



Tuolumne River Trust

Forest Health Project Manager

Summary

This is a posting for a part-time Forest Health Project Manager for the Tuolumne River Trust, functioning out of TRT's Sonora office. This position is grant-funded and will include 20-30 hours of work a week, but may have the potential to develop into a full-time position. The Forest Health Project Manager will help TRT implement forest health projects across the landscape, with a focus on public lands management on the Stanislaus National Forest.

Information

The Forest Health Project Manager will help implement the Tuolumne River Trust's (TRT) forest restoration program on the Stanislaus National Forest and adjacent private lands. The Project Manager will play a central program role by working closely with TRT's Headwaters Program Director to secure funding, manage grants, supervise contractors, and implement projects. This individual will possess an understanding of sustainable forestry practices, national forest management policies, and a passion for ecological forest and watershed restoration. At home among the trees, in nature, and with fellow environmentalists, the right candidate will be equally interested in building collegial and productive working relationships with foresters, loggers, landowners, scientists, and agency representatives, especially employees of the U.S. Forest Service and Tuolumne County. With a deep base of natural resource management, the Forest Health Project Manager will help implement projects designed to increase the health and resilience of the Sierra Nevada forests, protecting and advocating for the ecological, social, and economic values that these forests provide.

The ideal candidate is an experienced forest/fire ecologist, forester, or related natural resource conservation project manager with a background in forest health and fire resiliency and a solid history of multi-stakeholder collaboration. The successful candidate must have working knowledge of forest ecology and related resource concerns, ideally with experience relevant to Sierra Nevada forests and plant communities. Experience with conservation planning, overseeing project implementation, and managing contracts and subcontractors is essential, as is a demonstrated ability to be self-directed while working collaboratively with other staff members and partners. Additional experience with permitting and construction project management is a plus. This position is currently funded through grants from state agencies.

Equity at TRT

TRT holds a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity as core principles integral to the work we do. As we add new members across all levels of the organization, we seek diverse perspectives and lived experiences that foster learning, creativity, innovation, and equity.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Forest Health Project Manager will advance TRT's forest restoration program through project implementation, liaising with private contractors, the Stanislaus National Forest staff, and staff from Tuolumne County. This individual will be responsible for implementation of contracts, marking of boundaries, and project monitoring.

Primary duties include:

- Managing contractors, including:
 - Assist the Headwaters Program Director with contractor selection for roadside fuel breaks, understory fuels reduction, mechanical thinning, weed control, and other project work, including development of Requests for Proposals and review of submitted proposals.
 - Assist the Headwaters Program Director with development of contracts for

- implementation of grant-funded work.
 - Establish pre-project flagging to mark work site boundaries, riparian buffers, etc.
 - Schedule and oversee contractor work, including:
 - Preliminary site visits.
 - Contractor trainings for wildlife and cultural resources awareness.
 - Daily or weekly site visits to ensure adherence to project scope and required mitigations. o Purchase materials and deliver to work site
- Complete project documentation and monitoring, including:
 - Quarterly or semi-annual grant progress reports to project funders.
 - Project photo-monitoring, including establishment and documentation of photopoints.
 - Documentation of invasive plant occurrences, treated area extents, and other field data using mobile phone/tablet-based GIS software.
- Fieldwork including (but not limited to)
 - o Project layout and oversight.
 - o Timber stand exams.
 - o Stake and Survival Exams.
- The Forest Health Project Manager may be asked to assist in grant writing efforts necessary to implement new projects.
- Other duties as assigned.

