COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
Position Announcement:

TITLE: Ecology and Botany Field Technicians — Research Associate I
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 6 - 10 (temporary)
WORK LOCATIONS: North central Wyoming and south central Montana (Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area)
PAY RATE: $1600 - $2400/month
DURATION: 2-4 months (approx. May – September)

Summary of All Positions:

The Colorado State University seeks experienced ecology and botany field technicians for summer field work in and around The Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in south central Montana and north central Wyoming. The work entails vegetation sampling and all positions require field botany or field ecology skills. Knowledge of plant taxonomy and species identification required. Experience identifying flora of the area is preferred. A crew lead position is available to suitably qualified candidates.

Successful applicants will sample vegetation communities in support of a vegetation mapping project in and around the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA). The project area encompasses 68,000 acres in south central Montana and north central Wyoming. Field technicians will be based in housing at either end of the Park and work will entail a combination of daytrips and multi-day backpack and car camping trips. Crews will navigate daily to remote sites to establish plot locations and document plant community characteristics.

Duties

1. Work with a partner to identify and navigate to plot locations and collect data on species and plant communities present. Requires ability to reliably identify plants and plant communities of the project area, identify dominant species and community structure, and document presence of exotic or rare species,
2. Reliably locate field plots, complete field forms, operate and maintain GPS units, digital cameras, and other field equipment, and effectively manage collected data,
3. Enter and maintain data in electronic formats (databases, spreadsheets, GP GIS),
4. Thoroughly document all fieldwork using field notebooks, survey forms, maps, GPS, and digital cameras.

Qualifications:
A degree in botany or ecology, natural resources, range management, forestry, or related field, or 3 years of equivalent field experience is required. Preference will be given to candidates with previous field experience, and experience with the regional flora of the project area.

1. Knowledge of dichotomous botanical keys and field guides, and the major angiosperm plant families;
2. Willingness to travel extensively during field season, work unusual schedules (up to 10 consecutive days), backpack, car camp, and live in rustic conditions for extended periods in remote areas;
3. Good physical condition and ability to work long hours in the field, travel off-trail in rough terrain, and work through inclement weather;
4. Experience with aerial photograph and topographic map interpretation;
5. Careful attention to data;
6. Comfort and familiarity with the use of computers;
7. Experience or familiarity with the use of GPS;
8. Experience in collecting vegetation and environmental data in the field;
9. Experience with vegetation sampling techniques;
10. One year experience of species identification, community classification, or habitat typing;
11. Experience in classifying vegetation types.

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First consideration of applicants will begin December 31, 2010. Applications will be accepted for future consideration through June 30, 2011. Submit Resume, Cover Letter, and 3 References (with phone numbers), by email as an attachment to: js@colostate.edu

Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct background investigations for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.

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