



2018 Temporary Employment Botany Positions

Application Period: January 16-22, 2018



USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Sierra National Forest



Sky lupine, *Lupinus nanus*, near Ahwahnee in 2017

Temporary Not-To-Exceed 1039 hours Positions: The Sierra National Forest is advertising **temporary positions for our 2018 summer botany program field work**, with a duty station of North Fork, CA (Madera County). This notification is being circulated to inform prospective and interested applicants of these upcoming opportunities. These positions are posted on the USAJobs Website (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>), and are advertised at the GS-04 thru GS-07 grade levels. More than one position may be filled at any of these grade levels. Vacancy Announcement numbers are provided in the table below. You will need these announcement numbers to complete your application in USAJobs. Duration of work is likely May through September. **HOUSING:** Space in Forest Service barracks may be available at approximately \$5-\$8 per day. These rates may vary and applicants are encouraged to discuss their housing needs and any other questions with their prospective supervisor.

Point of Contact for Botany:

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Point of Contact – Admin / HR

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2018 Temporary Non-Fire Hire Announcements - Sierra National Forest

Duty Location (<i>Position Description No.</i>)	Vacancy Announcement Number	Application period opens	Application period closes	Supervisor
North Fork, Ca (2512)	TEMP-GS-0404-04-Biological Science Technician (Plants)	01/16/2018	01/22/2018	Joanna Clines
North Fork, Ca. (2513)	TEMP-GS-0404-05 Biological Science Technician (Plants)	01/16/2018	01/22/2018	Joanna Clines
North Fork, Ca. (2514)	TEMP-GS-0404-06-Biological Science Technician (Plants)	01/16/2018	01/22/2018	Joanna Clines
North Fork, Ca. (2515)	TEMP-GS-0404-07-Biological Science Technician (Plants)	01/16/2018	01/22/2018	Joanna Clines

ABOUT THE FOREST AND THE 2018 WORK:

The Sierra National Forest (NF) lies in the central/southern Sierra Nevada, a 400 mile-long mountain range paralleling the eastern boundary of California. Elevations in the Sierra NF range from 900' to nearly 14,000', and the Forest is traversed by three major west-flowing rivers: the Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings. The vegetation is diverse, reflecting the varied growing conditions within a 13,000' foot elevational span, and the microclimates caused by topography, geology, and weather patterns. Approximately 1400 species of vascular plants are found in the 1.3 million acre Sierra NF, and several hundred species of bryophytes are documented from the Forest. There is a diverse lichen and fungi flora as well, but more study is needed of these groups. We deal with approximately 20-30 non-native invasive weed species that are damaging enough ecologically to warrant active control and eradication (e.g. yellow starthistle, medusahead, three species of invasive broom, spotted knapweed, klamathweed). The Sierra NF is remarkably free of invasive weeds, especially at higher elevations, so our goal is to keep it that way!

The field work in 2018 will take place primarily in the following environments: areas of massive conifer mortality and areas burned by wildfire in 2017. **Safety of our workers is highest priority, and we use Job Hazard Analyses and daily tailgate safety sessions to maximize safety.**

- **TREE MORTALITY:** The Sierra NF has recently lost the majority of our ponderosa pines due to a 4 year drought followed by bark beetle population explosions. This tree mortality across the low and mid elevations of the coniferous belt poses a public health and safety hazard, and the Forest Service has been felling hazard trees and disposing of the dead wood in a variety of ways. This work will go on for many years to come, and we botanists do our best to survey the areas where tree mortality work is planned to ensure protection of rare plants and containment of invasive weeds. We GPS and flag these areas for avoidance by tree removal workers and work with colleagues and contractors to minimize weed introduction and spread. There is a LOT of interesting native vegetation recovery in these altered areas, though the challenge to keep non-native invasive plants from dominating is daunting.
- **BURNED AREAS:** In 2017 two wildfires occurred on the Sierra NF: the Railroad Fire (over 12,000 acres) and the Mission Fire (1000 acres). We have Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funding to survey for and control invasive weeds on dozer lines and in other sites of high disturbance in 2018; in addition to funding to survey and flag in areas proposed for salvage timber harvest.

Botany crew members also survey Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails, power lines, recreation and special use permit areas, reforestation areas; and more for rare plants and invasive weeds, and in the course of that work we do a fair amount of manual weed control. The crew works across the Sierra NF as needed, on both ranger districts. There are a few dozen invasive weed sites not associated with upcoming projects where we control weeds annually and where we're nearing eradication. If it sounds like hot, sweaty work; it is! And we have some steep slopes too! But we do our best to keep the crew comfortable by timing lower elevation (hotter) weed control during the early morning and moving up to cooler, higher sites as the day heats up. This is a beautiful National Forest with infinite gorgeous vistas and a fascinating flora!

Skills especially desired are: plant identification using accepted floras and keys as well as the ability to quickly learn plants taught during the training period of the job; knowledge of vegetation ecology; invasive weed control and integrated weed management concepts; good note-taking and observational abilities, basic writing and computer skills (including if possible GIS skills); and a willingness to be flexible when priorities change. The work week is 4 ten hour days, generally Monday-Thursday 7 am to 5:30 pm (30 min lunch break), thus you get a 3 day weekend to explore and relax each week.

Please click on the link below to learn more about the Sierra National Forest, and please feel free to contact Joanna Clines at the contact numbers above for further information on the type of work involved, duty location, and available housing/barracks. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/>