



ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS

Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Crew Member

- Partner Agency:** Bureau of Land Management
- Positions Available:** 8 (Craig: 2, Silt: 2, Meeker: 2, Kremmling: 2)
- Location:** Craig, Silt, Meeker, and Kremmling, CO
- Tentative Dates:** April 15th - October 5th, 2024 (or upon completion of 25 weeks).
- Stipend:** \$700/week living allowance. Total amount will be \$17,500.
- AmeriCorps:** 900-hour AmeriCorps Education Award (\$3,447.50) upon successful completion
- Plus:** Up to \$50/week housing stipend
Up to a \$300 reimbursement towards a Wilderness First Aid certification
Public Land Corps Hiring Authority upon completion of 640 hours on public lands.

Program Overview:

AmeriCorps Member Technicians will serve with an experienced Bureau of Land Management (BLM) crew lead to help collect soil and vegetation data. The crew will visit randomized points across range and forested lands and follow specific monitoring protocols using the BLM Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) methodology. More information on the BLM's AIM Core Methods can be found at: <http://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/>.

Typically each crew samples a minimum of 50 plots during the field season. At each plot, the crew will collect data using the following AIM Core Methods: Line-Point Intercept, Species Richness, GAP and Soil Stability measurements. Additionally, plot characteristics will be recorded on plot, which includes digging a 70 cm soil pit and texturing all the layers to identify soil type. Data is entered electronically at the plot using Esri's Collector and Survey 123 apps on a tablet.

Data collected using the AIM Core Methods is used locally to renew grazing permits, assess sage grouse habitat, inform new oil and gas leases, and aid in writing Environmental Assessments for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). At the national level, AIM data is used for a broad suite of scientific research, which includes creating remote sensing products and monitoring trends in land health across BLM lands.

Service will be completed in remote areas on BLM lands. Member-Technicians will be required to drive long distances, often on rough roads, in the field office and district. Crews will usually serve a four day week for ten hours a day. Crews will often camp overnight, hike several miles a day, and return to the office every Thursday to maintain equipment and manage data. Crew members are expected to provide

their own camping equipment for use while in the field unless otherwise informed by their host field office.

Applicants should be aware that there are multiple partnerships between organizations involved in their employment. While applicants are hired and paid through RMYC, the office and field work takes place on Bureau of Land Management property. Because of this, member-technicians are required to pass a background check and take government specific training to access government buildings and computer networks. The member-technician's supervisor and crew lead is a full-time BLM employee, and the member-technicians will spend the entire summer serving directly under this person. The member-technicians' administrator (who handles food stipends, paychecks, job injury paperwork, etc.) is a RMYC employee, who the member-technicians will see very occasionally.

General Duties:

- Drive safely on rough 4WD roads and on major highways
- Navigate to plots using quad maps, GPS units, and the Esri Collector app
- Collect data using AIM Core Methods (visit: <http://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/>) in Survey 123
- Assist crew lead in plant identification at each plot and in the office by using dichotomous keys
- Press and document unknown plant species to be identified during office hours
- Dig holes to a depth of 70 cm and record soil layers, textures, effervescence and color hues
- Carefully record data and meticulously perform data checks throughout the season
- Calibrate on data collection with the crew once a month or each time a new ecosystem is visited
- Hike long distances across uneven terrain with a heavy pack, often in uncomfortable environmental conditions (hot or cold weather, insects, steep slopes, etc.)
- Endure long periods of standing, bending, crouching, or stooping
- Perform regular office work that includes entering data and preparing materials for the field
- Take required BLM trainings that includes topics such as cybersecurity, sexual harassment, and defensive driving

General Qualifications:

- College graduate with a degree in ecology, botany, range science, soil science, wildlife biology, environmental science, natural resource management, conservation biology, or a related field
- Familiarity with one or more Esri products, such as ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro, ArcPad, Collector, Survey 123, and ArcGIS Online
- Experience with plant identification and taxonomy with ability to understand and navigate dichotomous keys, which includes knowledge of plant morphological traits terminology
- Ability to stay focused on data collection in adverse weather conditions including extreme heat, monsoonal rains, snow and hazardous wildlife (i.e. gnats, mosquitos, rattlesnakes, scorpions, etc.)
- Skilled at communicating and staying calm during tedious tasks while working in challenging environments, that includes keeping a close working relationship with the crew
- Comfortable with driving trucks on 4WD roads in unpredictable conditions

* Familiarity with AIM Core Methods, range science or botany, soils taxonomy, and familiarity of

Rocky Mountain Flora is highly preferred!

Service Statement:

As an AmeriCorps service program, RMYC holds all of its staff to the highest standards of service focused on environmental stewardship, education, and healthy futures. AmeriCorps is a federal program that is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connect over 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs. Their mission is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct and team-based national and community service. We provide resources and people power to organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. We enrich the lives of those we serve and those who serve. Participants grow personally and professionally gaining new skill sets through providing hands-on work experience, valuable networking opportunities, and professional skills training. Why do you want to serve with AmeriCorps? Spending a season serving with AmeriCorps through RMYC can be a life-changing and rewarding experience. Successful candidates will demonstrate a commitment to service, diversity, self-development, and the team environment.

Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- 18 Years of age or older with a valid driver license and clean driving record.
- Eligibility to work in the US
- This position is supported by the Public Lands Hiring Authority which requires candidates to be between the ages of 16 to 30.
- Pre-service background screening required, including FBI background check
- Must be able to provide proof of eligibility to work in the United States

CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT: AmeriCorps members will be subject to all state and federal laws, and the rules and regulations of OSHA and RMYC. The member is expected to fully understand and adhere to the rules, regulations and code of conduct as described in the AmeriCorps member manual. 10/19 Policy violations will result in disciplinary action according to program guidelines, including written warnings, fines, suspension without stipend, and/or termination. The AmeriCorps member is accountable for meeting or exceeding the responsibilities of this position as described above, and will be evaluated at mid-term and end-term by Corps Program Staff, with input from project hosts. Successful completion is contingent on both AmeriCorps education award hours and service through the agreed upon term end date.

This position is classified as Temporary Exempt and is a seasonal position with no benefits.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is committed to the inclusion of members with all levels of ability. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request.

This program is available to all, without regard age 40 and over, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military or veteran status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or any other applicable status protected by state or local law.

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Member Name

Signature

Date