



Rural Community Development Project Specialist

(Application closes October 31, 2020 with a start date in early January 2021)

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment seeks a full-time Rural Community Development Project Specialist to work with rural forested communities and collaboratives throughout California. The position is based in the very rural northern Sierra town of Taylorsville.

Job Duties

The Project Specialist will be involved in a variety of projects focused on forest and watershed health, rural economic development, environmental justice and the well-being of rural communities.

Specifically, this position will support rural economic development efforts in communities across the Sierra Nevada that are interested in developing bioenergy and wood utilization business to provide rural jobs and to support forest health. The Project Specialist will also play a key role in researching barriers to innovative wood products production in California, including raw materials, regulatory and workforce barriers.

Working with the Rural Development Team, the Project Specialist will:

- Gather and organize information on biomass utilization and innovative wood products businesses;
- Conduct expert interviews with wood manufacturing industry leaders and workforce development program leaders;
- Conduct outreach and engagement efforts with rural communities across the Sierra Nevada and provide tailored technical assistance and capacity building support for rural economic development centered on wood utilization and biomass;
- Review and help assess information surrounding the wood industry, workforce development programs and relevant policy.

The Project Specialist may contribute to other projects in our Rural Development Program. This may include:

- Contribute to planning and implementation of community workshops that measure socio-economic conditions in Sierra Nevada forested communities;
- Conduct outreach and engagement to support water infrastructure and water related needs of communities within the Sierra Nevada;
- Conduct background research on issues related to environmental justice and rural community well-being;

The Project Specialist should have a commitment to environmental stewardship and promoting economically vibrant and equitable rural communities.

Qualifications

- Experience in social science, natural resources, and/or rural development;
- Knowledge of forest health issues, wood biomass and bioenergy;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Comfort and experience with virtual communication, must be at ease making phone calls and coordinating/facilitating video calls;
- The ability to work with a team/diverse people, and work independently;
- Flexibility, willingness to adapt;
- Experience working with underserved communities;
- Interest in environmental justice issues in rural communities;
- Interest and commitment to building long term partnerships;
- A bachelor's degree or advanced degree.

Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Skills or experiences that can fill in for desired qualifications may be considered.

More Details

About the Sierra Institute

The Sierra Institute promotes healthy forests, watersheds, and communities by investing in the well-being of rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource management. Our work is grounded by the concept of triple bottom line values, supporting initiatives that simultaneously benefit the environment, economy, and equity within a given landscape. The organization is more than 20 years old, has experienced significant recent growth, and continues to evolve in its projects and partners.

Location

Sierra Institute is located in Taylorsville, CA (population 154), and lies within a large mountain meadow referred to as "Indian Valley," which includes the communities of Greenville and Crescent Mills. Indian Valley offers uniquely rural community events and is surrounded by many outdoor recreation opportunities within nearby public lands including Plumas and Lassen National Forests, and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Covid 19

As of this posting, Sierra Institute staff are working primarily in our office, following COVID-19 safety protocols which are informed by the latest research and evidence. We anticipate this position will primarily be based out of our office in Taylorsville with the possibility of part time work-from-home arrangements in order to maintain a healthy and safe office.

How to Apply

Please send your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references as **one PDF** to jobs@sierrainstitute.us with "Rural Community Development Project Specialist" in the subject line. Review of applications will begin on **October 31, 2020** with an anticipated start date early January 2021. Please call (530) 284-1022 with questions.