



AMERICAN FORESTS

Job Title: Senior Manager, Lower Rio Grande Valley Restoration
Department: American ReLeaf
Reports to: Vice President of Landscape Conservation
FLSA Category: Exempt
Updated: March 21, 2019

BACKGROUND: Native thornscrub forest once covered much of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, featuring dense and diverse brush habitat. Less than 10% of this habitat remains and is challenged by past land use decisions, development and climate change. Despite these threats, the habitat continues to be home to a diverse group of wildlife and plants, including more than 500 species of songbirds and 300 species of butterfly, 11 threatened and endangered species like the ocelot, and abundant populations of game species.

Together with the South Texas National Wildlife Refuge Complex and local partners, American Forests is working to reverse this trend by restoring thornscrub forests in priority locations. The Senior Manager of Lower Rio Grande Valley Restoration will support American Forests' efforts to accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration in the region. The senior manager will coordinate conservation efforts through the Thornscrub Conservation Partnership, advance strategic conservation plans, manage restoration projects, build partnerships, and support fundraising efforts. For more information, please visit our [Lower Rio Grande Valley webpage](#).

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE: The LRGV Restoration Senior Manager will work with a diversity of stakeholders including the US Fish and Wildlife Agency, state agencies, local governments and conservation non-governmental organizations, so successful experience working with diverse stakeholders is necessary. Experience in policy, project, or program activity related to forest or other natural resource issues is also required.

American Forests is focused on generating measurable, on-the-ground results that improve forest health. So, we highly value a proven ability to get things done. We constantly look for new ways to do conservation, so an ability to learn and adapt quickly is also important. Fluency with Spanish is preferred.

REQUISITE EDUCATION OR CERTIFICATIONS: Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in environmental studies, natural resources, forest management, or related field.

WORKING CONDITIONS: The position will be based in the Lower Rio Grande Valley with a preference for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties and will require local travel to engage with partners and assess projects. The position will travel to Washington D.C. at least once of year to engage with colleagues. Most work will be in a general office environment.



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REPORTS TO: Vice President, Landscape Conservation

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Manage American Forests' Engagement in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (15%)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is one American Forests' priority landscapes. To increase the pace and scale of restoration, we are implementing a change model focused on building partnerships and local capacity, integrating science, promoting enabling policies and programs, implementing restoration projects and communicating lessons learned.

- Work with American ReLeaf team to develop strategies for the region
- Build relationships with restoration partners, funders and local leaders
- Work with American ReLeaf team to raise funding for restoration effort
- Communicate the need for restoration and American Forests' role
- Support American ReLeaf team by providing information on project outcomes, story lines and costs.
- Present on restoration outcomes and strategies at key conferences and meetings.

2. Coordinate the Thornscrub Conservation Partnership (30%)

The Thornscrub Conservation Partnership (TCP) is a coalition of agency, non-profit and community organizations working to restore thornscrub habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The partnership is developing science-based plans and goals to guide conservation efforts, communicate the importance of thornscrub habitat and progress to the public, and encourage action for stronger public policies and funding.

- Develop a two-year agenda for the TCP including timelines for implementing conservation plan, finalizing conservation goals, and evaluating gaps and barriers, etc.
- Facilitate information exchange among partners on lessons learned, funding opportunities and new research.
- Manage TCP projects to develop restoration goals and conservation plans
- Organize and host meetings

3. Manage Restoration Projects (55%)

American Forests has supported thornscrub restoration projects for twenty years and has helped to plant more than 2 million thornscrub trees over 4,266 acres. The LRGV Restoration senior manager will continue to lead new restoration projects while implementing strategies to enhance their resulting climate, water, wildlife and community benefits.



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- Manage development of a drought resilience strategy in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to help thornscrub forests adapt to climate change.
- Provide technical assistance to partners and forest conservation community on how to develop successful landscape scale restoration projects using concepts from silviculture, forest ecology, conservation biology, and climate science.
- Conduct site visits to assess results of restoration projects build local partnerships
- Coordinate closely with American ReLeaf team to collect information and maintain records on restoration projects.

American Forests is an equal opportunity employer.