

Community Coordinator Report

Modoc County
JULY – SEPTEMBER
2015



National Emergency Grant (NEG) **Temporary Job Creation (TJC)**

The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. was awarded federal/state emergency funds to help provide public and non-profit entities temporary workers for drought related projects. AFWD recruited temporary workers to assist these entities with drought related projects. Eligibility requirements included layoffs, hours reduced do to the drought conditions or having been unemployed 15 out of the last 26 weeks and living in a drought affected area.

After retiring from a long career as a Wildland Fire Manager, Garth Jeffers was looking to re-enter the workforce in employment where he could learn new skills working outdoors. Finding limited opportunities for this type of work over the past year, he came to our office after seeing an advertisement in the newspaper about the Drought NEG TJC program in Modoc County.

After determining that Garth was eligible for the program, AFWD staff contacted the Surprise Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office to present the program opportunity. The BLM agreed to participate as a work site for the TJC Drought program and provided Garth with a position as a full-time Range Technician working on drought projects on Public Lands.



*PVC piping that protects creek
portion of enclosure from entry
(Continued on next page)*

One of Garth's duties has been to repair fencing which protects riparian areas from animal entry and disturbance. This protective fencing is called an "exclosure." Exclosures protect the wetlands and banks adjacent to rivers, creeks and streams which are called "riparian areas." Protecting these areas is especially important during drought. Animal disturbance can cause soil erosion which can lead to a buildup of sediment in the waterway reducing water flow. Riparian areas also act as a natural filter for water as it travels, which contributes to healthy water quality.



Protected riparian area inside exclosure fencing

Another responsibility that Garth has been tasked with is monitoring water levels in troughs that provide water for wildlife, cattle and wild horses on the range. These troughs are often found in range areas with limited natural water sources. They must be inspected and water flow adjusted to maintain an adequate water level.





Disturbed spring area

Additionally, Garth has inspected water lines on developed spring systems. In those inspections, he estimated the water flow, measured gallons per minute and made recommendations for future repair/replacement of those spring systems. He also documented his findings in written reports with photos for future reference.



Developed Spring System and Trough Needing Repair

The BLM was pleased with the additional assistance that this program offered for drought related field work. Their staff was stretched, being re-assigned to new duties that arose in the aftermath of destructive wildfires this summer. They welcomed the extra help to keep their drought projects moving forward. Garth enjoyed his time working outdoors and learning new skills. It was a win-win for all parties!



AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Modoc County Visitors

674

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	436
Service Provided	1,303
Positions Filled	343
Training Assistance	71

Program Services

Total enrollments

Adult	92
Dislocated Worker	63
Youth	24
Employed	87

Unemployment Rate

Butte 6.9%	Nevada 5.2%
Lassen 6.4%	Plumas 7.6%
Modoc 7.3%	Sierra 6.5%

Modoc County Sheriff's Office On the Job Training (OJT) – Dispatcher

Jessica Bordwell

Jessica was a dislocated worker that had been utilizing career services and actively looking for work in Lassen County. She was willing to relocate to find a steady job with opportunities for growth after working sporadically as a flagger on road projects for the last two years.

Law enforcement careers are well represented in Jessica's family. Jessica spoke extensively with family members about a career path in law enforcement and did significant research on her own into dispatch work. With family relations in Modoc County to support her move, Jessica applied for a Dispatcher position with the Modoc County Sheriff's Department.

Jessica felt confident that a position as a Dispatcher was a good fit for her future. She works well under stress, is a good communicator and is comfortable with computers. She also expressed a love of learning new things and an interest in challenging work.

However, Jessica lacked any experience as a Dispatcher and would require an extensive amount of training for the position. The Sheriff's Department was concerned about her lack of experience in this field and contacted the Business and Career Network in Alturas about partnering for an On-the-Job Training (OJT). Jessica was interviewed and assessed for the program to determine if she would be a good fit for an OJT. Jessica's interviews and assessment test results indicated that she was a good match for a dispatcher position.

Jessica started her training on September 8, 2015 and will continue through January 23, 2016 of next year. She is learning the skills needed in this career path profession.

Go Jessica!



Youth Success Story, Isabella Murphy

“Oh, the Places she’ll Go!”



AFWD, Inc. Career Center Advisor, Erika Mariscal met with Isabella in February 2015 at a Youth program presentation at Big Valley High School in Bieber, CA. Isabella was living with her grandparents and brothers in the Lookout area and attending high school. Erika interviewed Isabella and found her eligible to be part of our Youth Program.

Isabella began meeting with a Career Center Advisor once a week, having to schedule workshops around her school lunch time. She worked very hard and successfully completed all the workshops. Isabella graduated from Big Valley High School in June 2015.



After graduation she enrolled in Lassen Community College for the fall semester. Isabella had applied for several scholarships to assist her with her college costs such as Lassen College Foundation, the Lassen Association of Realtors and Barbara Keene Richards Education Foundation and was awarded all of these honors. Isabella is currently studying to become a Registered Nurse. She is determined to become a good nurse and wants to be able to help adults and children with their healthcare needs.

Though Isabella had never held a job, she had worked in several volunteer positions. She received assistance from our program in preparing a resume, sharpening her interviewing skills and job searching. Isabella was able to find a job working part time as a Child Care Worker on campus at Lassen College.

Isabella will be taking a required Child Development Class for her child care work. The purpose of this course is to learn to teach in programs for children including: private facilities, parent cooperative, Head Start programs, Children’s Centers and infant/toddler or school age programs. Isabella’s supervisor, Wendy Donohue was very impressed with her work ethic, leadership ability and her determination to get things done in a timely manner. “This experience will help me become a better Registered Nurse, I will be able to use everything I’ve learned to help adults and children get better!”

Congratulations Isabella, You Are Awesome!

