



YUBA WATERSHED INSTITUTE

Employment Opportunity for a

FOREST HEALTH PROJECT MANAGER

BACKGROUND:

The Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of long-term biological diversity in the Yuba River watershed. The YWI has ongoing projects that promote forest health, water quality protection, and wildfire resiliency in the watershed. In addition, the YWI serves as an educational resource, providing an ongoing series of talks, workshops, publications, and walks covering all aspects of the watershed.

The YWI seeks a Forest Health Project Manager to join a dynamic team of conservation professionals. The Project Manager will work closely with YWI staff and partners to lead forest health and wildfire resiliency programs in the Yuba River watershed.

Example projects the Project Manager will lead include but are not limited to:

- Landscape-scale forest health projects geared towards creating ecosystem resiliency to wildfire, drought, and climate change (i.e. forest stand improvement, prescribed fire, strategic vegetation management, etc.).
- Neighborhood-scale fire prevention projects (i.e. shaded fuel breaks).
- Associated education and outreach events, including volunteer workdays.

The Forest Health Project Manager will work closely with partners including the U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CAL FIRE, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, and the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. The work environment is fast-paced, collaborative, and creative.

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. The position is part-time, non-exempt, and is funded for 20-30 hours per week. Full-time work is also potentially available, depending on the candidate. This position will report to the YWI Executive Director and will work closely with other YWI staff to fulfill the YWI mission and the scopes of work from grant-funded projects, as summarized below.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Forest Health Project Manager will manage the implementation of grant-funded projects, including Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the 1,200-acre 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project, a collaboration between the YWI, BLM, CAL FIRE, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Duties may include the following.

- Manage contractors, including:
 - Assist YWI Executive Director with contractor selection for roadside fuel breaks, understory fuels reduction, timber harvest, weed control, and other project work, including development of Requests for Proposals and review of submitted proposals.
 - Assist YWI Executive 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.
 - Purchase materials and deliver to work site.
- Work with BLM (or other agency) staff to complete the following:
 - Pre-project flagging for protection of wildlife and cultural resources.
 - Scheduling of BLM burn boss staff when YWI-funded crews are implementing pile burns or other prescribed fire work.
 - Scheduling of fuels reduction work in concert with BLM's permitted work periods.
 - Completion of work restriction exemption paperwork, if necessary.
 - Notification of project commencement, progress, and conclusion.
 - Ensuring that all project activities comply with applicable BLM project design features and stipulations.
 - Sharing data layers and project information as needed with BLM managers and specialists.
- Complete project documentation and monitoring, including:
 - Quarterly or semi-annual grant progress reports to project funders.
 - Project photo-monitoring, including establishment and documentation of photo-points.

- Documentation of invasive plant occurrences, treated area extents, and other field data using mobile phone/tablet-based GIS software.
- Conduct stakeholder outreach and community engagement, possibly including, but not limited to:
 - Follow funding agency guidelines for public notification about grant-funded activities.
 - Organize neighborhood meetings to inform resident about upcoming work.
 - Prepare and send electronic newsletter updates, press releases, and mailings as needed.
 - Provide project information at special events (such as YWI’s annual Fungus Foray).
 - Attend local and regional planning and networking meetings, as needed.
 - Coordinate with project partners.
 - Organize volunteer events, such as Scotch broom removal, understory fuel reduction, pre-project flagging, etc.
- Complete other tasks, including:
 - Assist YWI Executive Director with field data collection for forest health planning projects, including the Round Mountain and Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Projects.
 - Contribute to grant proposals as part of the YWI team.
 - Additional tasks or responsibilities, as directed by the YWI Executive Director.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE:

Required

- 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.
- Bachelor’s degree or higher in forestry, natural resources, watershed management, or a related field.
- 3+ years of professional experience related to forestry.
- Proficiency with ArcGIS and field data collection with GPS/GNSS receivers.
- Demonstrated ability to establish cooperative working relationships.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Experience working collaboratively within partnerships including public agencies, landowners, researchers, and others.
- Highly motivated, organized, and self-directed with the ability to prioritize and coordinate workload to fulfill deadlines.
- Project goal oriented with initiative in fulfilling programmatic and grant-related obligations.
- Strong oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills, and ability to communicate effectively with staff, volunteers, and the public.
- 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.
- Creativity, sense of humor, “can do” spirit, collegiality, flexibility, strong desire to learn.

- Valid CA driver's license and current auto insurance.

Preferred

- Graduate degree in forestry or related field.
- Minimum 5 years of work experience.
- Familiarity with local special-status species (e.g., California spotted owl, northern goshawk, California red-legged frog), including habitat needs and legal protections.
- Familiarity with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Experience working with watershed groups, fire safe councils, or other conservation groups.
- Familiarity with production forestry.
- Construction project management experience.
- Experience working under, writing, and managing grants.

The Forest Health Project Manager is a part-time, non-exempt position (20-30 hours per week). Some job-related travel is required and will be billed on a cost reimbursable basis. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

To apply, please submit a resume, letter of interest, and names and phone numbers of at least three references to Yuba Watershed Institute, P.O. Box 2198, Nevada City, CA 95959 or via email to chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICANTS: Position is open until filled. Application review will begin July 1, 2020

The YWI is an equal opportunity employer.