

Assistant Forest Restoration Crew Leader Position

Position Title: Assistant Forest Restoration Crew Leader

Employment Period: 2023

Work Location: Based out of Asheville, NC (mostly work in Buncombe and surrounding counties)

Starting Salary: \$17.75 - \$18.25/hour (range based on experience and merit) 40 hours per week. Largely weather dependent work.

Mission Statement: EcoForesters is a non-profit professional forestry organization dedicated to conserving and restoring our Appalachian forests through education and stewardship.

Position Description: The aim of the Forest Restoration crew is to assist landowners and partners with the stewardship practices of their forests primarily through the control of nonnative invasive plants and through forest stand improvement methods, often with the use of herbicides and hand tools. Other crew projects include occasional trail work, riparian/wetland habitat improvement and native planting work. The Assistant Forest Restoration Crew leader will be supervised directly by the Forest Restoration Crew Leader (FRCL) and Stewardship Director and will assist in supervising the restoration technician crew, strategically controlling invasive plants and other forest restoration work on private and conserved lands. This is challenging but rewarding outdoor work. Your work will be contributing to the ecological health of the forests of western North Carolina.

Primary Job Duties: Be available to support the Crew Leader in running the day-to-day field operations of forest restoration crew and occasionally run the crew independently. This includes:

- Supporting and supervising technicians on the crew.
- Driving the EF work truck to and from project sites.
- Coordinating and communicating crew purchase needs with the Forest Restoration Crew Leader.
- Keeping as needed inventory of chemical, tools or other gear needs and relaying pertinent information to FRCL.
- Prepping the EF work truck with equipment, supplies, and water for herbicide mixing operations at the end of each day for the next day (as needed).
- Keeping track of daily field work completed (photos, crew hours, herbicide use and Avenza Maps area documentation) and reporting this information to the FRCL.
- Occasionally supervise maintenance days for tools/gear/chemicals at the EcoForesters Shop.
- Occasionally assisting with taking EF truck in for fuel ups or mechanic maintenance needs.
- Occasionally attending pre-project site visits/scouting missions with the FRCL (as needed).

Requirements:

1. Must be proficient in (or able to quickly learn) identification of invasive plant species and native look-a-likes.
2. Must be capable of physically strenuous field work in remote locations (usually within several miles of road), on difficult terrain (steep, mountainous, thick understory vegetation) in adverse conditions (hot, cold, or rain).
3. Must be comfortable with mixing and applying herbicides and insecticides safely and correctly for non-native invasive species control when/where appropriate.
4. Must be able to maintain a high standard of safety and professionalism.
5. Must be able to follow strategic and specific instructions delegated by the Forest Restoration Crew Leader.
6. Must be able to work well with others, maintain a positive attitude, and be flexible with changing circumstances.
7. Must be adept at using a compass, GPS, and reading maps.
8. Has their own cell phone, email, and vehicle.

Preferences:

1. Working towards, or has, a degree in forestry, natural resources, the environment or related field.
2. Experience in forestry, farming, conservation, ecological restoration, landscaping, or similar outdoor job.
3. Experienced in the identification of Southern Appalachian tree, shrub, and herb layer species.
4. Experience using herbicides.
5. Has experience and knowledge of southern Appalachian forest ecosystems and their management.

Please submit a resume & brief cover letter to: Outreach Associate Lauren Breitling at lbreitling@ecoforesters.org