

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #045

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

February 18, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: check out the goings-on in Las Vegas over the next 10 days; plus more summer seasonal positions, new grants and a legislative update. 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: As the NM State Legislative session draws to a close, NM demonstrates a mixed commitment towards the environment. Jerry Redfern's [NM Again Debates Greenhouse Gas Reductions as Snow Melts](#), Arturo Terrazas' [A Masterclass in Failure](#), and Nature's [Support People and their Livelihoods rather than Fossil-fuel Industries](#) are all worthwhile reads as we experience unusually balmy weather followed by damaging windstorms and possibly a snowstorm within a single week in February.

»»» **Mountain Studies Institute, CO (deadline: 3/13)**

Multiple 16-week positions based in Durango, CO, with field sites across southwest CO and northwest NM. 4 days on/3 days off is typical with overnight car camping 3-4 days weekly.

- [Field Crew Lead Botany Specialist](#) (1-2 positions, ~May 26-Sept. 18) is ideal for candidates with strong botanical expertise, plant ID skills, and a commitment towards collecting accurate and quality long-term vegetation data (salary: \$21-\$23 p/hr + \$125 weekly per diem stipends)
- [Field Crew Lead](#) (1-2 positions, ~May 26-Sept. 18) is a good fit for candidates comfortable in the backcountry, with experience managing field crew dynamics, and a strong commitment towards high-quality data collection (salary: \$21-\$23 p/hr + \$125 weekly per diem stipends)
- [Field Technician](#) (2-4 positions, ~June 1-Aug. 21) is an excellent match for candidates who thrive outdoors, while gaining experience in forest monitoring, data entry and ecological restoration (salary: \$18-\$20 p/hr + \$125 weekly per diem stipends)

Regional Account Manager, ArboWorks (salary: \$100K-\$150K annually)

This Santa Fe based position requires a high level of project management experience in vegetation management, including new business development, cultivating and growing stakeholder partnerships, managing RFP/bid processes, handling client communications, etc.

»»» **Conservation Advocate, Environment NM (salary: \$39,750-\$46K annually)**

Based in ABQ or Santa Fe, this is primarily an advocacy and grassroots organizer position for an excellent communicator, strategic thinker and coalition builder.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Avian Use Technician, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., is seeking support for upcoming field work surveying songbirds and raptors. 8-12 hour days, 14-21 days monthly are typical. Position starts 3/1 through 12/21 (\$22-\$26 p/hr) near Encino.

Summer Camp Educators (5 positions), Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, are full-time seasonal positions from 5/26 through 8/7, with training provided in the first week of employment. Educators will lead hands-on activities related to nature and wildlife, games, hikes, arts & crafts, etc. (deadline: 4/1).

CLOSING SOON Sustainability Coordinator, City of Santa Fe, progresses the city's goals on carbon neutrality, ecological resiliency, economic vitality, equity and high quality of life. Position includes implementing trainings, engaging stakeholders in project meetings, preparing contracts, developing policy, public outreach, grant writing and management (salary: \$27.10-\$39.29 p/hr, deadline: 2/22).

RESOURCES FOR K-12 EDUCATORS

- **Santa Fe Watershed Association, educator workshop, March 14, 9AM-12 Noon, SF School for the Arts and Sciences.**
- **Research Opportunities for Science Educators (ROSE), five-week immersion for high school science teachers. Includes \$1200 weekly stipends * 5 weeks, UNM campus housing, June through mid-July (deadline: 3/6)**
- **Teacher Workshop – Engineering Problem Solving through Wildlife Conservation – 3rd/4th/5th grade teachers, March 21, 930 AM-330 PM, free training in ABQ, 4-lesson kit, inclusive of lunch and \$100 stipend**
- **Materials Camp STEM PD for middle- and high-school teachers in science, engineering, industrial/career and technical education, Santa Fe Community College, June 22-26, 4 CEUs, classroom workbook and supplies kit, housing included**
- **QCaMP 2026: Quantum Science Educators, K-12 educators, June 22-26, ABQ, 930AM-430PM, some stipends available (deadline 4/10)**
 - **Student Summer QCamp for high school students to explore quantum mechanics, algorithms, and cutting-edge technology, June 29-July 24, 930AM-430 PM in ABQ, \$500 weekly stipends (deadline: 4/3)**

