



ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS Range and Noxious Weeds Crew Member



Partner Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Positions Available: 1

Location: White River Field Office - Meeker, CO

Tentative Dates: May 9th – August 27th, 2022, or longer (up to September 24th or longer depending on funding)

Wage: \$595/week, \$400 boot reimbursement

Plus: 675 – Hour AmeriCorps Education Award up to \$2,417.14 upon successful completion of the season. (May be larger if season is extended)

Upon successful completion of the season the incumbent may qualify for the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority which gives priority hiring when applying for jobs with the USFS. It would take two years of year-round work with the USFS to qualify at the same level. In order to qualify for this, you will need to complete and log at least 120 hours of education in your off-time to reach the minimum 640 hours required.

Program Overview:

AmeriCorps member-technicians will serve with experienced Bureau of Land Management (BLM) crew leads and specialists to manage noxious weed populations in rangeland environments. Under the direction of a BLM crew lead and specialists, member-technicians will perform routine and recurring weed management activities, including applying herbicides, in accordance with all applicable resource management plans, environmental assessments, cooperative agreements, and safety plans. Approved herbicides will be spot-sprayed from vehicles and backpack sprayers.

Member-technicians will operate, maintain, and inventory weed management equipment (e.g., tools, monitoring/mapping equipment, herbicide applicators). Member technicians will help ensure all activities comply with existing protocols and policies as they relate to weed management. BLM will provide training and personal protective equipment. Only BLM crew leads and specialists with a current applicator license will mix herbicides.

Under the direction of a BLM crew lead or specialist, member-technicians will complete recurring tasks involved in inventorying, monitoring, and mapping existing weed populations utilizing global positioning systems and topographic maps. They will use specific computer programs to compile, reduce, store, and retrieve data and other weed management information, including research and long-term monitoring projects. They will learn how to analyze, evaluate, and report data as needed.

Member-technicians will serve as a point of contact for individuals using public lands. Under the direction of a BLM crew lead or specialist, member-technicians may work closely with other landowners and cooperators within the geographic area to ensure weed management efforts are successful. Member-technicians may be asked to perform other rangeland management duties as needed.

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. Crews will often serve a four-day week for ten hours a day. Member-technicians will be trained to operate 4x4 pickups and utility terrain vehicles.

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 take place on BLM 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 is a full-time BLM employee, and the member-technicians will spend the entire summer serving directly under this person. The member-technician's crew lead is a seasonal BLM employee with an herbicide applicator's license. The member-technician's administrator (who handles food stipends, pay checks, job injury paperwork, etc.) is a RMYC employee, who the member-technicians will see very occasionally.

The service varies from sedentary in completing office phases of the duties assigned, to field-based service. The field-based service requires hiking in remote areas over rough, uneven, or rocky terrain for extended periods of time, carrying equipment such as GPS units, cameras, packs, spray equipment etc. in a variety of weather conditions. Hiking long distances may be required (6-8 miles per day) with a 20-30 lb. pack.

The selected applicant will do a variety of range and wildlife and oil and compliance monitoring including reclamation and vegetation monitoring using line point intercept, utilization checks (cages and clipping), rangeland compliance checks, and inventory of range improvement projects. Other duties could also include checking nesting status of woodland raptors, sage-grouse pellet counts, vegetation monitoring, fish sampling and reptile/amphibian monitoring. Must be able to type, drive, spend 10 hours in the field, and hike challenging terrain.

Qualifications:

- Apply herbicides to noxious weeds under the direct supervision of a BLM crew lead and/or specialist who is a licensed applicator.
- Drive safely on rough 4WD roads and on major highways.
- Navigate to noxious weed populations and areas being monitored for potential infestations using quad maps, GPS units, and the Esri Collector app.
- Collect data using Survey 123.
- Work across uneven terrain, 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 include topics such as cybersecurity, sexual harassment, and defensive driving.

Qualifications for duties of job:

- College graduate or working towards a degree in ecology, botany, range science, soil science, wildlife biology, environmental science, natural resource management, conservation biology, or a related field.
- Plant identification skills preferred
- 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. Ability to identify noxious weeds during all growth stages a plus.
- Familiarity with Colorado noxious weeds.
- Basic understanding of resource management principles and practices.
- Basic knowledge of data collection methods and techniques to make field observations of range conditions, monitor sites for weed population changes, and collect data to document weed growth, mitigation, and control measures.
- Ability to stay focused on duties in adverse weather conditions including extreme heat, monsoonal rains, snow and hazardous wildlife (e.g., gnats, mosquitos, rattlesnakes).
- Skilled at communicating and staying calm during tedious tasks while working in challenging environments.
- Ability to maintain a close working relationship with crew members.
- Comfortable with driving trucks on 4WD roads in unpredictable conditions. Some experience with UTVs and small engines helpful.
- Must possess a valid driver's license to operate government vehicles and equipment.

This position is classified as Temporary, Regular, 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 to race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or religion.

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Member Name

Signature

Date