



## Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

**Position Title:** *COSA Education Coordinator*  
**Host Site:** *Bishop Paiute Tribe Environmental Management Office*  
**Site Supervisor:** Thomas Gustie, Natural Resource Specialist  
**Contact:** 760-784-5763 [thomas.gustie@bishoppaiute.org](mailto:thomas.gustie@bishoppaiute.org)

**Position Location:** Bishop Paiute Reservation. The 875 acre Reservation is located immediately adjacent to the City of Bishop in the beautiful Owens Valley. Surrounded by mountains of the Sierra Nevada and White/Inyo ranges and close to Yosemite National Park, Death Valley and Inyo National forest the area is a wonderful place to live for people because there are numerous hiking, climbing, skiing and fishing opportunities.

### **Organization Description:**

The Tribes Environmental Management office hosts a variety of programs including water quality, air quality and natural resource programs with the mission to improve the environment of the Reservation and surrounding aboriginal homelands (Inyo/Mono counties). The office consists of approximately 5-6 team oriented natural resource professionals that work in conjunction with other tribal departments, local land management agencies and non-profit groups to increase the capacity of the Tribe for stewardship opportunities. Recent exciting projects include development of a 25 acre conservation open space area (COSA), creating native plant gardens and working with local youth in afterschool educational/stewardship programs.

### **Program Description:**

The Bishop Paiute Tribe is taking proactive steps to restore wetland habitat within their reservation boundaries and on adjacent federal lands within their aboriginal territory where the Tribe is taking its first steps in co-managing an area of interest that includes the sensitive area known as Fish Slough located within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern located on the Volcanic Tablelands and under management from the Bureau of Land Management. Of interest to the Tribe is several species of native fish and plants. Of special importance is the protection of the declining federally endangered and California fully protected Owens Pupfish. The Tribe has taken steps on creating a native fish refuge within their reservation Conservation Area. A large amount of work and federal dollars has created a water supply, ponds and interpretive walking trails. The Tribe is receiving funding through the USFWS to enhance the habitat of the area to allow the eventual introduction of this fish as well as initiate educational opportunities for elementary school adjacent to the area. The Programs will include working on wetland habitat restoration in the Reservation COSA as well as on co-management projects on federal lands (BLM-Fish Slough). The program will include developing fun journal based activities for schoolchildren and general public. Supporting projects will include developing a native plant interpretive material for the area, assisting in developing conservation plan, leading environmental educational activities in tribal events (Earth Day, Housing/Energy Fair, etc.)

### **Position Description:**

The **COSA Educational Coordinator** will join the staff of the Bishop Paiute Tribe Environmental Management Office in 2019 to assist the Natural Resource Program on selected wetland habitat restoration projects;

coordination and development of educational activities and to organize and participate in series of selected community environmental outreach events.

**Major Roles and Responsibilities:** The main project is assisting with the Bishop Paiute Tribe Conservation Open Space Area (COSA) project and the nearby Fish Slough area located on BLM managed Volcanic Tablelands . Members will:

- Assist EMO Natural Resource Program Natural Resource Specialist in meeting annual habitat monitoring and restoration objectives within reservation COSA and BLM Fish Slough areas;
- Create promote a network of volunteers to support restoration and educational efforts
- Coordinate and provide support for all adult and youth educational activities in COSA
- Develop and promote new environmental programs, displays, or community outreach as indicated in Service Plan or in consultation with Site Supervisor
- Organize and participate in selected environmental outreach events hosted by Tribal environmental office as determined by Service Plan and Site Supervisor
- Regularly attend meetings with Site Supervisor; Natural Resource Program; tribal directors and committees as needed to review plans, gain approval and report on progress; including Tribal Environmental Protection Agency (TEPA); Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO); Bishop Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center; Bishop Paiute Development Corporation (BPDC) and Bishop Paiute Tribal Council
- Attend trainings, events, workshops, outreach as necessary to improve skills to aid project completion

**Required Qualifications:**

- Ability to work at a computer station and typing for up to 8 hours a day
- Ability to hike and be on your feet for up to 8 hours at a time to assess sites and monitor volunteers
- Ability to drive for up to 8 hours to access sites and trainings across the Sierra
- Strong computer and organizational skills
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work well independently and with others
- Physically able to perform regular wetland management tasks (e.g. bending, lifting up to 40lbs, wading in standing and running water, digging with shovel, cutting with rice knives etc.)
- Must be able to be outdoors for up to 8 hours per day

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Prior experience in environmental education, creating museum displays and hands-on activities, website design/management, creating educational volunteer coordination, and event planning and coordination
- A basic understanding of species recovery, restoration concepts
- Familiarity with native fish, plants and bird identification
- Reliable transportation

**Additional Benefits:**

The member will be a part of a team of environmental professionals working towards common goals of enhancing the environment of the Bishop Paiute Reservation. The member will

- *Live in the beautiful Owens Valley, a mecca for outdoor recreation activities including skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking close to Inyo National Forest, Yosemite National Park and Death Valley National Park.*
- Be included in all dept. staff meetings, regular tribal staff trainings and tribal employee events including tribal environmental youth field trips and outreach events.
- *Work in a fun, friendly office that is a great place to develop professional skills and learn from others*
- *Gain valuable experience and networking opportunities by working with the Sierra Nevada Alliance, an organization that is a network of over 100 conservation groups in the Sierra Nevada*

**Website:** <http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/>