



United States Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
P. O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i, 96718-0052
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Position: Volunteer, Restoration Ecology Program, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Contact: Mark Wasser
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Dates: Continually filled with immediate need starting June 1, 2011

Term: 12-week minimum

Opportunity Description:

Volunteer(s) needed to assist the Restoration Ecology Program within the Division of Natural Resources Management at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Primary duties include vegetation monitoring, seed collection and preparation, native plant propagation, nursery duties, data entry, and other activities related to project support. The information generated from this work is pertinent to developing and implementing successful restoration strategies and understanding the dynamics of native Hawaiian ecosystems.

Current projects include (1) Koa forest restoration within the Mauna Loa Strip, (2) Fire restoration in the coast lowlands and 'ohi'a woodlands, (3) Pasture reforestation in Kahuku, (4) Rare plant monitoring and stabilization, and (5) Native plant propagation.

Volunteers typically work with a crew of 2-3 individuals conducting field work under the supervision of a crew leader. Work occurs in a wide variety of climate conditions and ecological communities. Field sites vary from wet and cold to hot and dry. The monitoring component of field work includes recording metrics such as species richness, percent cover, shrub density, tree density, and biomass. Volunteers will learn to identify anywhere from 60-90 species in the field for monitoring work. The program also plants several thousand seedlings each year for large scale restoration projects. Significant field time will also be spent seed collecting. Field work will often entail significant hiking, carrying heavy loads, and may require camping trips of 4-5 days in remote locations.

In addition to field work, volunteers spend a significant amount of time assisting with nursery operations and to a lesser extent data entry. Nursery works includes watering, weeding, transplanting, seed processing, making large batches of soil mixtures, conducting seed/plant inventories, and washing pots.

Applicants should have a strong background in botany / biology / ecology, interest in native Hawaiian plants and vegetation communities, and experience with fieldwork in adverse and challenging conditions. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid driver's license, able to lift and carry up to 50 lbs all day for up to 5 miles, and be able to camp in backcountry conditions for up to one week.

A stipend of \$10/working day and housing (4,000' elevation) within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park may be available.

Volunteers are needed on a continuous basis, with an immediate need to fill one volunteer position starting June 1, 2011. The Restoration Ecology Program generally supports two volunteers at any given time. The number and timing of future positions to be filled will depend on current volunteer schedules, experience level of applicants, and operational needs.

This area is subject to elevated levels of volcanic fumes, particularly sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Such fumes can present an immediate and cumulative health hazard, particularly to persons with breathing and heart difficulties. While every effort is take to avoid or reduce exposure, if you have a respiratory condition, such as asthma, or other medical conditions, you should seriously consider your ability to work and live in these conditions before applying.

If you are interested in volunteering or for additional information, please send a resume and cover letter outlining relevant experience and interest, plus the names and contact information for three professional references to Mark.Wasser@contractor.nps.gov , or mail to:

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