



Sacred Earth Foundation

Ekone Ranch... a place for children of all ages

Ekone Ranch Forestry Internship

Ekone's forest management is a model for fire-wise, ecologically sensitive, climate resilient stewardship of a dryland forest. Our approach to this work is labor intensive and time-consuming, an act of service out of love for the forest.

Forestry interns will learn both the hands-on skills of forest management, as well as the ecology behind what we're doing. Learn how to safely run and maintain a chainsaw, use a chipper, and badass fire-starting skills. Experience using the mill to create lumber from Ekone pines that have been killed by pine beetles. Rake out and seed our burn scars with native seed to leave behind more than is taken.

We have completed almost 200 acres of fuels-reduction thinning, limbing, and debris removal, mimicking the effects of a naturally occurring, low-intensity fire. Trees are given more space and resources for a healthier forest. Oaks are prioritized as premium habitat and the most resilient species. And hundreds of volunteers have gained skills, friends, muscles, and satisfaction from this work over the past decade here.

Beyond our knowledgeable staff, we will also try to get off the Ranch once or twice to visit sites and hear from other land managers.

Forestry Duties May Include:

- Limbing low-lying branches
- Felling small trees
- Cutting/pulling understory shrubs
- Pile burning and chipping debris
- Cutting firewood
- Milling boards

Additional Ranch Duties May Include:

*This could be 40-50% of your time, depending on weather fluctuations, ranch needs, and your interest in learning other things and taking breaks from the forest! But it's important to know that forestry interns pitch in on *whatever* is needed and happening at the ranch.*

- Feeding animals
- Cleaning, organizing, laundry
- Garden & landscape projects
- Construction & facilities projects
- Hosting & work party support
- Cooking & kitchen help

Volunteer Expectations & Benefits:

- Hours per week: Varies widely based on weather, emergent needs, and ranch priorities. Forestry interns can typically expect to work 25-30 hours per week, 3-5 mornings scheduled in the forestry project.
- 2-3 month minimum commitment, starting in October. Possible opportunities to stay on through January, February or March, based on ranch needs and intern interest
- Room and board provided
- Housing consists of a private room in the community lodge, bunkhouse, or trailer/bus
- Abide by Ekone Volunteer Handbook and Ekone Community policies and agreements
- Expect a fabulously rewarding and challenging experience!

Application Process:

- For information and application materials, email michelle@ekone.org
- Learn more about Ekone Ranch by checking out our website www.ekone.org