

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #049

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

March 18, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: a mix of early, mid and late career options plus summer camp applications and educator resources. Weekly 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: My colleague recently introduced me to Taos-based Diné scholar, Lyla June, who shares her perspective on keystone cultures and four land management techniques that integrate people and purpose. Take a listen to [3,000-year-old solutions to modern problems](#) and find your hózhó.

»»» Early Career Ecologist/Student Services Contractor, USGS NM Landscapes Field Station (\$38.52 p/hr; deadline: 3/27)

Candidates must have graduated within the last 12 months or enrolled at least part-time in college. Master's degree required in Ecology, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Biology or related field. Experience in vegetation monitoring, data analysis in R, and scientific writing, along with field crew supervision experience. Must be US citizen, national or legal resident, with valid driver's license and ability to pass federal background check. Based at Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos; term runs approx. 6/20-26-2/28/27. Submit cover letter, resume and 3 references to Ellis Margolis, emargolis@usgs.gov (subject line: Student Contractor).

Training & Safety Officer (EMNRD#5345), NM Forestry Division (salary: \$60,800-\$91,200 annually; deadline 3/20) «««

Responsible for planning, developing and delivering wildfire training programs to forestry staff, partners, and local fire departments. This is a crucial public safety position that enhances wildfire response capacity across the state.



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)

CONT >>>

- Program Coordinator, Bernalillo County (salary: \$25,018-\$85,363 annually) - develops, organizes, administers, and evaluates program activities
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager, Wildlife Rescue Inc. of NM (salary: \$45K-\$55K annually; deadline 3/25) - ABQ-based, minimum 3 years direct experience in wildlife rescue and rehab
- NMSU has several positions open, including two post-docs, specifically: kindship of warm water non-native fishes in the Grand Canyon (salary: \$63K-\$70K annually; deadline 3/25) and upland game bird ecology (salary: \$55K; deadline 4/30); also PhD assistantship in Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation and genetics (salary: \$28,384-\$29,041; deadline 3/18, i.e., TODAY!)

Closing soon:

Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC), UNM (salary: 3,844.53-\$5,399.33 monthly; deadline: 3/24)

- Two (2) ABQ-based programmer analyst 1 positions with the GIS and IT teams, are full-time term positions through 6/30/2027. Bachelor's degree + 6 months relevant experience.

Other Positions:

- Deputy Director of the Office of Renewable Energy (NMSLO #10114952), State Land Office, full-time permanent position, Santa Fe (salary: \$66,880-\$100,320 annually, deadline: 3/25)
- Senior Fish Culturist-Assistant Manager (DGF#5113), Department of Game & Fish, full-time permanent position, Questa (salary: \$19.97-\$29.95 p/hour, deadline: 3/27)
- Data Systems Coordinator, Forest Stewards Guild, full-time permanent position, remote but must live within an hour of Santa Fe, infrequent travel required (salary: \$27.5-\$29 p/hour)

JOURNEY DOWN THE GILA:

The first full-length film that visually captures the beauty of the Gila River through the 37-mile river run through the Gila Wilderness.

The documentary, directed by Albuquerque film maker, David Garcia, tells the story of three local, New Mexico teens, who died in service to the wild places they loved, their mothers' trip down the river they sought to protect, and the struggle to keep the Gila flowing free. Not available to stream anywhere else, so catch a 630 PM screening (\$12.33 tickets) at:

- TODAY, March 18, Los Alamos Event Center
- TOMORROW, March 19, Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe
- March 20, Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe

Around Town: Las Vegas

- **March 21: The Fire Circle: A Community Fair on Wildfire Mitigation, Response & Restoration**, 10 AM - 2 PM, Media Education Center, Luna Community College, Las Vegas NM 87701 ~ Grow knowledge ~ Ask questions ~ Talk to restoration professionals ~ Bring in unknown plants for identification ~ Learn the status of public trails access for your upcoming hunt ~ Pick up free resources (including a free lunch!)
- March 24: NMHU Spring 2026 Career Fair, 9 AM - 12 PM in the Student Union Building, an opportunity for students at every stage of their career journey
- March 24: Thinking Like Water, Episode 5 – Watershed Wide: Putting It All Together, Indigo Theatre, doors open @ 530 PM / film starts @ 6 PM; live Q&A and panel; free screening, donations requested.

