COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Position Announcement:

TITLE: Wetland Ecology Field Technicians / Lead Technician
Research Associate I / II
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 4 (temporary)
WORK LOCATIONS: Statewide Colorado and Wyoming
PAY RATE: $2000 – $2800/month
DURATION: Variable by position (see below); 4-10 months (approx. Feb–Nov 2011)

Field Technicians for National Wetland Condition Assessment sampling in Colorado and Wyoming

Summary of All Positions:

The Colorado Natural Heritage Program seeks experienced field technicians for summer field work assessing the condition of wetlands throughout Colorado and Wyoming. All positions require field botany, ecology, or soil sampling skills. Knowledge of plant taxonomy and species identification is required for at least two positions. Knowledge of soil taxonomy is required for at least one position. Experience in wetland ecology and knowledge of the Rocky Mountains is preferred for all positions.

Successful applicants will sample randomly selected wetlands across Colorado and Wyoming as part of the first National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). The Colorado-based field team will travel to randomly selected sites across two states. Sites will be located in both the front and backcountry and on public and private land. The team will collect data on wetland vegetation, soils, hydrology, water quality, algae, and the condition of buffers. Sampling will follow protocols that were designed for this national project and that will be used by field teams across the country. For efficient data collection, the team of four will be divided into two vegetation specialist and two abiotic specialists (soils, hydrology, etc.).


Details on Specific Positions Include:

Lead Technician (1) will aid the Principal Investigator with pre-field season logistics and planning, such as securing permission to access survey sites on private land, scheduling site visits, preparing field maps in ArcGIS 9.3, preparing field supplies, etc. During the field season, the Lead Technician will work with Field Technicians to carry out the tasks listed below and will be the point of contact between the Principal Investigator and the field team. The Lead Technician should have experience working in wetlands and expertise in either plant taxonomy or soil taxonomy. Position timeframe: Feb–Nov 2011.

Field Technicians (3) will be responsible for collecting data in selected wetland sites. Fieldwork will involve extensive data collection on vegetation, soils, hydrology, water quality, algae, and the condition of buffers. Successful applicants will navigate to randomly selected wetlands in remote backcountry areas, urban areas, and agricultural areas across Colorado and Wyoming. Three Field Technicians will be hired in addition to the Lead Technician. Of the three positions available, at least two must have experience with plant taxonomy and species identification and at least one must have experience describing and sampling soils. Position timeframe: May–Aug 2011.
Duties:

1. Assist Principal Investigator with securing access to randomly selected survey sites, contacting private landowners and coordinating with agency personnel – **Lead Technician**

2. Coordinate with Colorado and Wyoming State Soil Scientists for specific soil sampling techniques need at each sample site – **Lead Technician**

3. Plan logistics for 7–10 days work sessions and prepare field packets for each site, including several site maps in ArcGIS 9.3 – **Lead Technician**

4. Using GPS and provided maps, navigate to plot locations via paved roads, dirt roads, trails, and off-trail – **All positions**

5. Collect data on vegetation, soils, hydrology, water quality, algae, and the condition of buffers following set protocols – **All positions**

6. Reliably identify plants and plant communities within Rocky Mountain wetlands and riparian areas – **At least two positions**

7. Collect and prepare plant specimens for verification and long term storage in a regional herbarium – **At least two positions**

8. Reliably describe soil profiles (texture, color, presence of redox feature, etc.) and sample soil parameters – **At least one position**

9. Enter and maintain data in electronic formats (databases, spreadsheets, GPS, GIS) – **All positions**

10. Other duties as needed – **All positions**

Qualifications for All Positions:

1. B.S. degree (M.S. degree preferred for Lead Technician) in botany, ecology, natural resources, range management, forestry, or related field OR 3 years equivalent field experience;

2. Experience using dichotomous botanical keys and field guides and familiarity with the major angiosperm plant families required for at least two positions. Experience with vegetation sampling techniques preferred. Knowledge of Colorado flora and/or wetland species preferred.

3. Experience collecting, interpreting, and describing soils, geology and other environmental data is required for at least one position. Experience working in wetlands and knowledge of wetland ecology preferred.

4. 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 required.

5. Careful attention to detail, good oral and written communication skills required.

6. Experience with aerial photography, topographic map interpretation, and use of GPS required. Familiarity with ArcGIS or other geographic software preferred.

7. For Lead Technicians, willingness to initiate contacts with private landowners and agency personnel and a demeanor that will facilitate this contact is required.
First consideration of applicants will begin January 7, 2011. Applications will be accepted for future consideration through June 30, 2011. Applicants for the Lead Technician Position are encouraged to apply early.

To apply, submit resume, cover letter, and 3 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.

HIRING IS CONTINGENT ON FINAL APPROVAL OF FUNDING

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