
OUTREACH NOTICE

ECOLOGIST, GS-0408-9

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION
RENO, NEVADA**

November 17, 2005

The Great Basin Ecology Lab (4252/4655) located in Reno, Nevada may be filling a GS-0408 Ecologist position. The tour of duty is a full-time, 4-year, term position. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to DETERMINE INTEREST IN THE POSITION. FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES ON THE WORKFORCE REDUCTION AND PLACEMENT LIST WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION AND THE CTAP/ICTAP CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION.

OUTREACH RESPONSE

Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact Robin Tausch, Range Scientist by December 15, 2005. Please indicate if you have career or career-conditional status and the highest series and grade you have ever held. Contact Robin Tausch by phone 775-784-5329, or by e-mail at rtausch@fs.fed.us.

THE POSITION

This is a full-time, 4-year term position with the Great Basin Ecology Lab (4252/4655) located in Reno, Nevada. The position will require spending considerable time in Ely, Nevada. The job assignment includes managing the field operations and contributing to the data processing and analysis of the Great Basin Ecology Lab's portion of a multi-institution, multi-state, multi-disciplinary sagebrush/pinyon-juniper restoration/fuels management research project that is integrating plant ecology, fire science, wildlife biology, soil science, hydrology, economics, and social sciences.

Major Duties

The primary responsibility (60%) is to manage the day-to-day operations of the Great Basin Ecology Lab's experiments associated with the Regional research project, including supervising field and laboratory work and undergraduate students associated with the project. The center of operations for this project will primarily be Ely, Nevada. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Set up and maintain experimental plots in the Nevada portion of the Great Basin, including supervising fence construction, treatment application, and weather station installation.

2. Manage field crews collecting data on fuels and plant demographic responses to treatments, downloading climate data, preparing soil samples, and other tasks as needed.
3. Contribute, as time permits, to other experiments associated with the overall project both within Nevada and in the other states associated with the project.
4. Participate in project-wide meetings; interact with participants from collaborating institutions.
5. Assist with outreach as needed and as time permits.
6. Conduct independent research as time permits.

Secondary responsibilities (40%) include managing the data base for the Great Basin Ecology Lab's experiments, and assisting with data analyses and synthesis. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Insure that the data from the Great Basin Ecology Lab's experiments are accurately entered into computer spreadsheets using formats developed by the overall project.
2. Routinely archive the data electronically and contribute to the larger project's data bases.
3. Contribute to the analyses of the data and writing of manuscripts.
4. Other related duties that may arise.

If you have questions about the position, please contact Robin Tausch by phone, (755) 784-5329, or by e-mail at rtausch@fs.fed.us.

A REGIONAL EXPERIMENT TO EVALUATE EFFECTS OF FIRE AND FIRE SURROGATE TREATMENTS IN THE SAGEBRUSH BIOME

This is a comprehensive 5-year study that would evaluate the effects of fire and fire surrogate treatments that are designed to reduce fuel and to restore sagebrush communities of the Great Basin. The study would: 1) provide managers with improved information to restore ecological communities that is relevant across the 100+ million acres of the sagebrush biome; 2) match the temporal and spatial scales at which managers operate; 3) reduce management risk and uncertainty of catastrophic wildfire to the greatest degree possible; and 4) provide managers with information that would allow them to better understand tradeoffs inherent in the choice of management alternatives. The need for such an experiment is evidenced by the profound changes in fire regime experienced in the Great Basin in the past 150 years, coupled with the lack of information available to managers on the consequences of methods they might use to reduce fire risk or to restore more desirable plant communities and fire regimes. The objectives reflect a research program that seeks to determine the conditions under which sagebrush steppe communities will recover on their own following treatment, versus conditions that will require expensive active restoration. Specific objectives include:

1. Identify the abiotic and biotic thresholds that determine sustainability of big sagebrush plant communities in sagebrush-steppe and sagebrush semi-desert environments, specifically related to threats posed by cheatgrass and pinyon-juniper invasion.

