

# CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #057

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

May 13, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: check out the wide range of positions with applications closing in the next week. 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](mailto:shantinir@nmhu.edu)**

**LIFE TIP:** Consider the dilemma facing many educators today with language learning models (LLMs): “...you cannot learn physics by watching someone else do it. You have to pick up the pencil. You have to attempt the problem. You have to get it wrong, sit with the wrongness, and figure out where your reasoning broke. Reading the solution manual and nodding along feels like understanding. It is not understanding... We have centuries of accumulated pedagogical wisdom telling us that the attempt, including the failed attempt, is where the learning lives. And yet, somehow, when it comes to AI agents, we've collectively decided that maybe this time it's different... It isn't. We knew that before LLMs existed. We seem to have forgotten it the moment they became convenient. Centuries of pedagogy, defeated by a chat window.”

Read the full article here: [The machines are fine. I'm worried about us.](#)

»»» **Visitor Services Individual Placement, Las Vegas NWR, Conservation Legacy (salary: \$16 p/hr; term: 8/3/26-1/27/27)**

A Las Vegas based position, with priority consideration for applications received by 5/20, offers opportunities to refine science communications skills and experiences in youth and community engagement. Flexibility to accommodate student class schedules; inquiries: Alyssa Lu: [alyssa\\_lu@fws.gov](mailto:alyssa_lu@fws.gov).

**Education Coordinator, Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District (salary: \$25-\$28 p/hr; priority review by 5/15)** «««

This position will support and expand outreach programs across the greater ABQ area, plan and deliver engaging educational programs for schools, community groups, and the public, while supporting the growth of new initiatives. Seeking candidates who are passionate about connecting diverse communities to local natural resources through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. Candidates with a background in environmental education, urban ecology, natural resources, and/or community-based conservation are encouraged to apply.

CONT >>>

**GIS Intern**, Native Lands National Trails (NLNT), Continental Divide Trail Individual Placement - An excellent gap year option for 50 weeks of full-time (40 hours) weekly work (1700 AmeriCorps service term), July 2026-July 2027. This is hybrid position based in Helena, MT. Part of 5-member NLNT cohort. Training on GIS/Indigenous mapping, data sovereignty, ethical research practices and national trail system provided. \$5K work with tribes + \$3K project related travel + \$1K professional development + conference travel + \$800 weekly stipend + \$7,395 Segal Education award (upon successful completion of term) + Public Land Corps Hiring Authority eligibility.

**Senior Water Resources Professional** (Job ID#163420), NM Environmental Dept. (salary: \$81,349-\$130,159 annually, deadline: 5/20) - Collaborative position working with stakeholders and the public to develop and present TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) planning documents that ensure protection of surface water quality.

**State Director**, USDA (salary: \$204,122-\$216,010 annually; deadline 5/20) - ABQ- based executive level management position for candidates with strong leadership attributes; working knowledge and experience in forestry/biology/related fields; management skills inclusive of project design/structure/feasibility/implementation/evaluation/efficacy; and ability to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.

**Director of Western Water**, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (salary: \$125K-\$135K annually) – western US remote-based position will advance federal and state policies that addresses critical challenges facing freshwater resources.

## CLOSING SOON:

**Conservation Delivery Manager**, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (salary: \$75K-\$80K annually; deadline 5/15)

As one of two managers in this role, primary duties include partnership engagement, project management, site visits to restoration sites, and grant writing. This is a remote position that can be based anywhere within the PLJV region of eastern NM, TX panhandle or western OK.

