

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #058

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

May 20, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: Career Connects will pause next week and return to your inboxes June 3. 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: Early voting is open from now through June 2. NM has adopted *semi-open primaries*, which means that independent and decline-to-state voters can now participate for the first time. This change opens up the primaries to ~2,000 previously excluded voters. *However, increasing voter access is only a benefit if the privilege of voting is actually used.* Early voting can reduce the time it takes to cast a ballot with shorter or non-existent lines, e.g., voting in Las Vegas, NM, takes a whoopin' 5-10 minutes! You can register or find your voter registration/voting location/other details on NMVote.org. Unsure what's on your ballot? Check out [Voter Services](#), [Vote411](#) or [Ballotpedia](#) for sample ballots. This year's primaries will determine candidates for NM Governor, Lt. Governor, US Senator and Representatives, Commissioner of Public Lands, Attorney General, and several judicial nominees.

»»» **Resilience Manager, Santa Fe Watershed Association (part-time \$30 p/hr, 20-30 hrs weekly; deadline 6/5)**

Leads the watershed planning process including stakeholder engagement, sites visits, grant administration, etc. The watershed plan is expected to be completed in 2028 when this position will transition into the implementation phase.

Quivira Coalition, Regenerative Agriculture Non-profit (interviews start 6/8; start date early July; full-time @ 36 hrs weekly, primarily remote based in NM/southern CO) «««

- [Soil to Supper Director](#) is an NRCS-funded position through Sept. 2028 for candidates with experience in rangeland conservation, USDA grants and managing a program that bridges producers with federal funding (salary: \$70K-\$75K annually)
- [Soil to Supper Manager](#) is an NRCS-funded position through Sept. 2028 for candidates with experience working with producers, providing technical expertise and conservation planning (salary: \$53K-\$63K annually)
- [Grant Manager](#) secures, manages, coordinates and reports on government and private foundation grants and cooperative agreements (salary: \$53K-\$63K annually).

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Education Coordinator, Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District (salary: \$25-\$28 p/hr; priority review by 5/20)

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.

CLOSING SOON:

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.

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.

Other Positions:

- Maintenance worker, Pecos National Historic Park (deadline: 5/26) – permanent full-time onsite position (\$26.07-\$30.40 p/hr)
- Conservation Advocate, Environment NM – ABQ-based position that builds coalitions, develop policy and messaging priorities, fundraise and organize/recruit volunteers (\$39,750-\$46K annually)
- Program Coordinator & Executive Asst., Tim’s Big Heart Foundation – ABQ-based, part-time position

HANDS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

Bear Canyon Open Space Tumbleweed Cleanup

May 30, 845 AM

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

CALL TO ACTION

The Joint Fire Science Program is seeking input on clear priorities that address knowledge gaps in fire science and management to shape future funding priorities (deadline 5/29)

SARE Outreach is seeking ideas for products and projects from farmers, producers, and agricultural educators (deadline: 6/15)

➤➤➤ SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Mentoring Futures Program is an Assoc. of Fire Ecology-led initiative that pairs and connects mentees and mentors to cultivate futures in wildland fire and resource conservation. The program runs 9/1/2026-5/31/2027, with mentor-mentee pairs announced on 8/1. Applications for mentees and mentors are now open (deadline 6/1).

CLOSING SOON:

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)

FOR-NM Academy is a one-week intensive field course (July 21-25) for 10 current undergraduate students attending NM universities. Focused on NM watershed structure and function, the course is hosted at Synergia Ranch, with field trips in the Santa Fe Watershed. This course blends classroom-based lectures with hands on field sampling methods from experts in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem ecology, remote sensing, land surface modelling and community engagement (deadline 5/31)

Santa Fe Community Foundation Scholarships (deadline: 6/1)

- Michael S. Currier Scholarship Fund, for undergraduates, min GPA 3.5
- Sussman-Miller Educational Assistance Fund, for undergraduates, min GPA 3.5
- Las Campanas Community Scholarship Fund, for full- and part-time students; certificate, undergraduate, or graduate; min GPA 2.49; must live/work or have a parent who lives/works in 87506 or 87507 zip codes

FEATURED EVENTS

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

Rangeland Bullseye Monitoring

June 5, 8 AM 3 PM (lunch included), Lamy, NM

Learn how to apply the Bullseye method, a qualitative method of assessing grasslands created by Kirk Gazdia, in this workshop led by Santa Fe Conservation Trust's Melissa Houser and Ecotone Landscape's Jan-Willem Jansen.

