



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Crew Lead

- Partner Agency:** Bureau of Land Management
- Positions Available:** 3 (1 lead in Craig, 1 lead in Silt, 1 lead in Kremmling)
- Location:** Craig, Silt, and Kremmling CO
- Tentative Dates:** April 1st - October 25th, 2024 (or upon completion of 30 weeks).
- Stipend:** \$880/week living allowance. Total amount will be \$26,400.
- AmeriCorps:** 1200-hour AmeriCorps Education Award (\$4,826.50) 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 Crew Leaders will lead a crew of 2 interns to help collect soil and vegetation data for the BLM. 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. The crew leader 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.

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 service work takes place on Bureau of Land Management property. Because of this, the selected applicant is required to pass a background check and take government specific training to access government buildings and computer networks.

**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
- Coordinate with BLM Range Management Specialists and private landowners to secure access to plots
- Collect data using AIM Core Methods (visit: <http://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/>) in Survey 123
- Lead crew 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
- Spend last two weeks in October quality checking the entire data set for errors
- 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 duties that includes entering data and preparing materials for the field
- Ensure crew safety following BLM and RMYC protocol
- 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
- Leadership experience in a field setting through school or work
- Aptitude for making decisions and staying on task in both field and office settings
- 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 teach others how to use dichotomous keys
- 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
- Eagerness to serve as a mentor and teach crew members about field work, soils and plant identification
- Comfortable with driving trucks on 4WD roads in unpredictable conditions

\* Experience with leadership, field data collection methods, soils texturing, and plant taxonomy are the key skills needed to be a successful applicant for this position, so please make sure to mention how your experience matches these requirements in your application materials.

**Role Clarification:**

This is an AmeriCorps Corpsmember level position, NOT an RMYC staff member. While serving in this AmeriCorps volunteer position, corps members need to abide by the below restrictions:

- Crew Leaders will not sign/approve official documents such as AmeriCorps paperwork, member timecards, performance evaluations, disciplinary contracts, project contracts or any similar documents.
- Crew Leaders will not be directly involved in project acquisition or contracting.
- Crew Leaders will not discipline other AmeriCorps members. While they may provide guidance, facilitate crew meetings, motivate, reward and uphold safety policies on the service site, all policy violations and disciplinary action must be directed to and handled by RMYC Staff.

**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