

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #044

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

February 11, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: Summer seasonal positions are ramping up; check out multiple positions closing today. Weekly issues of Career Connects are archived [here](#).

Note: some of you are receiving this email for the first time as friends and coworkers have shared your contact. You may unsubscribe any time by emailing me: shantinir@nmhu.edu

LIFE TIP: A friend shared a story about the full and inspiring life of [Kathy Jefferson Bancroft](#) who liked to remind people that “water ... is not easily governed. It follows its own logic, its own timescale, indifferent to permits, deadlines, and claims of ownership.” At a time when we are reminded that life can be unexpectedly abrupt and short, make it count.

»»» The Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes are Hiring....

- **Ecological Restoration Institute @ NAU (Flagstaff, AZ; salary: \$76,082 annually, deadline 3/9)** - ERI is seeking a [Restoration Ecology & Forest Resilience Manager](#) to lead the Forest Health & Resilience Program, developing multi-year projects, assessing fuels and treatments, restoration prescriptions, wildfire mitigation strategies, etc. This position will also co-design field-based studies and monitoring projects. The new [Wildfire Insurance and Resilient Economies Manager](#) will direct research that utilize insurance models, quantify economic benefits of wildfire prevention, and inform policy recommendations.
- **NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute @ NMHU** has seasonal technician positions for recent graduates (\$18.76 p/hr) and technician aides for currently enrolled NMHU students (\$15-16 p/hr) + \$51-\$68 daily per diem during field travel + generous safety allowance for field gear. Gain robust and marketable field skills with a professional monitoring crew; build life skills (team building, communications, field safety, etc.) and explore little-known places across NM.

District Manager, Valencia SWCD (salary: \$53,165-\$85,072 annually) «««

This full-time permanent position oversees daily operations and staff management. Seeking candidates with natural resources or agricultural operations backgrounds, along with public agency administration and budget management experience.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Conservation Legacy placement with Parks & Trails is a seasonal position (5/18-7/24) in southern NM at [City of Rocks State Park](#), to support the establishment of a new trail. This is a minimum 300-hour Americorp term, with a \$1,565.08 education award, \$500 weekly living allowance, and \$200 additional weekly benefit.

Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps has a Biological Technician position at [Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge](#) near Socorro for a 22-week placement (5/10-10/10). Gain experience in wildlife monitoring, mapping, vegetation surveys, seed collection, and invasive species management. This 675-hour Americorps term includes \$2,187.14 education award, \$600 weekly living allowance, \$100 additional weekly benefit, and \$500 professional development budget. Additional Ancestral Land positions in CO and AZ can be found [here](#).

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance is hiring for their summer YCC crews, including:

- Watershed restoration coordinator, \$25 p/hr, Apr. 6-Sept. 30 (deadline: 3/9)
- Post-fire watershed restoration crew, \$22 p/hr, mid-April-end of Nov (deadline: 3/9)
- Watershed restoration crew leader, \$22 p/hr, May 26-Aug. 7 (deadline: 4/6)
- Watershed restoration crew member, \$19 p/hr, May 26-Aug. 7 (deadline: 4/6)

HANDS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

March 7, 9 AM – 2 PM, Valle de Oro NWR
Join volunteers from ABQ Wildlife Federation and Rio Grande Return to plant native vegetation to restore a playa. Register/questions:
Cameron@riograndereturn.org

March 11, 10 AM – 3 PM
Willow planting on the Rio Puerco to stabilize riverbanks and create wildlife habitat. RSVP by March 9 for details on meeting location; Karen Monetrey,
karen@riograndereturn.org; 505-603-1328.

Other positions:

- CLOSING TODAY [Wildfire Prepared Program Coordinator](#), EMNRD, located in Albuquerque or Santa Fe, full-time permanent position (\$60,800-\$91,200 annually, deadline: 2/11)
- CLOSING TODAY [Research Scientist 3](#), UNM, based in Albuquerque and will plan, coordinate, and conduct research. Full-time one year position (\$4,236.27-\$5,094.27 p/month, deadline: 2/11)
- CLOSING TODAY [Public Involvement Coordinator and Environmental Supervisor](#), Department of Transportation, located in Santa Fe, full-time permanent position (\$81,349-\$130,159 annually, deadline: 2/11)
- CLOSING TODAY [Senior Warmwater Fisheries Biologist](#), Department of Game & Fish, full-time permanent position (\$55,273-\$82,909 annually, deadline: 2/11)
- [Senior Environmental Scientist](#), Department of Environment, located in Santa Fe, full-time sponsored term (\$73,568-\$110,352 annually, deadline: 2/17)
- [Communications Manager](#), Amigos Bravos, located in Taos, full-time exempt (competitive pay, typically \$65K-\$75K annually)
- [Director of Technical Services](#), Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (\$150K-\$180K annually)