Other positions:

- **Fire Management Officer (EMNRD #5337), full-time, Socorro (\$55,273-\$82,909 annually, deadline: 2/19)**
- **Sustainability and Resilience Officer (EMNRD #10111238), full-time, Albuquerque (\$66,880-\$100,320 annually, deadline: 2/27)**
- **Summer Camp Counselor, Pajarito Environmental Education Center, perfect entry level position for high schoolers looking to gain leadership experience (\$12/hour, deadline: 2/27).**
- **Animal Resources Technician, Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute, full-time, ABQ (salary DOE + \$500 sign on bonus).**
- **Tree Climber, Yellowstone Landscaping, tree pruning and removal, Albuquerque and Santa Fe openings (competitive hourly pay).**
- **Manager in Development, Yellowstone Landscaping, work with a mentor to learn to manage teams and oversee projects. Albuquerque and Santa Fe openings (competitive pay).**
- **Chief Financial Officer, Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District, full-time, ABQ (\$40-\$50 p/hr)**

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)



➤➤➤ SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- [To the Stars Stem Scholarship](#), \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors who are first-generation STEM students (deadline: 3/27)
- [Acequia Culture Youth Leadership Institute 2026](#), paid learning and leadership program for youth ages 14-19. Gain new skills, work with peers, gain leadership skills, and learn about protecting our acequia waters and communities (deadline: 3/30)
- [2026 Rocky Mountain GSA Field Trip Scholarship](#), covers the [Indigenous Geology in New Mexico](#) fieldtrip on May 16. For high school, undergraduate, and graduate students (deadline: 3/31)

LAST CALL:

- 2026 Land & Water Summit:
 - [Call for Posters](#) (deadline: 2/20)
- [Scholarship Opportunities](#) (deadline: 2/19)
 - Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC) Summer 2026 Internships:
 - [Research Intern](#), unpaid with room and board (deadline: 2/21)
 - [Environmental Storytelling Intern](#), 12 weeks @ \$16 p/hr (deadline: 2/28)

SPACE LIMITED: PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION COURSE

March 6, 730 AM-4 PM, Grants NM

Full-day training prepares applicators to safely handle, apply, and manage pesticides in compliance with state regulations. Topics include safety, laws, and specific pest categories. [Register](#) by 2/19. Reimbursements are available to non-federal employees for license application and testing fees.

*Applicator requirement: Your organization must have an Applicator of Record with the state. If unsure, contact Stephen Baca (sbaca@nmda.nmsu.edu).

**Before attending: At least 48 hours prior to the course, please apply for a license [here](#).

➤➤➤ AROUND TOWN: LAS VEGAS

- Feb 22 @ 2 PM, El Palacio Plática, [Chicana activism](#) in Las Vegas during El Movimiento, NMHU Donnelly Library, Las Vegas
- Feb 24 @ 53. PM, [Thinking Like Water](#) comes to Las Vegas, Indigo Theatre - free screening of Episode 1 plus live panel and conversation after the screening
- Feb. 27, 4-7 PM, Let's Take About Recreation: Community Input Night, Cafe Colibri (1814 Plaza St., Las Vegas) - update on campgrounds and trail redesign in El Porvenir and Gallinas Canyon; RSVP/questions to: aszrom@nationalforests.org
- Feb. 27-28, Northeast NM Regional Science & Engineering Fair – volunteers and judges needed; questions Nicole Kirby, nicole@nmhu.edu
- Feb. 28 @ 1230 PM, [Wendy Johnson](#) in conversation with Myriam Salazar about Wendy's book Kinship Medicine, Kickstart Kafe (148 Bridge St)

➤➤➤ NM STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- NM House approves fund to [keep paying for expired federal health care tax credits](#)
- NM Senate passes [bill to pay for universal child care](#)
- NM Senate unanimously passes [wildlife commission reform](#)
- NM state, teachers' union criticizes [state Senate axing 1% pay raise](#) in budget
- NM Senate [rejects bill to codify state's emission goals](#)

➤➤➤ 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:

Carbon Stewardship Program

The Forestry Division is accepting landowner applications for New Mexico's first cost-share program offering direct payments for post-fire recovery practices, including contour felling, mulching, seeding, and reforestation.

