ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS
Climate Corps - Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Technician

Partner Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Location(s): Kremmling, Craig, Meeker, and Silt, CO (2 Technicians in each location)

Dates:
- Craig, Meeker, Silt: April 25th, 2022- October 8th, 2022 or up to 24 weeks
  *Must be able to attend AIM Fundamentals Training April 28th – 29th (virtual) and in-person May 3rd – 6th
  *Must be able to attend AIM Fundamentals Training May 19th - 20th (virtual) and in-person May 24th - 27th.

Compensation:
- Weekly stipend of $560
- $52 weekly food stipend
- Up to $400 towards a Wilderness First Aid certification
- Anticipated AmeriCorps 900-hour Education Award of $3,172.50 upon successful completion of the season.

Public Land Corps: Upon successful completion of the season the incumbent will 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.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps’ (RMYC) Mission
The RMYC mission is to engage young people in the outdoors, inspiring them to use their strengths and potential to lead healthy, productive lives. RMYC teaches responsibility for self, community, and environment through teamwork, service, and experiential education.

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, pay checks, job injury paper work, etc.) is a RMYC employee, who the member-technicians will see very occasionally.

Public Land Corps
The Public Land Corps program provides the opportunity for young people between the ages of 16 and 30 years to serve on conservation projects on public lands. Participants must successfully complete 640 hours that include at least 120 hours on federal lands during their PLC service. PLC members are not federal government employees, but those who successfully complete the PLC requirements are then eligible for noncompetitive hiring status for consideration when applying to competitive service positions with the federal government. These jobs are otherwise only open to current permanent government employees or people with special applicant status, such as veterans. The noncompetitive status will last for two years after the PLC is awarded. For more information you can follow this think

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

Qualifications
For duties of job:
● 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
● Ability to attend AIM Core Methods Training on May 19th-22nd in Grand Junction, CO
● 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, mosquitoes, 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!

For hiring requirements:
● U.S. Citizenship (required for AmeriCorps)
• Valid Driver's License with clean driving record
• Must be 16 to 30 years old at the start of the service opportunity (as required per PLC)
• Members will need to pass a Federal Background Check prior to working

CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT: AmeriCorps members will be subject to all state and federal laws, and the rules and regulations of OSHA and Conservation Corps. 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.

The Crew Member position is classified as Temporary Regular Exempt and is a seasonal position and has no benefits. Crew Members will not have recurring access to vulnerable populations as described by CNCS.

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.

991 Captain Jack Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
www.rockymountainyouthcorps.org

Member Signature ____________________________ Member Name ____________________________ Date ____________________________