

20 December 2019

Thank you for considering me as the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve Steward.

Currently I serve UC Berkeley Earth and Planetary Science. I am an unmarried male without children, in excellent physical condition. My significant other travels extensively and is primarily located in Berkeley, Los Angeles and Sicily. While reading I hope you agree that The Reserve Steward post would be an excellent fit.

I'm an extremely adaptive person. I've travelled and lived all over the world. My work experience domestically and abroad has taught me to endure and persevere and thrive. Reading the job description for Steward has my mind racing through all of the work I've done in my life.

If I may begin with some "heavier" examples. I've run chainsaws for at least 500 hours, and state-of-the-art brush-clearing saws upwards to 600 hours. When I was much younger my grandfather taught me to operate a backhoe. I can operate bobcat front loaders and probably any tooling extension on a bobcat. I would be happy to learn how to operate any other heavy machinery or vehicle.

Incidentally after years of brush-clearing and working on tree crews I became fully immune to poison oak. My first large bid was clearing poison oak directly over the east entrance of Caldecott Tunnel in Orinda, CA. This was for a surveying project on private land. I've cut fire buffer zones on all sorts of properties, primarily in the Berkeley-Oakland critical area following the hills fire of 1991.

I can operate any power boat up to say 30 feet, and longer with some practice. I grew up around marinas and sailing clubs just south of New York Harbour. I can sail hobie cats and 420 racing class boats including crewing on the trapeze; as well as larger vessels. I can operate ski boats and I'm an accomplished water skier.

Presently I preside over a wood and metal shop at Earth and Planetary Science. I'm experienced on the table saw, band saw, drill press, and have used our mill on small projects. Also I have competence with numerous power and hand tools, including my favorite tool ever: a wood splitting maul.

I'm not a journeyman but have confidence around all sorts of tools and machinery. You see, I grew up in my family's car dealership and around horse farms, and these things are second nature. Also I worked as a foundation and ornamental mason for two years during college, and put in many many hours on an electric demolition hammer. All told, I've applied my strong back to earn most of my entire living.

Presently my primary job title is Field Coordinator and Safety Liaison. Working on the UC Berkeley Staff, I have maintained my training on all sensitive issues that are crucial to UC culture. This includes harassment, gender and race awareness, and computer security. Also through the UC Police I participated in Active Shooter Response training.

I have a citation of bravery for saving life, from the Japanese Government. Also I hold a BA in English from UC Berkeley.

I've worked as a fund-raising writer for the US Holocaust Museum and various ballets and zoos. In Japan I worked as an editor and teacher.

The Amazon region in Peru and the upper rain forests of the Amazon in Colombia are cherished destinations; and I've traveled widely in Brazil. In Putamayo, Colombia I am supporting a school for the indigenous Cofan tribe, which teaches a standard curriculum as well as botany and plant shamanism. I support a brilliant shaman there named Omar.

I have faith in the academic sciences and traditional environmentalism, as well as my instinctive perception of the world while I learn from depth ecology and shamanism. Also one of my newest interests is mycology.

It seems that everyone working on the UC Reserve System endeavors to set an excellent example, so that every student and visitor can eventually become a true steward of the land. The leaders of the Amazon rainforest and Native America, as well as conscious people everywhere, know this is the only hope we have to sustain and heal our planet.

I would be just delighted to serve UC Santa Cruz in this post and live onsite at Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve.

Thank you,
John Werner