



RANCH FACILITIES & LAND MANAGEMENT STEWARD

Steward 800 acres of rugged desert wilderness at Metate Ranch – North Indio, CA! Join Desert Adventures as our **Ranch Facilities & Land Management Steward** and take on a hands-on role maintaining trails, caring for the land, and supporting event facilities. Work outdoors in one of the Coachella Valley's most stunning locations, using your skills in equipment operation, repairs, and land management. Competitive pay, benefits, and a clear path to advancement make this the perfect role for mission-driven individuals who thrive outdoors.

Reports To: Owner / General Manager

Classification: Hourly, Non-Exempt

SCHEDULE

- Full-time October–May (40 hours/week plus regular overtime in peak months)
- Flexible June–Sept (approx. 25–30 hours/week)
- Must be available and willing to work weekends and evenings during the season when we have busy tour days or events scheduled

COMPENSATION

- \$28–\$30/hour (\$49K–\$52K base) + overtime (expected annual total: \$55K–\$60K)

BENEFITS

- 401(k) with Employer Match
- Competitive health benefits package (medical, dental, and vision)
- Paid Time Off (PTO) – for personal, vacation, or wellness use (per current company policy)
- Paid Sick Leave – in accordance with California labor law



POSITION OVERVIEW

Metate Ranch is an 800-acre private desert oasis unlike anywhere else—pristine wilderness, dramatic canyons, lush natural palm oases, and miles of Jeep and hiking trails to explore and maintain. As the **Ranch Facilities & Land Management Steward**, you'll trade fluorescent lights for open skies and become the hands-on caretaker of one of the Coachella Valley's most breathtaking properties.

This is a highly physical, outdoor position. You'll maintain trails, improve facilities, and care for the land in a rugged environment where every day brings new challenges and rewarding, visible results. You'll also join a dedicated, close-knit team at Desert Adventures—the premier outdoor adventure company in the Coachella Valley since 1988—where collaboration, pride in our work, and respect for this extraordinary property run deep.

You enjoy the solitude of nature, work well independently with minimal supervision, and also thrive as part of a small, close-knit team. You are dependable, personable, and professional when interacting with colleagues and guests. Above all, you take pride in caring for the land, facilities, and guest experience while embracing the unique beauty and challenges of working in the desert.

From October through May, you'll work full-time with regular overtime during peak months. In summer, your schedule will shift to flexible hours, allowing you to focus on key projects during the cooler part of the day.

This is not just a job—it's an opportunity for you to become the steward of an iconic desert property, with a clear path to grow into **Director of Ranch Operations & Land Management** as our business expands.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Trails & Land Management

You'll maintain the natural beauty and functionality of our trails and surrounding land. You'll trim vegetation, water palm trees, remove rocks and debris, and restore trails after storms. You'll also operate a compact tractor to grade trails and access roads, remove arrowweed from the oasis, pull reeds, and maintain creeks and ponds to ensure they remain clean, healthy, and well-maintained.

Because of our remote location, the ranch is often impacted by illegal dumping and littering. You'll remove trash, abandoned items such as tires and pallets, and other debris from roads, trails, and surrounding areas. You'll also remove graffiti and ensure that all facilities, trails, and access points remain clean, safe, and tour-ready for our guests.



While these examples outline core tasks, you may also perform other land-related duties as needed to help preserve the pristine environment of Metate Ranch.

Event Venue Facilities

Facilities Maintenance

You'll ensure that all event venue facilities are safe, functional, and visually appealing for our guests. This includes general repair and maintenance such as cleaning interpretive displays, maintaining venue infrastructure—which requires knowledge of basic irrigation, plumbing, and low-voltage electrical systems—and completing light construction projects. These projects may include repairing or building picnic tables and installing or maintaining handrails, walkways, stairs, pathways, and other structures that keep the venue operational and guest ready.

Event Support & Assistance

You'll also assist with event setup and provide on-site support during events. Event support is a **secondary responsibility** and typically occurs only a few times per week during peak season months.

You may set out our picnic tables and benches or coordinate the delivery and placement of rental furniture; arrange and maintain games and campfire areas; manage inventory of event supplies; set out décor such as pillows, blankets, and rugs; help with table linens and centerpieces; rake event areas for a clean, professional appearance; wipe down bar tops and seating; fill tiki torches and propane tanks; set up heaters or umbrellas as needed; prepare the grotto fire table and water feature; ensure streams and waterfalls are clear of debris; and set up generators and lighting.

