COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Position Announcement

TITLE: Wetland Ecology Research Associate
Research Associate II

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1 (ONE)

WORK LOCATIONS: Fort Collins, Colorado, and statewide for field work

PAY RATE: $42,000–$45,000/year

DURATION: Fulltime for at least one year, additional duration contingent on funding

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University (CSU) seeks one experienced Wetland Ecology Research Associate to work closely with CNHP’s Wetland Team on all aspects of wetland condition assessment projects in Colorado.

Pre-field season activities includes logistics and planning, securing permission to access sites on public and private land, preparing field maps in ArcGIS, and preparing field supplies. During summer field seasons, the position acts as Field Crew Lead, coordinating the work of other field team members and communicating with the Wetland Team Leader, as well as actively collecting field data on wetland condition. Post-field season activities include quality control of field data, identifying collected plant specimens, entering field data or working with interns and work studies to enter data, and collaborating with the Wetland Team Leader on data analysis and report writing.

The field work involves extensive collection of wetland vegetation, soil, and environmental data, and identification of plant species and natural communities. This position requires extensive travel and long days in the field. The position requires proficiency in scientific report writing, as well as use of Microsoft Office programs, statistical analysis programs, and ESRI ArcGIS programs. The Wetland Ecology Research Associate will assist with proposal writing, field staff hiring, field trainings, project reporting, and supporting other wetland related inventory projects as needed. This position is supervised by the CNHP Wetland Team Leader and is a member of CNHP’s Wetland Team.

Duties

1. Assist Wetland Team Leader with survey design for selecting target wetland sites.
2. Obtain required permission from landowners or land managers to collect data from target wetlands and plan logistics for 7–10 day work sessions.
3. Aid in hiring and training field crew members.
4. Act as Field Crew Lead during the summer field season. Work with field crew members to collect data on vegetation, soils, hydrology, and landscape setting following predefined wetland condition assessment methodologies.
5. While in field, collect and prepare plant specimens for verification and long term storage in a regional herbarium. Post-field season, identify plant specimens through use of available botanical resources and the CSU Herbarium.
6. Quality check all field data and ensure all data are entered in various formats (databases, spreadsheets, GPS, GIS).
7. Aid the Wetland Team Leader in data analysis and report writing.
8. Aid the Wetland Team Leader in writing grant proposals and preparing future budgets.
9. Participate in all CNHP and Wetland Team meetings and planning sessions.
10. Other duties as needed.

Minimum Qualifications for Position

1. Masters Degree in Ecology or related field (Natural Resources, Biology, Botany, Watershed Science, Environmental Science, etc.)
2. At least 4 years of field research experience.
3. Willingness to initiate contacts with private landowners, State and Federal Agencies and a demeanor that will facilitate this contact.
4. Experience working in wetlands and knowledge of wetland ecology.
5. Experience using dichotomous botanical keys and field guides and familiarity with the major angiosperm plant families. Experience with vegetation sampling techniques.
6. Experience collecting, interpreting, and describing environmental data, such as soils, geology, water quality, and wildlife habitat.
7. Experience with aerial photograph and topographic map interpretation.
8. Good physical condition, willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules (up to 10 consecutive days), travel extensively during field season, backpack, car camp, and live in rustic conditions for extended periods in remote areas of Colorado.
9. Careful attention to detail, good oral and written communication skills.
10. Experience with MS Excel, MS Word, and MS Access. Experience with ArcGIS and associated mapping applications.

Competencies Desired

1. Knowledge and direct experience with working with Colorado flora.
2. Experience or familiarity with wetland assessment techniques.
3. Experience conducting wetland delineations.
4. Experience with various statistical analysis software (PC-ORD, R, SPSS, SAS).

To apply, submit resume, cover letter, and three references (with phone numbers) online at the following address: http://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/16757.

Applications deadline is August 24, 2015.

Question can be directed via email to Joanna Lemly, CNHP Wetland Ecology Team Leader: Joanna.lemly@colostate.edu.