2. Assess the ecological effects of fire and fire surrogates on big sagebrush communities at risk of crossing a threshold of conversion to cheatgrass or pinyon-juniper, beyond which restoration may be difficult or logistically infeasible.
3. Document how fuel loads change across vegetation treatments and ecological conditions in relation to the objectives above.
4. Portray the ecological, economic, and socio-political trade-offs and treatment effects of no action, applying only fire and fire surrogate treatments, and restoration treatments in these sagebrush communities.
5. Identify and measure environmental benefits affected by conversion to cheatgrass and pinyon-juniper systems, and identify induced changes in welfare to human populations.
6. Provide insight and guidance regarding use of our results for effective multi-species and multi-scale planning as part of ecosystem management of sagebrush communities in the Great Basin.

To learn more about the Great Basin Ecology Lab (4252/4655), visit our web site at: www.ag.unr.edu/gbem

ABOUT RENO

Reno, the Biggest Little City in the World, remains the commercial and historic center of the Silver State. The climate is excellent with an average of 80 degrees in summer, and 38 degrees in the winter. Reno is within minutes of the Alpine splendor of the Sierras and Lake Tahoe. Visit the rich historic area of Virginia City and the Comstock. Fish world renowned Pyramid Lake, also noted for uncrowded boating and swimming. In fact the area offers the best in skiing, fishing and related water sports, hiking, hunting and just plain star gazing. With a thriving and diversified economy, the Reno/Sparks Metro Area offers something for everyone. Located in Washoe County, Reno is served by Reno/Sparks International Airport and is situated within 45 minutes of Lake Tahoe and major ski resorts.

Housing in the Reno area includes apartments, condos, single family homes and large and small "Ranchos". Single family homes range from \$150,000 and up.

Washoe County School District: (775)348-0200

Reno Chamber of Commerce: (775)686-3030

ABOUT ELY

Ely is a friendly self-reliant community of nearly 5,000 people in eastern Nevada, located 185 miles from Elko, 240 miles from Salt Lake City, Utah and Las Vegas, Nevada, and 320 miles from Reno, Nevada. It is the county seat of White Pine County, which is 97% federal land. It has a full service hospital, a medical clinic with several doctors, and an extended care facility, as well as dentists, an optometrist, and veterinarian services. At the Ely Airport, Scenic Airlines flies to and from Las Vegas daily. The main industries for Ely are ranching, a maximum security prison, tourism and government agencies. Elevation ranges from about 6,400 feet at Ely up to 13,000 feet in the surrounding mountains. Ely receives 227 sunny days every year! Summer

temperatures in Ely rarely reach the 100° mark, with mid-to-low 90's as the average summer temperatures. Summer weather can bring exciting thunderstorms to the Ely area. In the winter, temperatures may reach lows of minus 20° on occasion, usually overnight, while daytime winter temperatures range around the upper teens. Snowfall fluctuates in the valley floor. Most storms will generate no more than 6-8" of snow, while the mountains will get substantially more.

Housing...

There are many nice homes in the Ely area, mostly due to the mining industry. Most vacancies are due to the fluctuation of the ore market. There are several apartment complexes in the Ely area as well. Government housing is not available. Prices for homes range from \$60,000 on up, with the average price being approximately \$75,000-\$150,000. The average rent is \$450 per month. Recently prices have been increasing.

OUTREACH NOTICE REPLY FORM

ECOLOGIST GS-0408-9

**USDA Forest Service
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION
FORESTRY SCIENCES LABORATORY
RENO, NEVADA**

NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____ USFS _____ BLM _____ OTHER _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____ PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM
_____ VRA _____ PWD _____ OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE:

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

WHERE DID CONTACT/APPLICANT HEAR ABOUT VACANCY/OUTREACH:

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL
AUTHORITIES:

- _____ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- _____ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
- _____ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- _____ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- _____ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- _____ STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- _____ OTHER _____

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!

