

Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University

Job Opportunity: Natural Resources Specialist / Beach Keeper
(open pool), Non-Student Hourly position

Duty Location: Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), Lompoc, CA

Organization:

The Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) is a research, education and service unit within the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU). CEMML applies the latest and most appropriate science to promote the sustainable management of natural and cultural resources on Department of Defense and other public lands. We provide technical support, conduct applied research, and offer career development and learning opportunities to support resource stewardship. We collaborate with our sponsors and within CSU to resolve complex environmental issues, leaving a legacy of science-based decisions to sustain our resources for future generations. To learn more about CEMML's contributions to land management and our mission, vision, and values, please visit <http://www.cemml.colostate.edu/>.

Responsibilities:

The individual(s) hired under this beach keeper position will support the natural resources program at VSFB by interacting with and educating the public on western snowy plover life history and Space Force regulations pertaining to beach recreation limitations during the plover nesting season. This position is for the duration of the western snowy plover nesting season (1 March through 30 September). Primary duties include informing beach users of VSFB rules and regulations related to beach recreation and snowy plover management, reporting violations of beach rules to VSFB Security Forces, and coordinating with VSFB biologists and contractors on plover management. Skills and abilities required for this position include self-motivation, ability to work in challenging weather conditions for extended amounts of time, comfortable approaching and speaking with people recreating on the beach, and effective communication with the (often disgruntled) public, volunteers, and VSFB Security Forces personnel. Other required work will include maintenance of boundary fences and signs (requires carrying up to 50 pounds through sand and using a post pounder), walking the beach, coordination with CEMML and Space Force staff, and reporting violations. Must have the ability to regularly communicate via radio, cell phone, written, and/or email. Training on western snowy plover biology will be provided. This person will not be enforcing the rules, but is required to communicate any issues or violations with VSFB Security Forces immediately via radio (provided) in a professional manner following trained guidance.

Work location will be at Surf Beach and at Ocean Park on VSFB. These two areas have the most public visitation and are the main sources of beach violations on VSFB. The work schedule for this position will be based around times of maximum use of the beach by the public, which could

vary weekly dependent on the weather but would most often be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Shifts would be no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m. Work schedules will be focused around periods of high beach visitation, including weekends and holidays.

Minimum Qualifications:

- High School diploma (or similar).
- Must be able to work most weekends and holidays.
- Ability to work in challenging field conditions (heat, cold, wind, biting insects, ability to walk in sand for moderate distances, etc.).
- Ability to maintain fencing to include installing t-posts, requires lifting 50 pounds, use post pounder, and walk through sand.
- Must follow established protocol when communicating with Security Forces personnel and other VSFB staff.
- Ability to communicate effectively with the public, volunteers, and VSFB staff.
- Must remain calm in stressful or tense situations and walk away if needed and contact appropriate personnel per protocol.
- Must have a valid driver's license or the ability to obtain a driver's license by the employment start date.
- Must have reliable personal transportation and communication (i.e. email and phone).
- The successful candidate must be eligible to work in the United States by proposed start date. CEMML will not provide visa sponsorship for this position.
- Must pass a background investigation.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Working toward or completed Bachelor of Science degree or higher in a field related to the project work, OR at least 2 years of applicable field experience.
- Previous experience supporting natural resource projects.
- Previous experience working with the public.
- Demonstrated adaptability to field work related issues.
- Ability to work with a wide variety of personalities and follow established protocol.

Duration:

The open pool will be from January 6, 2024– January 31, 2025. We will either be hiring 2-3 full-time individuals or 3-5 part-time individuals from 1 March through 30 September 2025. Schedules would be developed monthly in coordination with their CEMML supervisor and VSFB staff, but will generally be from between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The position is hourly, as-needed with no guarantee of specific number of hours per week.

Hourly Rate:

The hourly rate for Natural Resources Specialists will be \$18/hr.

Diversity Statement:

Reflecting departmental and institutional values, candidates are expected to have the ability to advance the Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Background Check:

Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct background investigations for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.

Application:

To apply for this position please submit the following to Jessica Griffiths (Jessica.Griffiths@colostate.edu) for review:

1. A brief email stating your interest, your background, and a request to submit a full application.
2. If a full application is requested, please submit the following items:
 - a. A cover letter highlighting your experience related to the position, any experience working within the Department of Defense (with particular emphasis on support at VSF), how you meet the Minimum Qualifications, and why you are applying for the position.
 - b. Most recent resume.
 - c. Two references.

Point of contact for any inquiries:

Jessica Griffiths, Wildlife Biologist

Jessica.griffiths@colostate.edu

(805) 605-8399

Chris Herron, Natural Resources Specialist & Principal Investigator

Christopher.herron@colostate.edu

(970)-491-4146

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