



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

May 17, 2021

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

SUMMER SEASON PERIOD: **June 21 to July 16, 2021 (4 weeks)**

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**.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a **short-term, entry-level position** intended to provide two unique experiences for students in Taos County:

- 1. an introductory field experience in measuring forest change and;**
- 2. an exposure to regional forest management challenges and decisions.**

Student forest monitors will be assessing the ecological changes resulting from forest thinning treatments on two projects in Taos County. 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, forestry, or wildland firefighting careers. Current students or individuals in the application process to 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 interview skills, wildlife habitat knowledge, and wildland fire experience.*

CONSERVATION – DEVELOPMENT – SELF-GOVERNMENT

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: **\$13 / hour** (equivalent to \$444/every 2 weeks after FICA withholding)

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 cmartinez@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: Wednesday, **June 9, 2021 by 5 pm (email) or end of office hours (4pm) for hardcopy submission.**