- Applications accepted year-round, reviewed 2x annually
- Payments provided at pre-approved rates
- Eligible practices focus on long-term carbon storage and forest resilience

Landowners should contact their local NMFD District Office to discuss project ideas before applying. More program information is linked [here](#).

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** is accepting proposals for the [Western Big Game Seasonal Habitat and Migration Corridors Fund](#). Projects should improve migration corridors and habitat used by big game species (e.g., elk, mule deer, pronghorn), address challenges to priority habitat, and engage relevant stakeholders. Projects with a strong community engagement component will be prioritized. Grants should be a minimum of \$100K, ideally completed in two years, and non-federal match is required. [Applicant webinar](#) on 3/12, 1-2 PM (deadline: 4/21).

CLOSING SOON NM Counties' **[2026-2027 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program](#)** is accepting applications for the following funding categories:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan updates (\$30K cap)
- Education and Outreach Activities (\$20K cap)
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects (\$100K cap)
- Projects must be completed between July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027; 10% in-kind required (deadline: 2/27).

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.

➤➤➤ 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 [wildfire claims office director](#) on 'administrative leave' following six-figure payout

»»» LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS:

- TODAY, 8:30 AM-3 PM, [NOAA's Satellite Symposium Series: Fire](#)
- TODAY, 11 AM-12 PM, webinar [Tools for Pre-Fire Planning and Fuels Treatments](#)
- TODAY, 1-2 PM, webinar [Building Intentional Career Pathways in the Environmental Sector](#)
- Feb. 19, 11 AM-12 PM, Fire Lab Seminar Series: [The Meteorology of the January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfire](#)
- 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, ABQ
- Feb. 25, 11 AM-12 PM, webinar [Exploring Fire Impacts and Land Management Tradeoffs](#)
- Feb. 25, 12 PM, webinar [From Data to Decisions](#), Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystem Management
- Feb. 26, 2-4- PM, virtual [Seed and Soil Workshop](#) (2 CEUs) with iExplora
- March 3-5, [Stewards of the Southwest Summit](#) (formerly known as the New Mexico Tribal Forest & Fire Summit), Santa Ana Pueblo
- March 5, 6-7 PM, virtual [Helping Butterfly Conservation Take Flight](#) with PEEC
- 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! At the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, ABQ
- March 7, 2:30-4:30 PM, [Wildflower Sowing Workshop](#), Los Alamos White Rock Branch Library
- March 13-14, [Banff Mountain Film Festival](#), KiMo Theatre, ABQ
- March 19, 11 AM-12 PM, Fire Lab Seminar Series: [Treatment Effectiveness: Lessons from ReSHAPE](#)

FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- OPM directs agencies to move forward with [ending collective bargaining](#)
- Calls for [4.1% federal pay raise](#) in 2027
- Workers' comp didn't cover a [NM firefighter's cancer – a new bill](#) would change that
- [Firefighters wore gear containing 'forever chemicals.'](#) USFS knew and stayed silent for years.
- NM environment officials issue nearly [\\$16 million fines to LANL](#) over legacy waste
- [In the crosshairs](#): advocating to save Haskell Indian Nations Univ. and NM's SIPI
- [NM Unemployment](#)

SAVE THE DATE:

The Fire Circle: A Community Fair on Wildfire Mitigation, Response & Restoration

March 21, 2026, 10 AM - 2 PM
Media Education Center
Luna Community College
Las Vegas NM 87701

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](#) provides 24/7 support, resources and information for all NM state employees
 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (Call or Text 988): [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