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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**Position: Defensible Space Coordinator/Media Specialist
Posted November 30, 2018**

HOURS: Up to 60 hours per month; \$25/HOUR PLUS BENEFITS

**Guidance for Sustainable Defensible Space Landscaping in the SMMNRA and
Southern California.**

November 2018- December 2021

Project Description: This project aims to synthesize the wide range of information available on how to prevent structure loss from wildfires. The project will focus on sustainable landscaping in wildfire areas within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), providing a model for southern California. We will also incorporate information on the factors that contributed to structure losses in the Woolsey Fire. The objective is to provide engaging, relevant, reliable and actionable information that incentivizes and empowers homeowners to create defensible space around their homes to maximize structure survival and sustainable landscaping.

Phase 1 will compile a database of plants and design principles that meet homeowners' landscape desires and provide for wildfire safety, wildlife habitat, water conservation, and slope stabilization.

Phase 2 will work with partners to compile structure loss data from the Woolsey Fire, including pre and post fire imagery, to illustrate the design principles of survivable defensible space and construction methods.

Phase 3 will develop a web-based information portal for homeowners, public agencies and conservation organizations to encourage physical changes in landscape management practices and design. Feedback mechanisms that can map social networks to monitor the reach, spread, and impact of the portal should be incorporated.

Phase 4 will focus on reaching every home in the Santa Monica Mountains that is at risk from wildfire with meaningful information; working with community partners to install demonstration gardens showcasing defensible space; and coordinating with County Fire Departments in their annual defensible space inspection programs.



Phase 5 will examine the barriers that prevent more widespread implementation of defensible space landscaping. For example, is it due to lack of knowledge, alternative values, or limited resources such as money or time.

The project will begin in early 2019, with the first TAC meeting proposed for late January, and continue until completion of all the above deliverables in December 2021.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

- Report directly to Executive Officer/Architect, work with Senior Conservation Biologist, Senior Planning/Design staff and NPS coordinator.
- Coordinate and organize a Technical Advisory Committee, plan quarterly meetings and provide minutes and follow up.
- Coordinate project and community/media outreach.
- Work with native plant specialists and landscape architects to compile relevant plant information appropriate to the Santa Monica Mountains.
- Work with Los Angeles and Ventura County Fire Departments and research scientists to determine factors that contributed to the structure losses in the Woolsey Fire.
- Work with the TAC to define a data structure to provide easy access to all relevant information; develop content for the website.
- Coordinate and supervise website construction.
- Solicit bids for website design and coordinate hiring with TAC and RCDSMM.
- Work with selected Web designer to develop and design web content and social media content for sustainable defensible space landscaping.
- Coordinate field tests of demonstration projects with community volunteers.
- Examine the barriers to implementing defensible space landscaping in the community. This will include preparing a grant to obtain sufficient additional funding for working with research and marketing firms.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

Required or Preferred:

- Education: Minimum of BS in Biology, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture or related field, Masters preferred.
- 3 years minimum experience in professional practice.
- Experience with urban wildfire interface issues.
- Knowledge of Federal, State and County environmental regulations and permitting requirements.
- Expertise in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Google Earth, and ESRI ArcGIS.
- Social media outreach and marketing skills.
- Strong writing skills.
- Broad scope of knowledge in natural resource issues with special emphasis on the ecology of the Santa Monica Mountains preferred.
- Knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Santa Monica Mountains preferred.
- Self-directed and able to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Organize time and resources efficiently.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.



- Flexible in terms of total work hours and schedule.
- Ability to provide required reports and data within time specified.
- Ability to take initiative and solve problems.
- Ability to report on time to all work assignments.
- Sense of Humor!

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Current valid California drivers license.
- Reliable transportation to and from the RCD Office, various locations within the Santa Monica Mountains, and other field locations as needed.

COMPENSATION:

Hourly rate \$25.00 per hour. The RCDSMM also offers benefits including a health insurance stipend, 457 contribution plan, 13 holidays, sick and vacation time, and a supportive, passionate and dynamic work environment.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a complete application package electronically containing the following to Lyn Rauls (info@rcdsmm.org with the subject line **DSC application**) no later than **5 p.m.**

January 4, 2019:

- Cover letter
- Resume/CV
- Writing sample
- Example of database construction
- Minimum of 3 references with both email and phone contact information

We will respond within two business days of your transmission indicating whether your application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. **Candidates must be available to interview one afternoon between 7-11th of January 2019.**