➤➤➤ SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- [Amigos Bravos Summer Internships](#), hands-on experience for high school and college students in water policy, science-based research, and restoration work.
- [Mountain Research 2026 Fellows Call](#), offers leadership, mentorship, research, and educational opportunities to students, postdocs, youth, practitioners, and community members living, working, or from the mountains. Opportunity for involvement in the Moving Mountains Summit.

LAST CALL:

- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center 2026 Summer Internships span 19 ecological fields, from terrestrial to water science, modeling, technology and science writing. Instructions on how to apply [here](#). These [2026 Summer Internships](#), range from 10-16 weeks in-residence in Edgewater, MD (housing provided). The 10-12 week [2026 Summer Science Writing Intern](#) will focus on scientist interviews, blogs on scientific studies, etc. This position can be onsite or virtual. All positions @ \$700 weekly (deadline: 2/15)
- [Leopold Residency for Writers](#), the Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency, "Mi Casita," provides a one-month residency with stipend for professional environmental writers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature. (deadline: 2/16)

CALL TO ACTION

Let's Take About Recreation: Community Input Night

Friday, Feb 27, 4-7 PM @ Cafe Colibri (1814 Plaza St., Las Vegas)

Update on campgrounds and trail redesign in El Porvenir and Gallinas Canyon - Identify community needs related to fishing, hunting and camping
Community members from the greater Las Vegas, Mora and Pecos; children welcome.

RSVP/questions to: aszrom@nationalforests.org

Northeast NM Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Feb. 27-28 (@ NMHU)

- Volunteers needed - sign up for one (or more!) two-hour shifts on Feb 27/8AM-8PM or Feb 28/7 AM-10 PM
- Judges needed – must attend one-hour training Fri. evening or Sat. morning, and be available the day of the Fair (Feb 28) from 830 AM onwards

Questions? Nicolle Kirby, nicole@nmhu.edu

➤➤➤ FUNDING & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

In an era of how to do the work with diminishing funding resources, here are recently announced opportunities to boost/bridge funding for your work:

The NM Department of Wildlife's [Share with Wildlife](#) program supports 4 project types: 1) habitat enhancement; 2) biological/ecological research; 3) wildlife rehabilitation; 4) wildlife education. 9-11 projects funded annually. Research on Spp. of Greatest Conservation Need are encouraged (deadline: 4/10).

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – [Local Data for Equitable Communities](#) - focuses on collecting, analyzing, and using data to address inequities in the physical, economic, and social conditions of a place. An anticipated 30 grants will be disbursed to empower local advocates to progress community priorities, that are grounded in data, for healthier people and places (deadline: 3/3; capped at \$50K).

Santa Fe Community Foundation's Spring Grant Cycle is open through 3/15; register for upcoming informational sessions: [Feb. 12, 3-4 PM](#) & [Feb. 24, 10-11 AM](#). Priorities include Civic and Economic Opportunities, Health & Human Services, and Empower! Black Future Community Fund.

»»» LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS:

