



Squad Leader - All Hand All Lands Winter Prescribed Fire Squad

Company Description

The Forest Stewards Guild (Guild) Southwest Region is dedicated to supporting fire as a natural process in fire-adapted ecosystems to improve ecosystem function and increase wildfire resilience. The Guild strives for clear, open, and kind communication and is committed to recruiting, hiring, mentoring, and supporting fire practitioners from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities. We are dedicated to building a better way to do fire management that recognizes the inherent value of our employees, that supports work-life balance, and provides an environment that supports growth.

Job Description

The Forest Stewards Guild will be hiring a 3 person squad based out of Santa Fe, New Mexico in the winter of 2026-2027. The purpose of this squad will be to support the Guild's All Hands All Lands Burn efforts by working through pile burn projects in Northern New Mexico, completing prep work for future prescribed fire projects, and supporting partner burn operations as needed. For the Squad Leader position, we are seeking a qualified applicant with a passion for forest and fire restoration, and for training squad members and partners. Expect to occasionally work overtime and possible weekends.

Materials required to apply

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- IQS or IQCS Record (optional)

Duties

- Supervise and lead a 3 or 4-person squad on daily operations for 3-4 months
- Provide training for crew members and partners
- Manage work assignments with minimal direction from supervisors.
- Lead chainsaw operations and fuels reduction projects

- Provide unit prep for broadcast burning
- Support other agencies prescribed burns as needed
- Manage vehicles, equipment, and supplies to complete burning and fuels reduction work.
- Coordinate with AHAL Project Manager and Project Partners
- Travel for extended periods of time and work outside of normal business hours.
- Demonstrate a strong work ethic, including a commitment to the principles of Duty, Integrity and Respect.

Required Qualifications

- Ability to independently lead a 3-person squad in a variety of operations including chain saw and prescribed burning
- Clear verbal communication skills and strong organizational skills.
- Faller 2 (FAL2) Intermediate Faller or ability to obtain in first month
- Ability to work in difficult weather conditions and within flexible schedules to accommodate burn windows
- Proven dedication to operational safety
- Experience using and maintaining firefighting tools, equipment, and small engines
- Valid Driver's License. Legally eligible to work in the U.S., capable of passing a background check
- Completed Basic Wildland Fire classes including S-130, S-190, L-180, I-100, and I-700
- Ability to complete an arduous pack test

Preferred Qualifications

- NWCG Squadboss FFT1 Qualification
- Experience with collaborative burning with a diversity of partner organizations
- Strong mechanical ability.
- Proficiency with Avenza and GPS
- Wilderness First Responder or higher medical qualifications
- Understanding of risk management with a strong commitment to safety
- Strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills, clear verbal communication skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Knowledge of Southwestern fire regimes and fuel types (e.g. piñon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine).

Additional information

Pay: \$23-26/hr depending on experience.

Paid leave and paid holiday benefits are provided. Employer-sponsored health and dental care coverage are available on the first day of the month after 30 days of continuous employment.

Flexible Compensation Plan, and Short- and Long-Term Disability are available after 60 days of continuous employment. Employer-sponsored retirement is available after 90 days of continuous employment. Housing is not provided. The Forest Stewards Guild is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

This is an at-will 4-month position, with potential to renew and extend. Start date is set for December 7th, 2026. The average work week is 40 hours, Monday-Thursday, but schedules may vary to fit burn opportunities. Expect to occasionally work overtime and weekends.

Location:

This position will be based out of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Must live within a commutable distance.

Apply:

Interested applicants should apply by emailing a resume and cover letter to apearson@forestguild.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until filled, with a target of filling open positions by **October 30th**.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Pearson at apearson@forestguild.org, (505) 795-2551.