## Other Positions:

- **Trails Technician**, Conservation Legacy, Cibola National Forest (6/8-12/4) – ABQ based; trail construction, inspection, surveys and partnerships
- **Recreation Special Uses Outfitter Guide**, Conservation Legacy, Santa Fe National Forest (June 2026-May 2027) – 2 openings for candidates with outdoor recreation, GIS and/or customer service experience
- **Education Specialist**, Conservation Legacy, BLM – Las Cruces Office (6/15-10/30; 675 hr term) – 3 openings to support public land stewardship, including environmental education, habitat restoration, trail/recreation site maintenance, etc.
- **Squad Leader** (Job ID#163433), full-time wildland fire leadership position based in Las Vegas (salary: \$26.57-\$39.86 p/hr; deadline 5/19)
- **Crew Member** (Job ID#163428), full-time wildland fire position based in Las Vegas (salary: \$18.15-\$27.23 p/hr; deadline 5/18)

## HANDS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Quivira Coalition's legacy project in the San Mateo Mountains**  
**Spring 2026 Red Canyon Gathering**  
**May 15-17**

**Riparian Bird Surveys, Isleta Ranch**  
**Seeking volunteers for 3 mornings in May/June/July**

## ➤➤➤ SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Earthstar Land Practice Mentorship is a six-month (6/21-Dec. 2026) online mentorship with select in-person gatherings, including a camp out. Program includes passive solar design, rainwater harvesting, arid land restoration, permaculture, regenerative soils, etc. \$600-\$1K p/p, payment plans and partial scholarships available.

CLOSING SOON: New Mexico Engineering Foundation Scholarship Program offers endowed and pass-through scholarships for college students and graduating high school students at any ABET-accredited program (deadline: 5/16; scholarships range from \$1K -\$4K)

### FEATURED EVENTS – THIS WEEKEND!

#### Continental Divide Trail Dark Sky Gathering

May 15-16 in Pie Town

2<sup>nd</sup> annual event with speakers, workshops, and hands-on stargazing experiences for long-time observers and new enthusiasts, with astronomy experts. Contact Marisela La Grave, [darkskylandnewmexico@gmail.com](mailto:darkskylandnewmexico@gmail.com)

#### Después del Fuego

May 16, 1- 5 PM

Amplifying youth voices, developing restoration skills, connecting with career pathways  
@ WRTC, Luna Community College, Las Vegas, NM

#### Fire in the Plains, Prescribed Fire Planning & Wildland Fire Fighting

May 16, 8 AM – 3 PM

Western Heritage Museum (1 Thunderbird Circle), Hobbs  
Learning about fire laws, burn plans, fire weather and smoke management  
FREE workshop with breakfast and lunch included

### CALL TO ACTION

**TOMORROW! Expanding Plutonium Pit Production at LANL**  
**Public Hearing (in-person or virtual)**  
**May 14, 5-8 PM**  
**Santa Fe Farmer's Market**

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### Managing Troublesome and Invasive Weeds

May 28, 930 AM – 3 PM

American Legion Post 114

268 Hwy 434, Mora

FREE workshop with NMSU Mora County Extension;  
RSVP: [mora@nmsu.edu](mailto:mora@nmsu.edu)

#### Plants as Restoration Tools

June 13, south of Las Vegas, NM

A FREE Querencia in Action Landowner Workshop  
Learn how to use wildflowers and grasses to rehabilitate your land

## ➤➤➤ 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:

2026-2027 Outdoor Initiative Start-Up and Continuation Grants – up to \$240K available to PreK-12 public/charter school districts, regional educational coops, consortiums, or individual schools in partnership with environmental education orgs. Grants should support equitable access to outdoor learning, integrate interdisciplinary leaning aligned with state content standards, build environmental literacy and systems thinking, and cultivate regional macro-networks. Two categories of grants: one year start up grants (\$20K); or continuation grants (\$30K) (deadline: 7/10).

## ➤➤➤ FUNDING & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES (CONT.)

CLOSING SOON:

**NFWF Five Star Grant Program** from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supports community-based partnerships working to improve water quality, watersheds, and wildlife habitat. Projects should deliver on-the-ground ecological benefits, integrate outreach/education, and involve at least five partner organizations. Funding limited to ABQ area projects. Contact Zoe Apelt, 202-915-0971, [zoey.Apelt@nfwf.org](mailto:zoey.Apelt@nfwf.org) (deadline 5/14).