HANDS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Rio Puerco, March 21
9 AM-4 PM**

**Willow and cottonwood
planting on State Land Trust,
near Cuba**

**Questions/details/register with
abe@riograndereturn.org**

➤➤➤ SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- [2026 NMAA Los Sembradores Farmer Training Program](#), grow your skills as a traditional acequia farmer in Northern NM in this 8-month program with 3 workshops per month, more info [here](#) (deadline: 3/27)
- 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship, [Call for Proposals](#), NAC26 will gather approximately 350 natural areas practitioners seeking applied science, practical solutions, and knowledge transfer related to the management of natural areas to protect biodiversity (deadline: 4/30)
- [NPR Student Podcast Challenge](#) for middle and high school students are looking for compelling stories of historical events and/or places, innovations, rights and protests, arts and culture, civic engagement and governance, or personal narratives/beliefs (deadline: 5/30)

Closing Soon:

[E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program](#), for educators at Hispanic-Serving schools (deadline: 3/23)

- Education Fellowships are for faculty, staff and administrators employed by Hispanic-Serving Institutions.
- High School Education Fellowships are for secondary education superintendents, principals, agricultural and/or district level teachers working for a Hispanic-Serving school district.
- Science Fellowships are for science faculty employed by Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Science fellows collaborate with leading scientists from the USDA.

Educator Resources

- March 24-May 9, [Mathematics Professional Learning](#), NM Education Dept., virtual/on-site sessions for NM special education teachers, on-site locations include ABQ, Las Vegas, Carlsbad, Alamogordo
- March 25, 4:30-5:30 PM, [Total NM Virtual Workshop Series: Designing an Outdoor Space](#)
- March 31, 5 PM, deadline for [“Careers in STEM Summer Camp Kits” pilot program serving rural & tribal communities](#), for schools and organizations working with K-6th graders, receive up to 20 kits and a \$1,000 camp instructor stipend to run a STEM summer camp
- [QCaMP for Educators](#), June 22-26, Santa Fe and ABQ locations (deadline: 4/10 [application](#))
 - March 25, 4:15-5 PM, info session for educators interested in applying (virtual, link to Teams meeting under Questions section)
- [Free Access to Pathway2Careers \(P2C\) Curriculum & Tools](#), NM Public Education Department
 - [Information Sessions](#) on 4/16 and 5/13 at 4 PM
- June 22-26, [Materials Camp](#), ASM Material Education Foundation, free STEM professional development for teachers, provides housing, Santa Fe Community College

SUMMER CAMPS:

- [QCaMP for students, June 29-July 24, ABQ, high school students 16+ \(deadline: 4/3 application\)](#)
 - **March 19, 5-6 PM, info session for students interested in applying (virtual, link to Teams meeting under Questions section)**
- [Mountain Friends Camp, Collins Lake Ranch, Mora \(deadline: 3/31\)](#)
 - **July 1-4 Family Camp**
 - **July 6-18 Youth Camp Session**
 - **July 18-23 Adventure Camp**

➤➤➤ 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:

NMDA's Noxious Weed Management Grant awards up to \$60K for the project period 7/1/26-10/31/27. Eligible entities include cooperative weed management areas, soil & water conservation districts, local governments/state political subdivisions/special districts, tribes & pueblos, land grants, acequias and NGOs (deadline: 4/8).

Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART funding opportunities, include:

- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects supports projects that improve water use efficiency, increase water conservation, and help communities better manage water resources (deadline 6/2; award ceiling \$125K)
- Applied Science Grants provides funding for projects that develop tools and information to support water management decisions and enhance hydrologic resilience (deadline 7/8; award ceiling \$400K)
- Drought Response Program assists communities in preparing for and responding to drought, including drought contingency planning and construction of drought resilience projects (deadline 7/28; award ceiling \$1.5M)

CLOSING SOON:

- NMDA Healthy Soil Program awards grants to implement on-the-ground projects that involve one or more of the five soil health principles (deadline: 3/20)
- Fire-Adapted NM Learning Network (FACNM) Microgrant for up to \$2K to support wildfire preparedness events and community wildfire risk reduction
- FY27 Math Lab Grants support quality teaching and practice in mathematics. Grants up to \$200K per school site (deadline: 3/26)
- AFRI Strengthening Agricultural Systems priorities include new uses and expanding markets for agriculture and forestry products; solutions to pests and diseases; combating food and diet-related chronic diseases; AI for K-12 food and agricultural sciences (deadline: 3/26; awards range from \$1M - \$10 M)
- Rio Grande Project Drought Resilience Efforts Initiative aims to create and/or sustain habitat and promote watershed health + reduce damage from flooding/sedimentation or promote aquifer recharge through storm water management or improve water management infrastructure (deadline: 3/26; minimum \$100K projects)

➤➤➤ LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS:

- TODAY, 12:30-1:30 PM, Funding Pathways for Fire Adapted Communities, explore practical ways to find and generate funding for preparedness projects, webinar
- TODAY, 5-7 PM, Environmental Management Cleanup Forum, hosted by Dept. of Energy's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field office, Pojoaque
- March 19, 9-11 AM, Free Vermicomposting Workshop, engaging class on composting, Open Space Visitor Center in ABQ

➤➤➤ LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS (CONT.):

- March 19, 11 AM-12 PM, Fire Lab Seminar Series: [Treatment Effectiveness: Lessons from ReSHAPE](#)
- March 19, 6:30 PM, virtual briefing Speakers Series: [Middle Rio Grande Compact Crisis](#)
- March 20, 9-10:30 AM, webinar [FCoP Fabulous Fuels Friday: Escaped Prescribed Fire Reviews and Lessons Learned](#)
- March 20, 1-2 PM, webinar [Indigenous Fire Stewardship: Eco-Cultural Research for Wildfire Resilience in California and Beyond](#)
- March 21, 8:30 AM-5:30 PM, [10th Annual Rio Chama Congreso](#), Northern New Mexico College, El Rito
- March 21, 9:30 AM-2 PM, [Composting and Rainwater Harvesting Basics](#), Whitfield Conservation Area
- March 21, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, teacher workshop [Engineering Problem Solving through Wildlife Conservation](#), NM Department of Wildlife (7816 Alamo Rd NW in ABQ), [more info here](#).
- March 21, 10 AM-2 PM, [Backyard Refuge Day Spring 2026](#), join for talks, tours, conversations, music, and performances. Free food and plants! Gutiérrez-Hubbell House in Albuquerque
- March 21, 11-11:30 AM, [Mars: The Ultimate Voyage](#), Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium, \$6 child/\$8 adult/\$20 family
- March 23, 5 PM, webinar [NM Case Studies of Groundwater Management](#), NM Groundwater Alliance
- March 23-27, [International Smoke Symposium \(ISS4\)](#), hybrid event, remote participation \$100 for IAWF members and \$300 for non-members
- March 24, 12 PM, webinar [Treating Dry Forest Landscapes to Promote Functioning Fire Regimes in the 21st Century](#)
- March 24, 7-8:30 PM, [Adak, Birthplace of the Winds](#), in person/live-streamed at Los Alamos Nature Center Planetarium

FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- OPM [defends Schedule Policy/Career](#), as finalization nears
- After deep staffing cuts, agencies seek mix of [hiring and AI tools to rebuild capacity](#)
- “Historic” [low snowpack threatens NM rivers](#)
- NM Sen. Lujan frees [\\$120M for Navajo-Gallup water supply project](#)
- The science on climate change is clear – so is the [need for moral reckoning](#)
- US [slashed research for cancer, Alzheimer’s, mental health](#) – and nearly everything else
- [NM Unemployment](#)

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