

With everyone out on break I decided that this short newsletter would feature me, Mandy Casteel-Denney. I am the office facilitator for the MEM program, as well as for the Center for Environment and Sustainability. I am a alumni of Western, Class of 2002, and was one of the first students to graduate with an Environmental Studies degree. I went on to graduate school with the [Audubon Expedition Institute](#), traveling Alaska and the Dessert Southwest. Then I took some time off, working in Maine, my hometown, then moving to San Francisco. I ended up in Southern California where I meet my husband Isaac. We moved to Colorado and started a family. I have two sons, Garrett 9, and Gavin 4. I received my Master's degree from Jones International University in Education. Our dream was to move to Gunnison and for me to work at the college. Dream accomplished! I love living in Gunnison, and working at Western. I am awed and inspired by the faculty and people I work with in the MEM/ENVS departments. The students are amazing, and help energize me to do more. I am still new to the job, but if you have any questions or needs, please come and ask. I'm located in Kelley 114A, down the dark hallway.



**Happy New Year from my family to yours!**



Here's the link to the [Master in Environmental Management Calendar](#)

### **Jobs**

**Graduate Assistantships with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.** The University of Utah's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism is recruiting applicants for Graduate Assistantships (doctoral level) to begin Fall Semester of 2016. Applicants wishing to be considered for financial support for a campus visit should submit the following materials before **January 15, 2016**. Visitation to campus for interested candidates will be scheduled during February. Follow this [link](#) or scroll below.

**Senior Sustainability Project Coordinator at Arizona State University.** Application deadline is **January 18, 2016**. Join the award winning team at Arizona State University. The office of Sustainability Practices houses a team that oversees the design and implementation of projects and programs that address ASU's sustainability goals, which include: carbon neutrality, zero water waste, active engagement and principled practice. Click [here](#) for the full job posting.

**USDA Forest Service—R2 Rocky Mountain Region, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF, Paonia, Colorado.** **Rangeland Management Specialist**, a GS-0454-11. The vacancy announcement is 16-0209-200927G-DM which will open on **January 7, 2016 and close on January 13, 2016**. Scroll below for full listing.





## Graduate Assistantships with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

The University of Utah's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism is recruiting applicants for Graduate Assistantships (doctoral level) to begin Fall Semester of 2016.

Applicants wishing to be considered for financial support for a campus visit should submit the following materials **before January 15, 2016**. Visitation to campus for interested candidates will be scheduled during February.

- A cover letter articulating an area of interest for doctoral studies and research.
- A current resume/CV.
- Names and contact information for 3 academic or professional references.
- Transcripts from the last college/university attended.

In addition to our traditional departmental research and teaching assistantships, we are looking for a student or students to work in the focus areas described on the next page.

Teaching and research assistants generally begin mentored teaching in an integrated block of core courses and progress to independent course instruction. Currently funded research assistants are working with the American Camp Association (ACA), the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation, and the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC). Additional opportunities are anticipated for 2016, and many positions offer a blend of teaching and research.

Each position requires 20 hours of work a week for 9 months and includes a monthly stipend, tuition/fee remission (<http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tuition-benefit-program-guidelines/>), and subsidized health insurance (<http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/insurance-information/>). Exceptional candidates may qualify for additional scholarship monies, additional months of appointment, and/or summer teaching or research opportunities. Travel support to present at professional conferences is available through the Department, the Graduate School, and student associations.

Positions are generally renewable for a total of up to three years, during which time continual registration as a full-time student is necessary and progress toward Ph.D. completion is expected. Applicants must be admitted and enrolled in the doctoral program in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at the University of Utah.

Interested applicants should complete an application with the Department and the Graduate School (<http://www.health.utah.edu/parks-recreation-tourism/degrees/doctoral.php>), as well as send a letter of application and a vitae/resume to Dr. Jim Sibthorp at the email address below. All application materials must be submitted before February 15, 2016 in order to begin the doctoral program and position in Fall (August) of 2016.