During events, you'll also coordinate vendor load-in and setup, oversee parking logistics, tidy bathrooms, manage trash and recycling, and handle post-event cleanup. While these tasks are important, most of your role will focus on land management, facilities maintenance, and general ranch upkeep.

General & Security

You'll help keep the ranch safe, clean, and secure. This includes picking up trash in parking lots, along access roads, and on trails daily. You'll ensure that portable restrooms remain clean, stocked, and guest-ready at all times, and you'll coordinate both scheduled and additional service with Burrtec Waste Management as needed.

You'll also provide a visible presence on the property to help ensure security, report any safety concerns or maintenance issues promptly, and assist with Jeep recovery or emergency response when required. You may also perform other related tasks to keep the ranch running smoothly.

Equipment Operation & Maintenance

You'll operate and maintain a variety of ranch equipment essential to daily operations. This includes safely using a 4WD Gator (ATV), compact tractor, and generators, as well as driving the company's pickup truck and manual-transmission Jeeps. You'll be responsible for fueling, washing, and properly storing all vehicles, completing pre- and post-use inspections, and performing or coordinating routine preventative maintenance. This includes oil and filter changes, minor repairs, and ensuring that vehicles, generators, and other equipment remain in safe working condition through regularly scheduled maintenance.

Projects & Improvements

You'll contribute to a variety of seasonal and long-term improvement projects that enhance both the land and event facilities. These projects may include upgrading trails, improving event spaces, installing new infrastructure, or assisting with property enhancements that elevate the guest experience.

One week, you might rebuild a trail section washed out by rain, while the next week you could prepare a new picnic area or improve event venue aesthetics. You'll also be encouraged to identify opportunities for operational improvements and make recommendations that support the continued growth and success of Metate Ranch.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Previous experience in one or more of the following (or similar) areas:
 - Natural resource management or environmental conservation
 - Park operations or park ranger roles
 - Trail building or maintenance
 - Outdoor recreation or adventure tourism operations
 - Military service with relevant skills in logistics, equipment operation, or fieldwork
 - Facilities maintenance or construction
 - Construction or other skilled labor (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, electrical, welding)
 - Groundskeeping, landscaping, or property maintenance
- Ability to safely operate or learn ranch equipment (tractor, Gator, generators).
- Valid driver's license with insurable driving record.



- High school diploma or GED required - associate's, bachelor's, or specialized training certification highly desirable.
- Physically capable of performing strenuous outdoor labor, including:
 - Hiking rugged trails while carrying tools or supplies
 - Frequent bending, squatting, and kneeling to perform maintenance and repairs
 - Lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling up to 75 pounds
 - Reaching, lifting, and working with arms and hands above shoulder level or overhead
 - Climbing ladders and working at heights when needed
 - Operating in desert conditions that may include cold, wind, and extreme heat
 - Working long days during peak season, often in uneven or challenging terrain
- Strong attention to detail with the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- We are a drug-free workplace. You must pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening and are subject to random testing.
- Willingness to work evenings, weekends, and regular overtime during peak season.
- Ability to read, write, and speak English fluently.

GROWTH PATH

This position is the starting point for the future Director of Ranch Operations & Land Management role. As the company grows, this role may expand to include oversight of additional ranch support staff, vendor and project management, and long-term planning for property improvements.

WHY JOIN US

This isn't just another maintenance or groundskeeper job—it's your chance to take ownership of one of the most stunning private properties in the Coachella Valley. At Metate Ranch, you'll trade office walls and fluorescent lights for wide-open skies and breathtaking desert scenery.

We offer:

- Competitive pay with overtime during peak months
- 401(k) with Employer Match
- Competitive health benefits package (medical, dental, vision)
- Paid PTO and sick leave to support work-life balance



- A flexible summer schedule
- A clear growth path to a leadership role

Veterans are especially encouraged to apply, as this position rewards discipline, resourcefulness, and a mission-driven mindset. Whether you're maintaining trails, repairing facilities, or helping prepare for events, you'll see the direct results of your work every single day and take pride in knowing you're the steward of an extraordinary desert wilderness area.

If you're ready for a role that combines independence, teamwork, and purpose, we want you on our team.