

COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Position Announcement:

TITLE: Research Associate II/Lead Ecologist/Botanist
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1 - 2(temporary)
WORK LOCATIONS: Statewide Colorado
PAY RATE: \$2,400 -\$3,000 per month, commensurate with experience
DURATION: 10-12 months (approx. April 2010–February 2011)

Summary of Position:

The Lead Ecologist/Botanist will conduct inventories of high-quality upland and wetland plant communities, as well as rare plants within a study area. This work involves interpretation of aerial photos and other pertinent information to select sites, determining land ownership and contacting landowners regarding access, describing and demarcating plant communities, collecting vegetation, soils, identifying plant species, collecting voucher specimens of unknown plant species, and completing Heritage Program field survey forms. This position will require extensive travel and long days in the field. This position requires proficiency in scientific report writing, as well as experience using Microsoft Office programs and ArcGIS.

Duties:

1. Conduct field inventories individually and with other CNHP staff members.
2. Lead field contact for Principal Investigator and clients.
3. Collect vegetation and environmental data from sites selected as Targeted Inventory Areas. Classify vegetation to the plant association level. Collect plant specimens for verification and identification if needed. Assist other staff with plant species identification.
4. Collect wetland soil, wetland function data, and hydrological information when applicable.
5. Identify high-quality plant communities and conservation sites which merit protection.
6. Contact and meet with private landowners as needed to arrange site access.
7. Communicate as necessary with private, local, state, or federal agency officials regarding property access and site visits.
8. Process field data into the databases and GIS layers.
9. Assist with writing final reports
10. Work with CNHP staff on other programmatic duties as needed.

Required Qualifications:

1. B.S. degree (M.S. preferred) in botany, ecology, wetland ecology or related field.
2. Knowledge of plants and plant communities of Colorado (or nearby Southern Rocky Mountain and/or Western High Plains) including terrestrial, wetland and weed species. Familiarity with botanical dichotomous keys and the major angiosperm plant families required. Familiarity with concepts of plant community ecology and classification, and experience sampling and collecting vegetation data required.

3. Experience collecting, interpreting, and describing soils, geology and other environmental data.
4. Experience interpreting aerial photographs and topographic maps.
5. Knowledge of ArcGIS .
6. Willingness to travel much of the field season, work unusual schedules, and camp for extended periods (often 10 days) in remote areas of Colorado.
7. A willingness to initiate contacts with private landowners, State and Federal Agencies and a demeanor that will facilitate this contact.
8. Careful attention to detail and a commitment to conservation of biological diversity.
9. Good oral and written communication skills.
10. Knowledge of and experience with Natural Heritage Program methodology.

Send Resume and Cover Letter for Receipt by February 28, 2010 to:

Lead Ecologist/Botanist
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado State University
254 General Services Building
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Hiring is contingent upon final approval of funding.

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