- TODAY, 11 AM-12 PM, webinar [State of the Science on Wildland Firefighter Health and Wellbeing](#), register [Here](#)
- TODAY, 4:30-5:30 PM, [NM Outdoor Classrooms Virtual Workshop Series](#), bi-weekly 2/11-4/22
- TODAY, 5-6 PM, webinar [Back to Basics: Plastic Pollution 101](#)
- Feb. 12, 1 PM, webinar [Policy Update on the Fix Our Forests Act \(FOFA\)](#)
- Feb. 12, 4-5:30 PM, webinar [A 34-year retrospective assessment of USFS post-fire reforestation projects in the western US: Actual versus optimal planting sites for forest recovery](#)
- Feb 12, 7:30 PM, Studying Bats in a Changing NM, ABQ friends Meeting House (1600 5th St. NW)
- Feb. 13, 5:30 PM, [Exploring Fungi that Sustain the Rio Grande Bosque](#) with NM Wildlife Federation in ABQ (9904 Montgomery Blvd, NE)
- Feb. 13, 7-8 PM, [Stellar Attractions](#), Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium, \$10
- Feb. 13-15, registration open for the [Agriculture, Community, Economics Symposium](#) in Loveland, CO; focusing on Reimagining the Future of Farming
- Feb. 15, hybrid event registration deadline for [4th International Smoke Symposium \(ISS4\)](#)
- Feb. 17, 11 AM-12:30 PM, webinar [Science to Support Post-Fire Restoration](#)
- Feb. 18, 8:30 AM-3 PM, [NOAA's Satellite Symposium Series: Fire](#)
- Feb. 18, 1-2 PM, webinar [Building Intentional Career Pathways in the Environmental Sector](#)
- Feb. 19, 6-7 PM, [Connecting Wildlife Habitat in a Fragmented World](#), in-person and live-streamed talk, Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium (2600 Canyon Rd, Los Alamos, NM 87544)
- Feb. 20, 7-8 PM, [The James Webb Space Telescope Unlocked Universe](#), Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium, \$6 child/\$8 adult/\$20 family
- Feb. 21, 9-11 AM, [Learn to Birdwatch](#), at the Open Space Visitor Center in Albuquerque
- Feb 26, 2-4- PM, virtual [Seed and Soil Workshop](#) (2 CEUs) with iExplora
- March 3, 6-7 PM, virtual [Helping Butterfly Conservation Take Flight](#) with PEEC
- March 3-5, [Stewards of the Southwest Summit](#) (formerly known as the New Mexico Tribal Forest & Fire Summit), Santa Ana Pueblo
- March 4-6, [The 2026 Land and Water Summit](#), In person and remote conference plus in person [Pre- Summit Field trip](#), virtual conference is free to students! Takes place at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque

»»» HERMIT'S PEAK / CALF CANYON UPDATE

As we approach the 4th anniversary of NM's largest wildfire, a hard-fought compensation fund continues to flounder. Residents who lost homes are still receiving \$0 determination letters, compounding their trauma; meanwhile...

- [NM governor calls on FEMA claims office director to resign](#)

If you know of job opportunities or have a request for a type of resource that can be added to this newsletter, please reach out to Shantini Ramakrishnan (shantinir@nmhu.edu)



THINKING LIKE WATER COMES TO LAS VEGAS...

Thinking Like Water

Tues Feb 24, 2026: Episode 1
Tues Mar 24, 2026: Episode 5

Doors Open 5:30pm, Screening Starts 6:00pm, followed by Q/A with Special Guests
Free ~ Donations Accepted

CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER

HERMIT'S PEAK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

NMFWRI

a 5-Part Docuseries by Renea Roberts

Part biography, part how-to, "water wizard" Bill Zeedyk and his allies illustrate a proven toolbox of simple, low-tech, low-cost methods to restore degraded lands. Working with nature, rather than against her, to gird against the extremes of drought and flood, while fostering climate resiliency.

INDIGO THEATER

www.thinkinglikewater.com

FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- Federal employee put into revived "Schedule F" category may lose loan aid, pay incentives
- It's about to get easier to fire federal workers
- Wildfire urgency unites Congress
- NM Unemployment

LAST CHANCE:

- S-131 Wildland Firefighter Type I (Feb 14 7 15)
 - S-215 Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface (Feb. 21 & 22, 28)
- Contact Wes Schuchman (wschuchman@luna.edu) or Hank Blackwell (hblackwell@luna.edu)

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

NM COMMUNITY

NM Crisis & Access Line: 1-855-662-7474 (855-NMCRISIS);

Peer-to-Peer Warmline: 7-1130 AM & 6-11 PM daily (1-855-466-7100)

[Guidanceresources.com](https://www.guidanceresources.com) provides 24/7 support, resources and information for all NM state employees
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (Call or Text 988): [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)

NMHU COMMUNITY

CARES Counseling: cares@nmhu.edu | 505-454-3006

After-Hours Crisis Line (Available 24/7): 505-795-3665

Sunrise Clinic): 505-454-3218, 901 Baca Ave, Las Vegas