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Public Lands Program Manager

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) is looking for a passionate, experienced, and motivated Public Lands Program Manager to lead campaigns to protect wildlands and undeveloped habitat in the San Juan Mountains and San Juan Basin. The position is full-time and located in our Durango, CO office.

The San Juan Mountains are home to the largest undeveloped wildland complexes in the Southern Rockies, and provide important wildland habitat for iconic wildlife species. The larger San Juan Basin spans arid ecosystems of the Colorado Plateau to the mixed conifer forests and alpine tundra of the San Juan Mountains. Opportunities abound to advance protections for diverse landscapes including Bureau of Land Management desert wildlands, lower elevation ponderosa pine forests, and higher elevation mountain peaks.

The region faces rapid change associated with a variety of resource uses and activities on the public lands. These run the gamut from resort development, oil and gas extraction, ill-conceived timber harvest, proliferating recreation, and wildland degradation. The Public Lands Program Manager will bring to bear passion around grassroots advocacy, communications, technical comments, and policy development. Program campaigns will initially focus on watchdogging public land resource extraction activities across San Juan National Forest and Bureau of Land Management landscapes, advocating for Congressional legislation to establish wilderness and other protected landscape designations, and promoting proactive agency management approaches such as travel management plans that preserve quiet recreation and mineral withdrawals to protect significant cultural and wildland resources.

About San Juan Citizens Alliance

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) was formed in 1986 and advocates for clean air, pure water, and healthy lands – the foundations of resilient communities, ecosystems and economies in the San Juan Basin. Over its 30-year history, SJCA has successfully advocated for protection of communities from the impacts of energy extraction and production, defeated proposed power plants, safeguarded undeveloped valleys, and secured wildlands protections, among many other conservation victories. Our strength is premised on outreach to and engagement of local residents and communities, providing them the tools to effectively engage with decision-makers to implement policies that advance conservation. SJCA is headquartered in Durango, Colorado with a satellite office in Farmington, New Mexico.

SJCA provides a lively and supportive work environment. Our staff of 8 undertakes leading-edge policy reforms in climate change, energy generation, wildlife restoration, and river protection. Program staff are supported by enthusiastic and competent communications and financial managers.

Job Responsibilities

Provide strategic engagement to advance wildlands protection:

- Assess and initiate opportunities to advance protection for wild and undeveloped landscapes via legislation or administrative actions.
- Assess and prioritize highest impact projects and activities.
- Participate in and, as appropriate, lead coalition campaigns.

Coordinate responses to projects on federal public lands:

- Monitor activities that might influence the character and condition of undeveloped landscapes including timber projects, travel management plans, oil and gas leasing and development, ski area expansions, and resort developments.
- Review NEPA and planning documents generated by federal land managers, and provide synopsis of those for action alerts and media outreach.
- Generate technical review and comment to federal land managers.

Activate members and the general public on public lands management issues:

- Identify interested SJCA members and other community members.
- Organize and implement opportunities for public engagement via submitting comments, attending presentations, meeting decision makers, etc.
- Design and implement field trips, actions or other hands-on activities that engage SJCA members.

Contribute to traditional and social media coverage:

- Create content for action alerts, blog posts, press releases and other outreach materials generated by SJCA's Communications Manager.
- Create public education materials that describe roles and opportunities for federal elected officials to promote lands protection.
- Draft press releases and respond to media inquiries.

Qualifications

We are seeking an experienced, motivated and passionate advocate to lead campaigns to advance protection of wild and undeveloped alpine, forest and desert ecosystems in the San Juan Mountains and the San Juan Basin in southwest Colorado. The ideal candidate possesses:

- 3+ years experience in public lands conservation advocacy and management.
- Familiarity with laws and regulations that guide management of public lands administered by National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management.
- Strategic ability to conceive overarching public lands protection campaign goals and identify actions necessary to achieve those goals.
- Knowledge of ecosystems and landscapes across southwest Colorado.
- Creativity and critical thinking when brainstorming and problem-solving.
- Demonstrated ability to be a "quick study" with experience distilling key elements of technical topics for a general audience.
- Comfort discussing public lands conservation issues with the media, business owners, local elected officials, partner organizations, and community members.

- Strong written and verbal communication tools, with experience in media and/or public outreach and digital advocacy.
- A commitment to equity and justice in public lands access and management.
- Ability to work independently and be a self-starter.
- Ability to multi-task with often overlapping deadlines.
- Natural affinity for engaging with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- The ability to travel within the region for work, including some evenings and weekends.

Good-To-Have

- Personal familiarity with the San Juan Mountains and nearby regions of the Colorado Plateau.

Compensation

This is a full-time, salaried position with generous vacation benefits that include 25 days of paid time off in the first year, health-care coverage, and employer-matched retirement plan after the first year of employment. Professional training opportunities are provided. Salary is dependent upon experience in range starting in mid-40s to 50s.

To Apply

Send a cover letter and resume with the subject line, "Public Lands Program Manager" to info@sanjuancitizens.org. Position open until filled, with applications reviewed starting March 28, 2022.