



Position Title: Forestry/Field Crew Lead

Job Category: Hourly, seasonal

Location: Southwest Colorado and Northwest New Mexico; reporting office Durango, CO

Timeline: May 2023 – August 2023 (approximate); 8-12 weeks contingent on project needs and funding; approximate start date 15 May 2023.

Position Summary: The field lead will work directly with Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) as part of our dedicated forest monitoring team to support our collaborative forest health partners across the San Juan National Forest. The field lead will assist with forest monitoring, data entry, and other MSI projects as needed.

Expectations: The field crew lead will work alongside MSI project and field managers and associated partners and volunteers to provide monitoring and field support for a variety of Forest Program projects. The field crew lead will assist with the collection of data related to ecological monitoring efforts led by MSI, the US Forest Service, and forest health collaboratives. The field crew lead will work in multiple locations across southwest Colorado and northwest New Mexico. In addition to monitoring activities, the field crew lead may assist with non-field activities, such as database management, field equipment upkeep, and volunteer oversight. A qualified candidate will have a thorough understanding of their own needs in a backcountry setting and be able to evaluate and navigate the needs of their team. A qualified candidate must be able to follow monitoring and safety protocol with fidelity. This position will require lengthy days, traveling on foot, over rough terrain. This position will also require overnight camping.

Schedule: 40-hour week; occasional long days, weekend or evening work may be required. There may be some weeks during the employment period when work will not be provided (adverse weather conditions, etc). MSI staff will coordinate with the field tech regarding these periods, if and when they occur. Field crews will likely work a 4 day on/3 day off or 8 day on/6 day off schedule at the discretion of the crew members.

Required Skills/Qualifications:

- 1-3 seasons of forestry related field experience
- Valid driver's license or the ability to obtain a driver's license by the employment start date
- Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules across rugged terrain and in adverse weather conditions
- Ability to carry a 30-45lb pack and work at elevations between 4,000 and 10,000ft
- Experience in road and backcountry navigation
- Experience navigating to field plots with a GPS unit and/or navigation app (e.g. Avenza or Gaia)



- Experience using satellite communication devices (Garmin InReach)
- Experience with common forest mensuration techniques
- Ability to follow written and oral instructions
- Demonstrated field leadership including the ability to meet personal needs in the backcountry while also evaluating and navigating the needs of a team under varied conditions
- Ability to operate independently
- A High School diploma or GED

Desired Skills/Qualifications:

- Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification
- Dendrology and vegetation identification course work and/or fieldwork.
- Demonstratable experience with safety in backcountry
- Willing and able to work with volunteers and crew members of all age ranges and a spectrum of interests.
- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in natural resources, forestry or related field

Training Provided: Guidance by MSI and project staff with the specific methods used for project work, data management, data QAQC, and Wilderness First Aid training if needed

Compensation: Wage Range \$20-24/hr (depending on experience), plus per diem for field days

Housing: The field crew lead will be responsible for securing housing. MSI staff will provide some guidance for non-Durango hires.

To Apply: Please submit 1) Resume and 2) Contact information for three references including emails, telephone numbers and your relationship to the reference as one PDF document to Apply@mountainstudies.org with Last Name_FieldLead as the document title. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning March 31, 2023.

For more details about the position, contact Laura Hanna at Laura@mountainstudies.org

About Mountain Studies Institute: MSI is a 501 (c)(3) non-advocacy, mountain education and research center established in 2002 to develop the capacity of southwest Colorado mountain communities to thrive and live sustainably. To accomplish MSI's mission and vision, we engage scientists, citizens, and land managers in collaborative efforts to put science into action.

As MSI is a growing research and education center, we are looking for candidates with the ambition and passion for mountain research to help grow the Institute, explore new ways to communicate and share information, and apply our research for the betterment of the region and the world.

EEO Statement: All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, gender



identity or expression, or any other basis protected by local, state, or federal law. This policy applies to all aspects of one's employment, including hiring, transfer, promotion, compensation, eligibility for benefits, and termination. MSI is a drug free workplace and complies with ADA regulations as applicable. MSI believes in a collaborative and supportive work environment that encourages and inspires professional growth.