**NIFA's Teaching, Extension and Research Awards (TERA) Program** funds annual awards to recognize faculty from a college or university who exhibit sustained, meritorious, and exceptional teaching at the postsecondary level within the agriculture, natural resources, veterinary, and human sciences. Nominees are recognized for their instructional abilities, educational innovation, service to students, scholarship and professionalism (deadline 5/19):

- National Recipients (\$5K awards; 2 recipients)
- Early career recipients (\$2K awards; 2 recipients)
- Teaching and Student engagement recipients (\$5K awards; 2 recipients)
- Regional awards (\$2K awards; 6 recipients)

**FY27 River Stewards RFP** with NM Environment Dept. supports projects that enhance the natural function of NM's streams and rivers, and provides funding to plan, design, and construct projects that improve surface water quality or river habitat. There are changes to this grant from previous RFPs (average grant sizes ~ \$500K; deadline: 5/21).

## ➤➤➤ LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS

- TODAY May 13, 530-7 PM, Pinon Pine Pests: Diseases and Tree Health workshop, Taos County Ag. Center, 202 Camisa Rd., [taos@nmsu.edu](mailto:taos@nmsu.edu)
- TODAY May 13, 1-2 PM, webinar Ecological Drought: Collaborative Planning, Response, and Decision-Making
- TODAY May 13, 12 Noon, webinar Myths, Mistakes and Misunderstood Insects
- TODAY May 13, 9 AM, webinar 5 Combine Oversights That Can Ruin Your Wheat Harvest
- May 14, 6 PM, webinar The D-Word: A Discussion on Drought, Community Impacts and Resources
- May 14, 8 AM-4 PM, NM Water Dialogue: Persistent Themes & a Unified Direction in ABQ
- May 14, 12 Noon, webinar Grassland CRP Informational Webinar
- May 14, 430-6 PM, 2026 Homegrown Dreams series with Organic Growers School (\$30 p/p)
- May 16, 9 AM-3 PM, Maximizing Water Efficiency and Resilience: Adapting Agriculture to Drought and Climate Change, Synergia Ranch in Santa Fe
- May 16, 930-1130 AM, Bosque Cleanup for National River Cleanup Day at Avenida Delores Huerta Bridge
- May 17-20, 2026 Rocky Mountain section meeting and field trip

## »»» LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS

- May 19, 12 Noon, webinar [The SW Fire Season: 2025 Overview and 2026 Outlook](#)
- May 19, 5 PM, [Protecting NM Rivers](#) Dr. Armin Rembe lecture series at La Quinta (\$20 p/p)
- May 19, 12 Noon, webinar [Prioritizing Woody Fuel and Restoration Treatments in Sagebrush and PJ Ecosystems during Era of Vegetation Change](#)
- May 21, 630-8 PM, webinar [Water Bankruptcy: We Know Enough to Act!](#)
- May 21, 4 PM, webinar [Growing Pains: Moving Campus Gardens Beyond Administrative Barriers](#)
- May 27, 10 AM, webinar [Lead-Free Ammunition Programs as Compensatory Mitigation Tools: Hunter incentives and education](#)
- May 28, 1 PM, webinar [Wildlife Connectivity in Solar Sites: Movement, Access, and Fencing Considerations](#)
- May 28, 1-215 PM, webinar [Climate Conversations: Brain Health](#)
- June 8-11, 830 AM-330PM, [Intergrow Numeracy Foundations](#) workshop, San Juan College
- June 9, 930-1130 AM, webinar [Get Charged Up w/ Explora](#)
- June 9-July 14, [Thinking Like Water Film Club and Live Conversation](#) series, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

*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](mailto:shantinir@nmhu.edu))*



## FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- The US Wildland Fire Service's [first chief shares priorities](#)
- Feds wary of [skills-based hiring survey](#)
- Feds officially [cancel conservation rule for public lands](#), including 13.5M acres in NM
- Council recommends [overhauling FEMA](#): here are 3 changes
- As drought worsens, [western states brace for wildfires, water shortages](#)
- [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](https://www.988lifeline.org)

### NMHU COMMUNITY

CARES Counseling: [cares@nmhu.edu](mailto: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