Utah is the west at its best! With four distinct seasons, ready access to all outdoor activities including superb skiing at eight world-famous resorts just minutes from campus. Utah is home to five national parks and countless national, regional, state, and local recreation areas. Salt Lake City, with a metropolitan population of 650,000, is the hub of the Intermountain West.

Additional questions, inquiries, and applications for campus visitation support can be directed to Dr. Jim Sibthorp, Director of Graduate Studies, University of Utah, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, 1901 E. South Campus Dr., Room 1085, Salt Lake City, UT 84112; or emailed to [jim.sibthorp@health.utah.edu](mailto:jim.sibthorp@health.utah.edu)

For additional information on the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism please visit [www.health.utah.edu/prt](http://www.health.utah.edu/prt)

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### Departmental Research and Teaching Assistantship

This assistantship includes teaching core courses in our undergraduate program, and assisting faculty with research, external funding, and writing. Potential applicants should visit our website to review our faculty expertise and existing courses at the undergraduate level. In their letter of application, candidates should comment on how they see themselves fitting in with existing operations and faculty interests. We are especially interested in graduate assistants who complement our existing faculty and help create dynamic departmental synergies. Interested applicants, please contact Dr. Jim Sibthorp at [jim.sibthorp@health.utah.edu](mailto:jim.sibthorp@health.utah.edu) | 801-581-5940.

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### Outdoor Recreation Management Assistantship

This assistantship includes coordinating applied research initiatives, including field data collection, analysis, and reporting. Most research projects aim to provide protected area managers with critical data to understand outdoor recreationists' a) on-site behaviors, use patterns, and desired benefits, and b) perceptions of ecological and social conditions. Research methods usually include visitor surveys, in-depth interviews, GPS visitor tracking, trail and traffic counters, and photographic methods. Assistants will work closely with the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Parks, or non-profit organizations. Some applicants may be eligible for a [funded Fellowship](#) at the University's [Global Change and Sustainability Center](#). Interested applicants, please contact Dr. Matt Brownlee at [matthew.brownlee@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:matthew.brownlee@hsc.utah.edu) | 801-585-7239.

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### Eco and Sustainable Tourism Assistantship

Responsibilities associated with this assistantship include field projects and/or survey and interview efforts focused on eco and sustainable tourism as it relates to parks and protected areas including: Impact of tourism on gateway communities; the role of concessionaire practice and policies in facilitating sustainable tourism; ecosystem health and quality of life; tourism as a tool for conservation; and, standards and certification in eco and sustainable tourism. Some applicants may be eligible for a [funded Fellowship](#) at the University's [Global Change and Sustainability Center](#). Interested applicants, please contact Dr. Kelly Bricker at [kelly.bricker@health.utah.edu](mailto:kelly.bricker@health.utah.edu) | 801-585-6503.

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### Community Recreation and Sport Management Assistantship

Students interested in community recreation sport management will have the opportunity to teach undergraduate students in topics such as sport trends and sport business techniques. Other responsibilities associated with this assistantship may include assisting with applied research and/or projects related to community youth sport and youth development. Interested applicants, please contact Dr. Mary Wells at [mary.wells@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:mary.wells@hsc.utah.edu) | 801-585-7086.

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### NEW for 2016! Interpretation Specialist Assistantship

