CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
New Mexico Highlands University

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #076

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

November 4, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: This week, you can explore careers in fire ecology and source water protection, lend a hand at Cedro Creek, or find an event to support your work and interests. If you know of an opportunity or resource others might benefit from, I'd love to hear from you at camedina@nmhu.edu. 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: camedina@nmhu.edu.

LIFE TIP: Now that Election Day has passed, take a moment to ask yourself what would help you feel a little more grounded today? Maybe it's a walk outside, catching up with a friend, or cooking something comforting. If you'd like a few prompts to reflect on how you're feeling and what's within your control, try UConn's Post-Election Empowerment Plan

>>> Early Career Ecologist: Fire & Forest Ecology, USGS NM Landscapes Field Station (deadline 11/6)

Student services contract position based in Los Alamos or Santa Fe combining office/lab work with field research on fire, drought, and forests in northern NM through April 30, 2027. Requires a relevant bachelor's degree earned within 12 months of the start date; knowledge of ecological and fire ecology principles, and experience with vegetation monitoring, data analysis, R and scientific writing. Submit a cover letter and resume with three reference contacts to emargolis@usgs.gov using subject "Student Contractor".

Environmental Field Service Foreman, Habitat Management an Aventia Company <<<

Full-time, Farmington based hands-on position leads field crews on vegetation management, land reclamation, and revegetation projects. Requires two years of related experience and travel to remote sites. A related degree is preferred but not required and may count towards experience requirements.

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 Crystal Medina (camedina@nmhu.edu).

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bear and Cougar Biologist, NM Department of Wildlife (deadline 11/16; salary $56k - $85k/annually)
Full-time position supporting statewide bear and cougar conservation through field research, population monitoring, data analysis, and public outreach to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Requires a relevant bachelor's degree and 1 yr of related experience, or and equivalent combination of both totaling 5 yrs.

CLOSING SOON:
Source Water Protection Scientist, NM Department of Environment (deadline 11/6; salary $75k - $113k/annually)
Position supports the delivery of safe and sustainable drinking water by public water systems in NM and will be responsible for assisting in the development in SWP Plans and assessments. Requires a relevant bachelor's degree and two yrs of related experience, or an equivalent combination of both totaling six yrs.

2027 Veterans Fire Corps Crew Member, AmeriCorps (deadline 11/8)
Based in Las Cruces with a term starting 2/1/27 through 5/7/27. This is a pathway program for recent military veterans seeking careers in conservation, fuels mitigation and wildland firefighting. Candidates are expected to have their own outdoor gear and equipment. Benefits include: Segal Education award ($1,956.36), living allowance ($500 weekly), and additional benefits ($400 weekly).

Other Positions:
Irrigation Systems Operators, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (salary $24/hr min)
Two field positions based in Belen and Albuquerque ensure the prompt & adequate delivery of irrigation water to constituents by scheduling water delivery, maintaining records, and operating gates and other control structures. Requires a high school diploma/GED + one year experience in farming, irrigation, recordkeeping, and customer service, or an equivalent combination of education/experience.

Dean of Liberal Arts, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (deadline 11/13)
Full-time position leading faculty, curriculum development, and academic program assessment. Requires a relevant master's degree and one yr of specialized experience equivalent to the federal GS-11 level.

HANDS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

This Weekend! - Cedro Creek
Nov. 7, 9 AM-4 PM, Sandia Mountains near Tijeras
Final AWF 1-day project for 2026 at a legacy site to build and repair rock structures to stabilize the channel and prevent downcutting. Directions and info: Scial, rioscial@gmail.com.

Plant Trees with Trees NM in ABQ, Grants or T&C
Volunteers needed for Saturday plantings – no experience needed. Trees NM provides instructions, tools and training.

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CALL TO ACTION

Wildland Monitor Volunteer Training, Dec. 12, 930 AM, Las Cruces - NM Wild is hosting a technical training for volunteer monitors who visit lands in NM with wilderness qualities to document findings on a smartphone app: details.

