

COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Position Announcement



TITLE:	Wetland Ecology Field Technicians Research Associate I/II – Open Pool (temporary)
NUMBER OF POSITIONS:	2–4 in total
WORK LOCATIONS:	Statewide Colorado
PAY RATE:	\$2,400 – \$3,200/month plus per diem. Health insurance provided.
DURATION:	3 or 5 months (1 position April–Aug; 1-3 positions June–Aug)

Summary of Positions



The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP; www.cnhp.colostate.edu) is Colorado's primary biological conservation information center and is housed within the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. CNHP seeks experienced field technicians for summer field projects in wetland ecology. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to enhance their field skills working within a variety of wetlands types across the Colorado. Standard duties will involve planning logistics for multi-day field sessions; driving and hiking to field sites; extensive collection of vegetation, water, soil, and other environmental data; detailed completion of field survey forms; identifying wetland plants both in and out of the field; and landowner communication. The position involves extensive travel, camping and potential

backpacking, and long field days (10+ hours). Field schedule will usually consist of eight days per two-week session, although specific hours and days worked are subject to change. Work vehicles are provided, as are accommodations during field work. Per diem is provided when camping or when remote lodging is required. All positions require experience with field botany, field ecology, and/or soil sampling. Experience in wetland ecology and knowledge of the Rocky Mountains is preferred. A valid driver's license for travel between sites is required, as is the ability to hike and navigate to wetlands. Technicians will provide their own hiking and camping gear and personal field equipment (backpacks, rubber boots, waders, etc.).

One field team of 2–4 technicians (1 Lead Technician and 1–3 Field Technicians) will be hired to work on two separate projects. Half of the summer will be spend working at **Great Sand National Park** monitoring wetlands at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Protocols will follow the National Park Service Rocky Mountain Region's wetland assessment protocols (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/romn/index.cfm>), which include detailed data collection on vegetation, soils, and hydrology.

The remainder of the summer will be spent ground-thruthing **fen wetlands** mapped along Colorado state and federal highways. This project will involve identifying the boundaries of organic soils within mapped wetlands and detailed plant data collection at verified fens.

One Lead Technician (1) will aid the Principal Investigator with pre-field season logistics and planning, photo-interpretation of fen wetlands in ArcGIS, preparing field supplies, etc. During the field season, the Lead Technician will work with Field Technicians to carry out the duties listed below and will be the point of contact between the PI and the field team. The Lead Technician should have experience working in wetlands, experience working in ArcGIS, and expertise in plant taxonomy. **Position timeframe: April–August 2017**, with opportunity to continue, contingent upon funding.



One to three Field Technicians (1–3) will work with the Lead Technician to collect data in selected wetland sites. Fieldwork will involve extensive data collection on vegetation, soils, hydrology, water quality, and the condition of buffers. Field technicians should have prior experience with plant taxonomy and field botany. **Position timeframe: June–August 2017.**

Duties for All Position

1. Assist Principal Investigator to complete GIS-based photo-interpretation of fen wetlands – *Lead Technician*
2. Plan logistics for eight-day work sessions and prepare field packets for each session, including site maps in ArcGIS 10.3 – *Lead Technician*
3. Attend field trainings, read field manuals, learn to follow detailed field protocols to identify and collect data in wetlands – *All positions*
4. Using GPS and provided maps, drive to and from sites and navigate to plot locations via paved roads, dirt roads, hiking trails, and off-trail travel through dense vegetation and across long distances – *All positions*
5. Communicate with public and private land managers when performing field surveys – *All positions*
6. Collect data on vegetation, soils, hydrology, water quality, and the condition of buffers efficiently, with attention to detail, and following set protocols – *All positions*
7. Reliably identify plants (either in-field or with a microscope) within Colorado wetlands and riparian areas, and classify wetland ecosystems – *All positions*
8. Collect and prepare unknown plant specimens for later identification and storage – *All positions*
9. Dig and describe soil profiles (texture, color, presence of redox feature, etc.) – *All positions*
10. 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 – *All positions*
11. Data entry and other duties as needed – *All positions*



Qualifications for All Positions (*Required qualifications in italics*)

1. B.S. degree in botany, ecology, natural resources, range management, forestry, or related field ***required*** for all positions. M.S. degree preferred for Lead Technician.
2. Experience collecting data on vegetation, soils, water, and/or other environmental data ***required*** for all positions. Knowledge of wetland ecology and experience working in wetlands and/or riparian areas preferred.
3. Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules, travel extensively during the field season, share living quarters in rustic field housing, bunkhouses, and car camping, and potentially backpack and hike long distances (up to 10 miles / day) while carrying a heavy pack (up to 40 lbs) ***required*** for all positions.
4. Willingness and ability to work with a positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, rugged terrain, hot or cold weather (30–100° F), mosquitos, and poisonous plants, all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety ***required*** for all positions.



5. Careful attention to detail, strong oral communication skills for professional landowner interaction and crew teamwork, and strong written and organizational skills to complete lengthy field forms ***required*** for all positions.
6. Experience with aerial photography, topographic map interpretation, and use of GPS preferred for all positions.
7. Experience with various vegetation sampling techniques preferred for all positions.
8. Experience using dichotomous botanical keys and field guides, familiarity with the major angiosperm plant families, and knowledge of Colorado flora and/or wetland species preferred for all positions.
9. Experience with soil taxonomy and describing soil profiles preferred for all positions.

Reflecting departmental and institutional values, candidates are expected to have the ability to advance the Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

First consideration of applicants will begin February 15, 2017. Applications will continue to be accepted until all positions are filled or until July 31, 2017, whichever comes first. Applicants for the Lead Technician Position are encouraged to apply early.

To apply, submit resume, cover letter, and three references (with phone numbers) online at the following address: <http://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/41896>. Please indicate the specific position you would like to be considered for. If no position is specified, you will be considered for all positions.

Question can be directed *via email* to Joanna Lemly, CNHP Wetland Ecologist: joanna.lemly@colostate.edu.

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