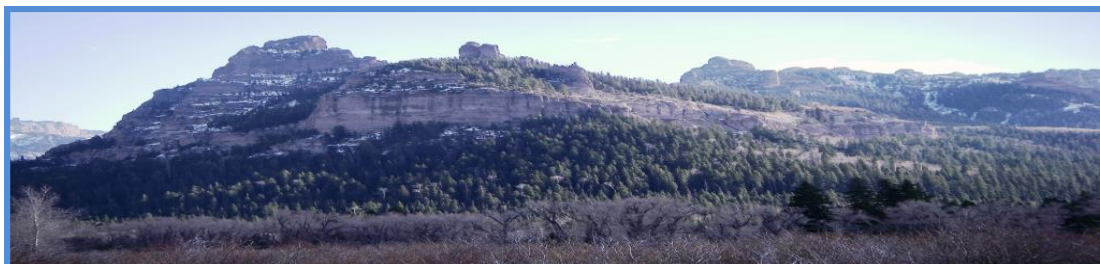
In partnership with Red Butte Garden, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at the University of Utah is pleased to announce a PhD Assistantship focused on interpretation. The assistantship includes planning, developing, and implementing interpretation programs consistent with botanical gardens, museums, and other academic research areas or cultural facilities where interpretation is used to communicate messages, stories, information and experiences. Interested applicants, please contact Dr. Kelly Bricker at [Kelly.bricker@health.utah.edu](mailto:Kelly.bricker@health.utah.edu) | 801-585-6503.

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# Outreach Notice



USDA Forest Service -R2 Rocky Mountain Region  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF  
**PAONIA, COLORADO**



**RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST  
GS-0454-11**

THIS OUTREACH REPLACES ONE WHICH EXPIRED IN NOVEMBER, 2015, AND WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 6, 2016. IF YOU RESPONDED PREVIOUSLY THERE IS NO NEED TO RESUBMIT THE FORM.

THE GMUG NATIONAL FORESTS (GMUG) IS CAPITALIZING ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH THE RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST ON THEIR PROCESS TO FILL A RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST GS-0454-11. THERE WILL BE TWO PERMANENT FULL-TIME POSITIONS; ONE IS LOCATED IN DEL NORTE, COLORADO, AND THE OTHER IS IN PAONIA, COLORADO. THIS NOTIFICATION IS BEING CIRCULATED TO INFORM PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT IS 16-0209-200927G-DM WHICH WILL OPEN ON JANUARY 7, 2016 AND CLOSE ON JANUARY 13, 2016.

## **POSITION:**

THE GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE AND GUNNISON (GMUG) NATIONAL FOREST (NF) LOCATED IN WESTERN COLORADO WILL BE ADVERTISING A SUPERVISORY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST POSITION. THIS PERMANENT POSITION IS LOCATED IN PAONIA, COLORADO. THIS OUTREACH NOTICE IS BEING CIRCULATED TO INFORM PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS OF THE UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY AND TO IDENTIFY THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THIS POSITION.

**Major Duties:** The supervisory rangeland management specialist is responsible for managing, planning, coordinating, reviewing, and reporting on the ecosystem-based rangeland management program on the Paonia Ranger District. This includes, but is not limited to the following duties:

Maintaining a rangeland management program that compiles with resource planning goals, objectives and decisions. Initiating and implementing management that will achieve land management goals and objectives.

Preparing annual and strategic plans based on rangeland resource health, capability, available work force, equipment, and public demands for rangeland resource uses. Consulting and coordinating with affected users, interested publics, and private interests; including various environmental groups. Budgeting funds for current fiscal year and plans for out-year funding within the assigned area of responsibility. Serving on interdisciplinary teams and as the principal contact for rangeland resources and activities on the District.

Conducting effectiveness and implementation monitoring of rangeland resource and activities to evaluate and document rangeland conditions. Assessing management with relation to resource goals and objectives and identifies possible alternatives or changes which may help achieve land management goals and objectives more effectively. Preparing and reviewing environmental analysis reports, reviewing applications for Term Grazing permits and other rangeland use agreements.

This is a supervisory position; supervision is less than 20% of the duties. As a supervisor, the successful candidate will provide the following:

Technical and administrative supervision to subordinate employees. A plan of work to be accomplished that includes setting and adjusting priorities. Preparing schedules and work assignments based on priorities and the capabilities of employees. Evaluating work performance. Providing advice, counsel or instruction to employees on both work and administrative matters. Assisting to resolve minor complaints from employees. Referring group grievances and more serious unresolved complaints to a higher level supervisor or manager. Serving on hiring panels, as needed. Motivating and encouraging subordinates to remain engaged and provide quality work. Training range employees in the performance of routine procedures as they relate to practices and projects.