>>> FEATURED EVENTS

Roots & Resilience Conference

Dec 1-3, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, ABQ

Join farmers, ranchers, and good leaders across NM to network, share resources, and strengthen our local food systems. Features panels and sessions on water, regenerative agriculture, resource access, and practical strategies to increase agricultural success and sustainability.

Congreso de las Acequias

Nov. 13-14, El Rito & Ohkay Owingeh

The only statewide acequia gathering in New Mexico where acequia leaders come together to share knowledge and build a united voice for acequias to protect water and strengthen land-based traditions.

S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighting Training

Nov. 21-Dec. 5, WRTC @ Luna CC, Las Vegas

Wildland firefighting training at the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center – last class for the year; register wrtc@luna.edu; 505-454-5323

>>> SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2027 Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency, Leopold Writing Program ($1K stipend)

One month residency for emerging and established writers exploring the relationship between people and the natural world. Residents stay in Tres Piedras or the Galisteo Basin for one month, give a public presentation, and contribute a short piece to their newsletter (deadline 2/16/27).

CLOSING SOON:

Marketing & Sponsorship Internship, Next Generation Water Summit ($27 p/hr)

Flexible, part-time term opportunity (10-30 hrs/month) supporting outreach, communications, sponsorships, and event planning for the 2027 Water Summit in Santa Fe. Runs November 2026 – July 2027. To apply, email a resume & letter of interest to info@greenbuildercoalition.org with "2027 NGWS Intern" in the subject line (deadline 11/8).

Working Lands Fellowship, Quivira Coalition, ($1K stipend)

A six-month fellowship for farmers, ranchers, land stewards, and others supporting agriculture and conservation in Grant County & surrounding southern NM communities. Fellows develop a small project to help their operation or community adapt to climate challenges with support through field days and peer learning (deadline 11/9).

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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:

Land & Water Conservation Fund, NM State Parks Division (up to $500K per project) Matching grants reimburse up to 50% of eligible costs for projects such as trails, community parks, and publicly accessible nature preserves. Eligible applicants include NM local gov'ts, public colleges and universities, Pueblos, and Tribal communities (deadline 1/5/27).

Grades 6-12 STEM Classroom Grants, Toshiba America Foundation (up to $5k)
Supports teacher-designed, hands-on STEM projects for middle and high school students (deadline 12/1).

CLOSING SOON:
FY2026 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes & Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319 Closes November 9, 2026.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS

- TODAY Nov. 4, 6-730 PM, free film screening Rooted: A Story of Rematriation, Center of Contemporary Arts (1050 Pecos Trail), Santa Fe
- TODAY Nov. 4, 12-1 PM, Fall 26 Brown Bag Series Hearing Northern NM's silenced voices: Exploring intersectionality & allyship, NMHU Campus/SUB 321
- Nov. 5, 6-7 PM, Unlock Savings for a More Comfortable, Efficient Home, virtual/in-person, Los Alamos Nature Center
- Nov 6, 9 AM – 4PM, DIY Soil Health Hands-on Workshop, Diné College North Campus Gym, Shiprock
- Nov. 7, 830 AM-430 PM, Geologic Tour to the Goblin Colony, guided field trip to the SE Jemez Mtns ($60 members/$75 non-members)
- Nov. 7, 10 AM-3 PM, Permaculture Workshop, Ampersand demonstration site ($60, discounts available), Email amanda@ampersandproject.org to register
- Nov. 8, weekly self-defense classes every Sunday, 1030 AM, dance studio John A. Wilson Complex on 9th Street, NMHU campus – FREE for community members 16 years & older
- Nov. 10, 630 PM, The NM Reforestation Center: A New Model for Sustainable Reforestation, Santa Native Plant Soc. of NM - Santa Fe Chapter Mtg (Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso Rd.)

FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- New Mexico college enrollment rises for fifth consecutive year
- Most recent flooding leads to damage, evacuations in northern NM, Navajo Nation
- Twenty-four New Mexico Colleges waive application fees in November
- 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