Photographer, Speedcraft Autogroup
July 2020-June 2021

Warwick, RI

- Sharpened self-management, spatial awareness & creative problem-solving skills with vehicle arrangement & organization

Farmstand Associate, Sweet Berry Farm
August 2022-Present

Middletown, RI

- Lifted and moved heavy (40+ lb) produce sacks
- Adapted to performing unvaried tasks for long, continuous hours

Accolades:

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 152
2011-2017

North Kingstown, RI

- First Aid Training
- Experience with Leave-No-Trace camping procedure
- 6 years of wilderness camping experience
 - Hot & Cold weather conditions
 - Rain & Snow precipitation conditions
- Problem solving and leadership skills training