Providing leadership, and implementing activities to accomplish Forest Service multicultural organization direction and Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights requirements, goals, policies, and objectives. Ensuring all communication; written, oral, and visual is non-discriminatory and sensitive to all employees and publics. Creating a work environment which respects, appreciates, and accepts contributions and perspectives of all employees.

**Our Ideal Candidate:** We are looking to welcome an enthusiastic and self-motivated person to join our team. To be successful in this job you must be a self-starter and demonstrate success in leading people in a dynamic environment. You must have excellent communication skills and be able to work collaboratively with external and internal partners. Must be able to work with and lead diverse teams. Maintain strong coaching and mentoring skills.

For more details about the duties of this position please refer to the standard position description FS4079.

**About the GMUG National Forest:** The GMUG encompasses 5,000 square miles (3 million acres) on the Western Slope of the Colorado Rockies, about 250 miles west of Denver, in west-central Colorado. The GMUG (most say G-MUG) has five Ranger Districts: Grand Valley (in Grand Junction), Paonia, Gunnison, Ouray (in Montrose), and Norwood. The Forest Headquarters is located in Delta.

The GMUG has some of the most spectacular scenery in the Rockies with elevations ranging from 6,000 feet to over 14,000 feet. The climate at lower elevations is warm and arid while the high country is cold in the winter and warm most of the summer months. The GUMG has three ski areas, 43 communities, and a 12,000 square mile area of influence that is home to about 250,000. Cost of living is one of the lowest in the country in lower elevations and among the highest in the country near the ski areas. For additional forest information, visit the internal website: <http://fsweb.gmug.r2.fs.fed.us/> and external web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/GMUG>.

**Community Information:** The Town of Paonia is in Delta County and is located in the upper North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley. Paonia is home to about 1,400, with another 29,000 throughout the county. Delta, the county seat is approximately 30 miles west with a population of almost 9,000. Montrose (pop. 19,000+) is 60 miles southwest of Paonia and the Grand Valley, including Grand Junction, is 75 miles northwest and has a population of 90,000+. Paonia has an elevation of approximately 5600 feet. The median home price in Paonia is under \$160,000.



Paonia is a great place to visit and a wonderful place to live. It is a small, rural agricultural community originally dominated by ranching, but now equally known for orchards, vineyards and local produce. It lies in the shadow of the Grand Mesa to the North and at the base of the West Elk Mountains to the Southeast. Paonia has a small, but well-stocked grocery store, two gas stations, a hardware store, and multiple local eateries. There is a public library, and public elementary, middle and high school, but also has several other private or semi-public education options. We also have a health clinic with emergency services, ambulance service, a volunteer fire department, and no traffic lights! Delta has a general medical and surgical hospital, and Grand Junction has a Regional Hospital that serves much of western Colorado. There are 22 churches in Paonia and most faiths are located within a 20-mile radius. The Delta County Independent, published weekly, is the county newspaper.

The climate is exceptional with warm summer temperatures in the 90s, often accompanied by a cool breeze. Autumn is typically mild, and accentuated by the phenomenal aspen colors which cover 40% of the District. While winter low temperatures average about 24 degrees in town, it is not uncommon to see winter daytime highs well above freezing. The average annual rainfall in town is about 14 inches with about 50 inches additional in snow. For additional information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 366, Paonia, CO 81428, <http://www.paoniachamber.com> , or (970) 527-3886 for further information regarding the area.

The Paonia Ranger District is primarily known for its 3 underground coal mines, but we have many of the uses typical western Ranger District. We have a staff of 14 full time employees and typically hire 3-4 temporary employees. Vegetation and topography are typical of higher elevation Rocky Mountains. Elevations on the District range from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. Both the northern and southern portions of the District are dominated by large mesas with the middle portion consisting of larger igneous intrusive mountains.

