

Chief Royal Ramey

(818) 825-4453 | royalramey@forestryfirerp.org

Wildland Firefighter | Social Entrepreneur | Change Leader

After eleven seasons as a Wildland Firefighter with US Forest Service & CAL FIRE engine and hand crews, I co-founded the Forestry & Fire Recruitment Program (FFRP). Beginning in 2015, Brandon Smith and I informally helped approximately 40 people access forestry and fire careers before formally incorporating the organization in 2018. FFRP provides career support and workforce development training in Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area to those formerly or currently incarcerated within California's Conservation Camps (Fire Camps), other justice-impacted individuals, and community members that are interested in pursuing professional careers within the wildland fire and forestry sector. In 2021, I launched our social enterprise hand crew called the Buffalos, an homage to the African American troops known as the buffalo soldiers who fought in the U.S. Army and saved lives during raging wildfires in the 1900s. Beyond my work with FFRP, I have also become a voice for others with similar backgrounds - thousands of men and women who want to shed their identity as a public nuisance and thrive as a public servant. I was pardoned by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 1, 2022 and was selected as a 2023 Obama Leaders USA Fellow and 2024 TED Fellow.

Professional Experience

Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program (San Bernardino, CA)

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

March 2024 - Present

Co-Founder & Interim Chief Executive Officer

August 2023 - February 2024

Co-Founder & Chief Program Officer

December 2019 - August 2023

Oversee all aspects of FFRPs programming including:

- Overseeing day-to-day operations of crew and projects
- Manages crew staffing and orientations
- Leads project expansion and new business development
- Management of fleet and procurement and management of tools
- Management of key corrections/supervisory relationships including but not limited to FFRPs relationship with CDCR / Probation / Parole
- Will oversee all inreach for program participants either virtually or in-person
- Eventually this role will also encompass management of the social work team and FFRPs training

CAL FIRE CSR Fuels Crew 361, Riverside Work Center / Ben Clark Training Center

Forestry Technician

February 2019 - November 2019

- Conduct safe and efficient operation of power equipment and hand tools implementing fuels reduction and prescribed fire projects while wearing required personal protective equipment.
- The use of tools for fuel reduction may include one or more of the following, depending upon complexity of the task and training/certification: drip torch, power mower or trimmer, chainsaw,

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brush saw, weed wrench, Pulaski, Hazel Hoe, shovel, lopper, hand pruner, bow saw, crosscut saw, paint brush, and herbicide applicator/spray tank.

- Utilize tools to safely and efficiently perform various fuel modification tasks, including cutting, pruning, limbing, felling, scrapping, grubbing, piling, pulling, pushing, digging, burying, burning piles, igniting broadcast burns, and other fuel modification tasks as assigned.
- Follow direction given by a superior crew member.
- Work diligently and hard in the implementation of fuels reduction or prescribed fire project.
- Safely and efficiently cut, remove, chip, pile, ignite, scrape the ground, vegetative material in the implementation of projects.
- Maintain equipment and tools daily in peak working condition. Working conditions may encompass all types of weather, from hot and humid to wet and cold.

CAL FIRE, Siskiyou County

Firefighter 1

June 2018 - December 2018

- Responded to requests for medical aid, extrication from traffic collisions, structure, vehicle and vegetation fires, fire menace standbys, public service requests, water rescues, rope rescues, and hazardous materials situations. Promoted proper maintenance of station, equipment, and apparatus. Used various hand and power tools (RPM system for LARRO, jaws) to safely mitigate emergency and non-emergency situations. Assisted in LE-100 and 4291 inspections, as well as LE-66 reports and information gathering at the incident. Completion of CAIRS reports, county-run reports, and month-end reports, including use of MS Office and Visio.

U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

Forestry Technician

July 2015 - May 2018

- Served as a skilled wildland firefighter with the Mojave Greens Hand Crew and Cottonwood Station E-314 within the San Bernardino National Forest. Specialized assignments included tree felling, backfire, and burnout operations. Utilized a variety of specialized tools, equipment and techniques while actively managing wildfires, including operation of light vehicles and 4X4s. Maintained good physical and mental health to perform responsibilities and collaborated with other firefighters as a member of a firefighting crew. Inspected, cleaned and repaired chainsaws and other tools and equipment. Cut fireline, mopped-up hot spots, and supported hoselays by using chainsaws and other hand tools to assist with wildland fire suppression.

Education, Awards, and Additional Information

- Pardoned by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 1, 2022
- [2023 Obama Foundation Leaders USA Program Participant](#)
- [2024 TED Fellow](#)
- Crafton Hills College - A.S. Degree in Business Administration, received May 2024
- Crafton Hills College - A.S. Degree in Fire Technology, received May 2017
- CPR and More - EMT Certification received May 2018