

January 12, 2017

Position Description
Field Staff Assistant
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

Background

The Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) was established in 2009 to bring together federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, local communities and private citizens to restore the Escalante River Watershed to a more natural functioning state. The mission of ERWP is to:

Restore and maintain the natural ecological conditions of the Escalante River and its watershed and involve local communities in promoting and implementing sustainable land and water use practices.

ERWP is a loose coalition of interested parties working towards a shared goal and is not a formal 501(c)(3) in and of itself. There are approximately 25 agencies and organizations that have signed the Partnership Agreement as a commitment to achieve the stated mission.

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners became a signatory in 2011 and is one of the key nonprofit partners of ERWP. Grand Staircase Escalante Partners is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2004. It is managed by a Board of Directors and employs 10 full-time or part-time staff.

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners has been implementing the removal of woody invasive trees within the watershed on public and private lands since 2011 and 2015, respectively, applying for grants to provide funding to hire private contractors, conservation crews, and funding vegetation restoration, a vehicle, horse packers and staff positions to oversee the initial removal, re-treatment and monitoring of woody invasive removal.

This position description is for full-time seasonal Field Staff Assistant for the woody invasive control program on public lands, mainly Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Due to the distinctive topography of the Escalante, the majority of the work for this position will take place in backcountry settings.

Major Tasks

The Field Staff position is a full-time seasonal position – from approximately mid Feb/March through November. This is a field position to complete work on the Escalante River Restoration Project, which focuses on non-native woody invasive removal, mainly Russian olive, along the Escalante River and its tributaries. Woody invasive removal projects also include follow-up restoration efforts, such as treatment of re-growth, and monitoring past and future work sites. The Major Tasks include:

- Conduct treatments of invasive plants on public lands, as directed, including new treatment, retreatment, and monitoring. This requires carrying heavy packs over rough terrain for up to 10 miles one way to reach project sites
- Work with other field staff and interns to complete weekly work goals

- Oversee conservation corps crews working on restoration, ensure quality of work, and have a lead role in the joint conservation corps training
- Help with and provide logistics for the horsepacking operations
- Keep all project equipment and supply storage sheds organized and clean
- Work with supervisor to keep project database up-to-date, and ensure mapping and data entry are complete
- Oversee all logistical support for volunteer groups working on restoration
- Responsible for managing proper use and storage of herbicides and EPA restricted use chemicals associated with exotic plant control in a safe and effective manner, including keeping application records up-to-date and assist with end of season reports
- Ability to identify native trees and shrubs from non-native woody species and train conservation corps members and volunteers to also identify these species to avoid damaging non-target species
- Driving a 4-wheel drive vehicle over rough terrain

Job Requirements

Technical working knowledge of the following:

- Experience backpacking, hiking, and navigating in remote wilderness areas
- Ability to carry a heavy pack over rough terrain for up to 10 miles
- Have wilderness first responder training or ability to obtain this certification
- Have Utah State Herbicide Applicators License or ability to obtain this certification
- Proficient with chainsaw safety, use, and maintenance
- Available to work a flexible schedule, especially during the field season
- Capability to drive a 4-wheel drive vehicle over rough terrain

In addition:

- Will need to be, or quickly become, familiar with all project locations, routes, and emergency evacuation routes
- Possess a valid state driver's license and Department of the Interior Defensive Driving certificate will be required to drive a Federal vehicle
- A Department of the Interior security clearance will also be required to use facilities and computers

Terms

The Field Staff Assistant needs to live within the Escalante River Watershed.

The position is employed by Grand Staircase Escalante Partners, a "Friends" organization that supports the mission of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by providing resources and volunteers. This position is a grant-based, fulltime, seasonal appointment. The employee will receive benefits outlined in GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE PARTNERS's Employee and Operations Manual. Performance reviews will be held by the supervisor on a regular basis, with the first performance evaluation happening 3 months after start date.

The employee will work approximately 40 hours per week, with a varying schedule and with some field days being longer than other days. Often, the employee will be expected to camp out with crews, sometimes for 8 days at a time. This position is a field position, but some time will be allotted for office work, as needed.

Supervision

The formal supervisor for this position is the Public Lands Program Coordinator. A Field Staff Lead will be available to assist with logistical questions and most day-to-day operational questions in the field. Frequent meetings shall be held between the Public Lands Program Coordinator and the employee to review project objectives and associated work regimes.

Field Staff Assistant

Date

Supervisor (Public Lands Program Coordinator)

Date