



## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Public Lands Advocate**

Santa Barbara • Ojai • Santa Ynez Valley  
California

Los Padres ForestWatch, one of the most effective land and wildlife conservation organizations along California's central coast, has an amazing opportunity for an energetic Public Lands Advocate to join our team. Our work spans nearly 220 miles of some of California's most spectacular landscapes, from the famed Big Sur shoreline to the backcountry of the Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and other public lands in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. The Public Lands Advocate will help us build on our successful thirteen-year track record.

#### **Description**

Public lands are facing new challenges from the Trump Administration and Congress, including attempts to roll back key laws that protect our parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and monuments. The Public Lands Advocate is a new full-time position that will work to safeguard our region's public lands from harmful policies coming out of Washington DC, to educate the community about the threats facing these iconic landscapes, and to provide residents with the tools needed to make their voices heard.

Working closely with the Executive Director and Conservation Director, the Public Lands Advocate will use advocacy, community organizing, coalition building, education, and creative media to support our land and wildlife conservation objectives. Specific responsibilities of this position include:

1. *Advocating for the protection of wild places along California's central coast, and defending our region's public lands from harmful policy changes in Washington DC.*
  - Track and review policies, legislation, regulations, executive orders, and other actions affecting America's public lands, with an eye towards how they specifically impact parks and forests in our region.
  - Identify and prioritize threats facing our public lands, and work with a small team to adopt and implement strategic solutions.
  - Maintain positive working relationships with elected officials, partner organizations, and other stakeholders.

2. *Cultivate and engage conservation allies and the public to build broad public support for protecting key wild places in the Los Padres National Forest.*

- Encourage stakeholders to write letters to decision-makers using targeted email, snail mail, social media, and telephone campaigns.
- Build and maintain relationships with diverse groups including environmentalists, farmers and ranchers, wineries, tourism bureaus, local businesses, and forest users such as hikers, mountain bikers, rock climbers, hunters, anglers, and horseback riders.
- Secure local, regional, and national media coverage on a variety of land conservation issues affecting our region.

3. *Educate, organize, and inspire local residents to take specific actions to protect our parks and forests.*

- Mobilize letter-writing and phone calls to decision-makers in Washington DC.
- Increase news releases, online and print advertisements, and PSAs to shed light on how decisions at the national level affect public lands in our own backyard.
- Expand our use of social media like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to spread the word and reach new audiences.
- Organize town hall meetings in key cities and towns around the forest to educate, inform, and engage the public about what's at stake and how to get involved.
- Write concise and accurate fact sheets, opinion pieces, sample letters, and email action alerts.
- Continually update our website with action items and talking points.

## **Essential Qualifications and Skills**

The ideal candidate will possess a strong background in policy advocacy and/or community organizing. We're seeking someone who is highly motivated, able to work independently and juggle multiple priorities and tasks in a fast-paced office environment, has excellent communication skills, and exceptional writing and research skills and meticulous attention to detail.

Applicants should have a demonstrated passion for environmental protection, a strong drive to work as part of a team to accomplish short-term and long-term goals, and a robust sense of humor. A bachelor's degree in environmental studies, science, communications, public relations, political science, or related field is desired.

This position requires stellar writing, research, public speaking, coalition-building, and strategic thinking skills. The selected candidate must be highly organized and be able to shift from big-picture thinking to details execution, while maintaining momentum on multiple projects. The candidate must be able to plan and prioritize a busy workload across short-term and long-term needs, and to carefully track and meet goals and deadlines.

Proficiency in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Adobe Acrobat is a must, along with skillful execution of social media platforms.

## **Location**

We are headquartered in Santa Barbara, California, a mid-sized coastal town with exciting opportunities to explore the outdoors, arts, restaurants, breweries, and wineries.

The ideal candidate will work from our Santa Barbara office. However, we will also consider applicants who are based in nearby communities where we work, such as Ojai or the Santa Ynez Valley.

This position requires travel throughout our area, occasional work on evenings and weekends, and infrequent trips to Washington DC.

## **Compensation**

ForestWatch offers an excellent benefits package, including employer-paid medical insurance, a generous paid holiday and vacation package, and a 403(b) retirement savings plan. ForestWatch employees also enjoy significant pro discounts from some of the world's leading outdoor apparel and equipment companies.

## **Application Procedure**

To apply, please submit a cover letter describing your qualifications for this position, resume, a policy-related writing sample, and the names and contact information of three professional references to [jobs@LPFW.org](mailto:jobs@LPFW.org). Due to the volume of applicants, only those considered for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please.

This position is available immediately. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Los Padres ForestWatch is an equal opportunity employer. For more information about our conservation programs, visit our website at [www.LPFW.org](http://www.LPFW.org)

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