Registration needed.

Fish Fest – a few spots remaining; apply ASAP

June 7th - 13th, 2026

Albuquerque's UNM Center for Stable Isotopes and Bosque School

Students gather ecological data from the field, learn how to process the data in the UNM Isotope lab, understand how to interpret the results and share analysis with other participants.

➤➤➤ 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 **Chrysalis Fund** awards \$2,500 for insect-themed projects in the K-12 classrooms (deadline: 6/1).

2026 NM Youth Outdoors Grant with Environmental Education NM are micro-grants (\$3K-\$5K) for NGOs, schools, Pueblos, and tribes. Grants are awarded one-time only for projects completed by Summer 2027. Funds to be used for direct programming with youth (deadline: 6/10).

NM boosts grant funding for youth outdoor equity program – Tier 2 funding (awards: \$41K-\$100K) for organizations with a \$500K operating budget

- Mandatory webinar, May 27, 12-1 PM
- Letters of interest due 6/12
- Grant application window from 7/1-7/30

Research and Education Pre-proposals from the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) supports projects that can be completed in 1-3 years (award ceiling: \$350K; deadline 6/15).

CLOSING SOON:

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).

SAVE THE DATES!

Plants as Restoration Tools

June 27, 10 AM-230 PM

Mineral Hill (south of Las Vegas), NM

A FREE Querencia in Action Landowner Workshop

Learn how to use wildflowers and grasses to rehabilitate your land

Healing Our Forest, Healing Ourselves Coakee William Wildcat & Tofia Safford

June 25-28

Story Ranch, Mineral Hill

Multi-day retreat to learn about forests and ancestral practices for current and aspiring forest restoration practitioners and climate and ecology activists.

Accommodations, facilities, meals available (\$400 donation suggested); sliding scale available. Register: John McLeod resistclimatechange@gmail.com, 505-231-1914.

➤➤➤ LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS

- TODAY May 20, 10 AM, Uses and Benefits of Rain Barrels
- TODAY, May 20, 12 Noon, Abundant Ogallala: Producers and Possibilities
- May 21, 630-8 PM, webinar Water Bankruptcy: We Know Enough to Act!
- May 21, 4-530 PM, webinar Growing Pains: Moving Campus Gardens Beyond Administrative Barriers
- May 21, 7-10 AM, Spring Birding through Acid & Pueblo canyons, Los Alamos

➤➤➤ LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS (CONT.)

- May 22, 9 AM, [Bird Walk at Randall Davey Audubon Center](#), Santa Fe
- May 23, 1030 AM-12 Noon, [family hike Los Conchas Trailhead](#), Los Alamos
- May 23, 11 AM, [Caja del Rio Group Hike](#), Santa Fe
- May 23, [Project Feed the Hood Garden Opening](#): live music, raffle, plant giveaways, games and family activities; 3400 Ross Ave. SE in ABQ
- May 23-24, [17th Annual Festival Sefardi: A Tapestry of NM Identity](#), ABQ
- May 27, 10 AM, webinar [Lead-Free Ammunition Programs as Compensatory Mitigation Tools: Hunter incentives and education](#)
- May 27, [Bicis y Botanica through the Rio Grande Valley](#). (\$25 p/p; sliding scale available)
- 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](#)
- May 30, 10 AM, [Pack Shakedown: A Day Hike for Backpacking Practice](#), Sandia Park
- May 30, [Cattle Monitor Training at Valles Caldera National Preserve](#), onsite full day
- 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
- June 10, 5 PM, [Tom Swetnam Book Talk and Conservation Discussion](#), REI Santa Fe

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)



FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- 3 benefits [bills for federal employees, retirees](#) to watch
- First phase of Las Vegas, NM, [water treatment facility to break ground](#) this summer
- [NM senators seek answers](#) on federal Agricultural Dept. research moves
- [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