

COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

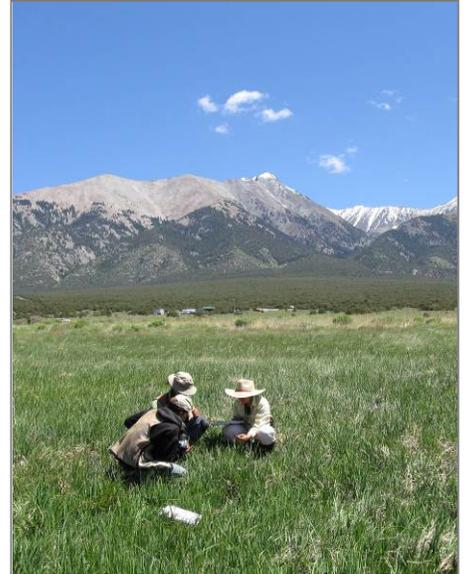
Position Announcement:

TITLE:	Wetland Ecology Field Technicians Research Associate I
NUMBER OF POSITIONS:	4–6 (temporary)
WORK LOCATIONS:	Statewide Colorado, primarily the Front Range and South Platte River Basin
PAY RATE:	\$2,000–2,600/month plus per diem
DURATION:	3-5 months (approx. May-Sept 2013)

Field Technicians for Wetland Condition Assessment Studies in the Lower South Platte River Basin

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University (CSU) seeks 4–6 experienced field technicians for summer field work assessing the condition of wetlands throughout the lower South Platte River Basin. All positions require field botany or ecology skills. Knowledge of plant taxonomy and species identification required. Preferred qualifications include experience in wetland or riparian ecology, knowledge of local flora, and familiarity performing field work for long days (10+ hours).

Fieldwork will take place in randomly selected wetlands in urban areas, agricultural areas, and more remote natural areas as part of wetland condition and wildlife habitat assessment. Standard duties will involve driving and hiking to field sites; in-field plant identification and in-office plant identification with a microscope; extensive collection of vegetation, soil, wildlife habitat, and environmental data; detailed completion of field survey forms; and landowner interactions.



Crews will be based out of Fort Collins, Colorado, and field work will be a mix of day trips and multi-day trips, dependent on wetland site locations. Lodging during multi-day trips is provided and will include a combination of camping and occasional motel stays. Work vehicles are provided.

Successful applicants will have a valid driver's license for travel between sites and the ability to hike and navigate to randomly selected wetlands. Field schedule will include four 10-hour days/week and occasionally eight 10-hour days/2 week session, although specific hours and days worked are subject to change to accommodate land owner requests and variable weather conditions. At least three (3) technicians will conduct field work throughout the entire Lower South Platte River Basin, and one (1) technician will focus on field work in the Denver metro area. Technicians will provide their own hiking and camping gear and personal field equipment (backpacks, rubber boots, waders, etc.). Per diem is provided to cover expenses associated with working away from home.

Duties

1. Attend 1-week field training, read field manual, learn to follow detailed field protocols that assess wetland condition and wildlife habitat.
2. Organize and maintain field gear in preparation for surveys and throughout the field session. Organize and adapt travel schedules as needed to successfully complete each site survey.
3. Communicate with private landowners when performing field surveys.

4. Using GPS and provided maps, drive to and from sites throughout the South Platte River Basin and navigate to plot locations via paved roads, dirt roads, hike-only trails, and off-trail through dense vegetation and across long distances.
5. Collect data on vegetation, soils, hydrology, landscape, and the condition of buffers efficiently, with attention to detail, and following set protocols.
6. Reliably identify plants (either in-field or with a microscope) and plant communities within Colorado wetlands and riparian areas.
7. Collect and prepare unknown plant specimens for later identification and storage.
8. Dig and describe soil profiles (texture, color, presence of redox feature, etc.)
9. Other duties as needed.

Qualifications for All Positions:

1. B.S. degree in botany, ecology, natural resources, range management, forestry, or related field, OR 2 years equivalent field experience;
2. Experience using dichotomous botanical keys and field guides and familiarity with the major angiosperm plant families required. Experience with vegetation sampling techniques preferred. Knowledge of Colorado flora and/or wetland species preferred.
3. Experience collecting, interpreting, and describing soils, and other environmental data required. Experience working in wetlands and knowledge of wetland ecology preferred.
4. Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules (up to 8 consecutive days); travel extensively during field season; share living quarters in rustic field housing, motels, or car camping; potentially backpack and hike long distances to wetlands. Willingness to work with a positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, rugged terrain, hot or cold weather, mosquitos, and poisonous plants, all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety.
5. Careful attention to detail, strong oral communication skills for professional landowner interaction and crew teamwork, and strong written and organizational skills to complete 20-page field forms.
6. Experience with aerial photography, topographic map interpretation, and use of GPS.



First consideration of applicants will begin February 15, 2013. Applications will continue to be accepted through July 31, 2013. To apply, submit resume, cover letter, and three references (with phone numbers) online at the following address: <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/employment-opportunities.html>.

Question can be directed *via email* to Joanna Lemly, CNHP Wetland Ecologist: joanna.lemly@colostate.edu. Applications sent over email will not be accepted.

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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.