

AMERICORPS PROJECT CONSERVE MEMBER SERVICE DESCRIPTION

September 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011 Service Year

Position Title: AmeriCorps Forester or Apprentice Forester, Generally Mon.-Friday 8-5, but can be flexible. Expect to work occasionally on weekends.

Host Site's Name: Forest Stewards, 331 Stillwell Bldg, Dept. of GeoSciences and Natural Resources, C/O Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, www.foreststewards.net

Site Supervisor: Rob Lamb, Executive Director, rlamb@foreststewards.net, phone 828-227-3388, Cell: 828-280-5899, fax 828-227-7647

Forest Stewards Mission Statement:

The mission of Forest Stewards is to enhance the future ecological, economic, and social benefits of our forests through providing forest stewardship services to landowners and educating the next generation of forest management professionals. Our Americorps service member will assist by directly providing services to landowners that desire to improve the ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by their forest. The service member will also be in charge of leading student interns from Western Carolina University in these activities and, in the process, providing them practical skills and knowledge to become future forest stewards.

Main purpose of this position:

To assist landowners in meeting their objectives through designing and implementing forest stewardship practices that improve ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by their forest. The service member will also be in charge of leading student interns from Western Carolina University in these activities and, in the process, providing them practical skills and knowledge to become future forest stewards. Services to be performed out of office in Cullowhee, NC, but projects are located throughout western North Carolina.

General Summary:

First, the member will assist the executive director in the creation of Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners and then in implementing these plans. This includes the collection of ecological and forest assessment field data, creation of forest cover maps, writing reports, designing forest management actions such as timber sales and restoration work, the coordination and oversight of loggers and other stewardship contractors. The member will also be expected to communicate our mission with landowners, and to work with landowners to develop and implement plans that meet their objectives. Second, the member will oversee student interns from Western Carolina University and assign them tasks so that they may assist in the process described above to the extent that they are able during the school year and given their skill level. It is the responsibility of the member to supervise student interns, keep track of their work hours, and perform other related administrative duties. It is expected that the member will impart knowledge and skills to the interns when appropriate so that the students may develop in their professional ability. Third, the member will assist in activities that promote the development of Forest Stewards into a larger and farther reaching organization. This may include developing a client database, mailing, phone calls, giving presentations, and developing relationships with key individuals and organizations. Key partners in the growth of Forest Stewards include landowners, land trusts, environmental groups, forest products industries, loggers, other foresters and forestry related organizations, and educational institutions. As a new and developing organization, Forest Stewards is open to new program development such as establishing a membership, seeking grants, developing a tropical forest conservation and stewardship program, and developing a K-12 forest stewardship education program.

Special conditions of service (if any): All members will participate in AmeriCorps Project Conserve sponsored events, service days, and training days. Training days will require a minimum of two overnight stays.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities & Qualifications:

Required:

- Bachelors or master's degree in forestry, natural resources, or closely related field.
- Skills in the application of GIS.
- Must be able to work well with others and be able to supervise multiple student interns.
- Must be skilled in the collection of forestry and ecological field data.
- Must be adept at using a compass, GPS, and reading maps.
- Capable of collecting field data in remote locations (usually within several miles of road or vehicle), difficult terrain (steep and mountainous) and adverse conditions (rain).

- Must be skilled in data management and analysis with programs such as Microsoft excel.
- Must be able to write reports that describe forest conditions and stewardship recommendations.
- Must have a bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources, or closely related field.
- Must be willing and capable of physical work throughout the year.
- An eligible member must be 18 years of age and have documentation of citizenship / naturalization / resident alien status. BA in Communications/Journalism/English preferred or evidence of strong interpersonal communication and writing skills for other degrees. At least one year of relevant work or internship experience desirable. Driver's license required.

Preferences:

- Has 2 years or more experience working in forestry or related profession.
- Proficient in the use of GIS and GPS
- Has experience giving presentations and supervising employees.
- Proficient in the collection of forestry and ecological field data and is proficient in identification of southern Appalachian tree species.
- Experience and knowledge of southern Appalachian forest systems.
- Proficient in using software such as Microsoft excel to organize store and to analyze data and is not afraid of challenging math.
- Good writer with ample experience preparing reports that describe forest conditions and stewardship recommendations.
- Skilled in forest finance, wildlife management, water resource management, botany, educational outreach, and/or other related skill set that can enhance the services provided by Forest Stewards or the development and growth of our organizations.
- Bachelor's or master's degree in forestry from an SAF accredited institution.
- 2 years or more experience working in forestry or related profession.
- Positive attitude, enthusiasm and desire to learn and to perform tasks to the highest standards are essential.