Suggested Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have a background and track record that includes:

- Strong oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills, and ability to communicate effectively with staff, volunteers, and the public.
- Team player and ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures and experiences.
- Knowledge of forestry, vegetation management, wildfire behavior, watershed stewardship and conservation, resource management, basic hydrology, basic soil science, native plant and animal communities, and/or forest ecology.
- 3-years of relevant experience.
- Bachelor's Degree in forest ecology, forestry, silviculture, natural resources management, or a closely-related field.
- Familiarity with FSH 2409.12—the Forest Service Timber Cruising Handbook
- Experience implementing and managing projects, including coordinating the work of other professionals, and collaborating with internal and external partners.
- Skilled in GIS, resource inventory, and mapping.
- Project goal oriented with initiative in fulfilling programmatic and grant-related obligations.
- Demonstrated commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Strong computer skills, including Word and Excel.
- Physically able to work in the field (hiking off-trail through heavy brush, lifting, carrying supplies and equipment, etc.) during all seasons.
- Ability to work from a home office with good internet connection during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Must have a valid driver's license, be fit and able to walk to forest project sites as well as be able to lift at least 20 pounds.
- Understanding of forest modeling, LiDAR, and other current and forest management tools.

Travel

Project locations are typically within 1-3 hours of the Sonora office. The Forest Health Project Manager will be compensated for travel, but is responsible for transportation to and from project locations. Proof of a valid US Drivers license and insurance will be requested at the time of employment.

Additional Details

This position will be based in our Sonora, CA office and report to the Headwaters Program Director. This position is currently part time, with an average of 20-30 hours a week of work, but may develop into a full-

time position as the Headwaters Program continues to expand. As a part-time position, an hourly rate between \$20-\$25/hr will be paid. As the workload expands, a salaried position may become available, including full-time work with medical and dental insurance, retirement plan, life insurance, and disability coverage.

TRT is an equal opportunity employer. We believe that a diverse staff of qualified, highly-skilled, and creative individuals is necessary to achieve the vision and mission of the initiative. We welcome and encourage applications from candidates who can contribute to the diversity of our workforce across a range of dimensions.

To Apply

Review of applications will begin on X date. Initial review of applicants will be done through an anonymized process with names and addresses removed. Please send an email with cover letter and resume as attachments with subject heading Forest Health Project Manager to jobs@tuolumne.org.

Timeline: Position is open until filled. The schedule for the first round of interviews is as follows: Deadline for application submittal is September 9. Screening of applications will happen September 10-11. Calls for interviews will occur by September 14. Interviews will be schedule on September 21. A final decision will be made by September 25. A second round will be conducted if needed.

Tuolumne River Trust Background

The Tuolumne River Trust promotes the stewardship of the Tuolumne River and its tributaries to ensure a healthy watershed, from Yosemite National Park to the San Joaquin River and the San Francisco Bay-Delta. Founded in 1981, the Trust is the only organization working throughout the watershed, linking Sierra and Valley conservation issues and forging strong ties between rural mountain and valley regions and Bay Area urban communities. The Trust has an annual core budget of approximately a million dollars, 8 employees, a cadre of consultants, and offices in San Francisco, Modesto, and Sonora.

The 2013 Rim Fire, which burned 257,000 acres (approximately 20% of the Tuolumne Watershed), was a profound event for the river, the community, and for TRT as an organization and compelled us to engage in forest restoration and management. TRT serves as a member of the Leadership Team of the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) and acts as the project manager for forest, meadow, spring, and wildlife restoration projects on behalf of the collaborative. TRT also works closely with Tuolumne County, which is the signatory of a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Stanislaus National Forest on behalf of YSS.

Other TRT programs include: a) participation in the relicensing of the Don Pedro Dam, which regulates stream flows in the lower Tuolumne River, and the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan update to ensure improved river flows for fish and wildlife in the lower Tuolumne River, b) restoration of floodplains, riparian forests, and other habitat along the lower Tuolumne River, c) building public support for watershed stewardship by connecting the public to the River through education and outreach, d) educating schoolchildren about the importance of the Tuolumne River to our region; and e) improving water use efficiency in the Bay Area so that more water is left in the river to ensure its health.

By linking mountain, valley, and Bay Area conservation issues, and connecting people to the river through outings and education, the Trust is building broad support for watershed stewardship. Our strategic approach melds advocacy, education, collaboration, scientific inquiry, and litigation when necessary to address threats and take advantage of conservation and restoration opportunities. For more information about the Tuolumne River Trust, visit: www.tuolumne.org.