CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
New Mexico Highlands University

CAREER CONNECTS

Edition #077

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

November 11, 2026

Students, Colleagues and Peers: Explore conservation careers, mentor a student, or get involved with local restoration efforts. This week's issue offers ways to learn, connect, and contribute across New Mexico. 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: As 2026 begins to wrap up, take 10 minutes to jot down one project or effort you're proud of, what you did, what you learned, and what came out of it. When it's time to apply for a job or internship, you can turn those notes into impactful resume bullets.

Park Technician Specialist – Eagle Nest Lake State Park, Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources Department, (salary $38K-$58K/annually; deadline 11/20)

Full-time position based at Eagle Nest Lake State Park serves to enhance the recreational experience of park visitors by providing safe, clean, and well maintained grounds and facilities. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent and 1 year of related experience.

Director of Conservation, NM Bio Park Society (salary starting at $85K/annually)

Full-time Albuquerque-based position overseeing the BioPark's conservation programs, partnerships, staff, and budgets. Preferred qualifications include a related bachelor's degree and ~8+ years of experience in conservation leadership, program management, or partnerships.

Ambassador Animal Specialist II, NM Wildlife Center ($21-$28/hour)

This Espanola-based full-time non-exempt intermediate level position is responsible for maintaining live animal collection as part of the Education department. Trains, supervises, and evaluates interns and volunteers. Requires a bachelor's degree in biological sciences or related field.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Forest Restoration Project Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy (salary $57K-$67K/annually)
Full-time grant-funded, fixed-term position based in New Mexico with an anticipated end date of August 31, 2029, will manage projects and contracts for forest and watershed restoration and share the story of this work with partners, funders, and the public. Desired qualifications include 3-5 years' experience in natural resource management, similar field or equivalent combination of education and experience.

CLOSING SOON:
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.

Other Positions:
Shared Range Archeologist Project Lead, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (salary $24.44/hr; deadline 11/27) - Seasonal, Albuquerque-based position supporting archeological projects and cultural resource management on the Cibola National Forest. Involves project coordination and fieldwork. Requires a bachelor's degree in Archeology/Anthropology or similar field and 3-5 years of related work experience.

Seasonal Field Educator, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions (salary $1950-$2900/month)
Albuquerque- and Thoreau-based position implements outdoor educational programs for youth through school field trips, basecamp programs, and multi-day expeditions across the Southwest. Applicants must be 21 or older by start date and have a valid driver's license.

Environmental Field Service Foreman, Habitat Management (HMI), 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.

HANDS-ON RESTORATION PROJECTS

Cholla Flipping and Prairie Restoration Workday
Nov. 21, 9 AM-12 Noon, Bobcat Crossing Open Space, Santa Fe
Santa Fe County's newest Open Space needs restoration to remove immature cholla and reseeding with native grasses. Register with Rowan Krump: hrkrump@santafecountynm.gov.

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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CALL TO ACTION

Mentors Needed! The EPA Innovative Water Workforce Grant, UNM Center for Water and the Environment, and UNM ARID Institute are seeking mentors to guide undergraduates developing water and climate-related communication projects for their Spring 2027 Water and Climate Science Communication Fellowship program. If you are interested, sign up to be a mentor by 11/13.

FEATURED EVENTS

This Weekend! - The 2nd Annual Great Garlic Revival
Nov. 13, 9 AM – 12 PM, Sostenga Farm at Northern NM College
The 2nd Annual Great Garlic Revival will celebrate the traditions of growing food, saving seed, and caring for the land. The morning will consist of a garlic planting workshop, a walk in the bosque, chile harvesting, and a corn maze.

This Weekend! - 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

Education Intern, NM Wildlife Center ($15.40/hour; free housing)
Full-time spring internship based in Espanola. Interns provide basic knowledge concerning animal care and supports center trainers in wildlife encounters. Each intern will complete a capstone project as part of their internship. Requires knowledge of NM ecology, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and experience speaking publicly to diverse audiences.

CLOSING SOON:
M.S. positions, Wildfire Insurance and Resilient Communities (WIRE), ERI and NAU (fully funded graduate positions; deadline: 11/16) - Four graduate student positions open for interdisciplinary research on policy and economic dimensions of wildfire risks, and community fire adaptations in AZ.

Student Internships, USDA

- NRCS Student Trainee in Engineering (salary: $35,749-$53,202; deadline: 11/17) - vacancy in Las Cruces for current students enrolled (minimum half time) in an accredited institution.
- FSA Student Trainer/Program Technician (salary: $35,749-$48,535; deadline: 11/17) - vacancy based in the southwest (location negotiable upon hire) providing administrative skills and project management experience.

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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:

Landscape Scale Restoration Grants from the USDA Forest Service supports collaborative forest restoration projects that work across boundaries to improve watershed health, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce wildfire risk on non-federal lands. Award amounts range from $100K-$300K for single-state projects with a 1:1 non-federal match. Eligible applicants include state forestry agencies, local governments, NGOs, colleges, and universities. A separate opportunity is available for Tribes for Tribal lands (deadline 1/26/27; draft narrative & budget due 12/17/26 for applicants who need State Forester Sponsorship).

CLOSING SOON:
Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is seeking to support four new initiatives with $1.2 million funding to restore & sustain healthy rivers, streams and grasslands in the Pecos Watershed of Southern New Mexico & West Texas (deadline: 11/12).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & WEBINARS

- TODAY Nov. 11, 530 PM, The Effort to Save the Rio, NM Wildlife Federation (Marble Brewery NE, 9904 Montgomery Blvd., NE, ABQ)
- Nov. 12, 10 AM-12 Noon, NM Wildfires: Solutions & Answers; in-person & live-streamed
- Nov. 12, 11 AM-12 Noon, webinar Storm Prediction Center's Fire Research and Development
- Nov. 12, 7-8 PM, Wetland Maintenance, In-Person and Virtual
- Nov. 14-15, 8 AM-5 PM, Wilderness First Aid 2-day Course ($260 for members; $310 non-members)
- Nov. 16, 11 AM-1230 PM, webinar What's Going on in America's Forests?
- Nov. 17, 10 AM, webinar Beyond Deer Exclusions: 25 Years of Integrative Research on Natives, Fungal Mutualism Invasive Plant Responses in Trilium Trail Forests
- Nov. 17, 11 AM-1230 PM, webinar What's Stressing our Forests Out?
- Nov. 17 12-1 PM, webinar Beyond Drought: How wet and dry periods shape southwest wildfires

FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- NM State Land Office and Forest Stewards Guild plan to begin broadcast burn in Black Lake, NM
- Volunteers and crews plant ~500 seedlings in HPCC Burn Scar
- NM Public Education Department releases Outdoor Learning Framework
- DOI Announces Plan to Strengthen Wildlife Habitat Management and Expand Refuge Access
- 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