Excepting admin sites, virtually all of the District is in grazing allotments. We have 28 allotments and 53 permittees and authorize over 8,000 cattle and 18,000 domestic sheep to graze on the District annually. Our rangeland management program has been recognized regionally and nationally, including multiple SRM awards and receipt of the Chief's excellence award. The now national interagency range school program was developed on the District in cooperation with CSU extension, BLM and NRCS. We completed our Rescission Act schedule NEPA in 2007 and have completed AMPs to implement decisions. Our noxious weed inventory and treatment has been a recent area of focus, and one of our greatest challenges.

The District is almost 480,000 acres, with almost half of that in designated Wilderness. We serve as the lead unit for both the West Elk and Raggeds Wildernesses, which are shared with the Gunnison Ranger District, and Aspen-Sopris District of the White River NF, respectively. The District provides spring, summer and fall habitat for numerous elk and deer and also supports habitat for moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and over 300 other species of wildlife and fish. We have the primary land base for two big-game management units, both of which offer over-the-counter elk hunting opportunities. This provides an annual influx of hunters each fall from all over. We permit 18 commercial outfitter and guide operations, concentrated in the fall, and primarily serving hunters. Miles of streams and numerous lakes and reservoirs provide fishing opportunities, including some destination fisheries for native cutthroat trout. The entire District is within sheep and cattle grazing allotments, and both the District and our livestock grazing permittees have been recognized nationally for leadership in sound management.

There are three developed campgrounds, 45 miles of road suitable for passenger car travel, around 400 miles of road and jeep trails suitable for travel with high clearance vehicles and over 274 miles of foot and horse trails. A designated Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway traverses a portion of the District. Each year people enjoy 140,000 recreation visitor days of camping, hiking, picnicking, trail riding, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Large reserves of coal and natural gas underlie much of the District. There are presently approximately 18 gas wells and one major pipeline in the District. The socio-economic setting for the District involves rural lifestyles centered along the North Fork of the Gunnison River and includes the communities of Paonia, Hotchkiss, Crawford and Somerset. The local economy is dominated by agriculture, coal mining, big game hunting and local retail businesses. For additional information please visit the site <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/about-forest/districts/?cid=stelprdb5182265> for further information regarding the District.

**Responding to Outreach:** If you are interested in this position, complete the attached outreach form and please email it to N. Marie Phillips at [nmphilips@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmphilips@fs.fed.us) , or fax to 970-527-4151 ATTN: Marie Phillips. You may contact Levi Broyles at (970) 527-4131 x.4256 for specific questions of the position.

\* **Please note:** The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate method and area of consideration for the advertisements. Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination and those who respond will be notified when the job is advertised on USAJOBS.gov.



## OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist, GS-0454-11  
Paonia, CO, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF  
USDA Forest Service, R2-Rocky Mountain Region

**Please respond by November 6, 2015 to:**

**N. Marie Phillips at [nmphilips@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmphilips@fs.fed.us); or fax 970-527-4151**

(You may also contact Levi Broyles for specific questions about this position at (970) 527-4131 x.4256.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work, Home or Mobile?

Employer: USDA FS Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of appointment (if current Federal employee):

Permanent \_\_\_ Temporary \_\_\_ Student/Intern \_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Current Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Series/grade if Federal Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this position? \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If not a current permanent employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

\_\_\_ Schedule A (Person with Disabilities)

\_\_\_ Veterans Readjustment Act (VRA)

\_\_\_ Veterans w/30% Compensable Disability

\_\_\_ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) Of 1998

\_\_\_ Former Peace Corps Volunteer

\_\_\_ Pathways Program (Students and Recent Graduates)

\_\_\_ Public Lands Corps (PLC)

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Submission of this form is voluntary – Thank you for your interest*