

Plant ecology field research assistants

Closing date: 18 Mar 2005

Responsible and trustworthy field research assistants needed immediately until August 15, 2005 for projects investigating the effects of vegetation manipulations on plant communities in the Intermountain West. These projects are based at the U.S. Geological Survey's Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC), which provides research and technical assistance for sound management and conservation of biological systems in the western U.S. Incumbents will be based at FRESC's Snake River Field Station in Boise, ID and will work on several projects in ID, OR, NV, and/or WY.

These will be GS-6 positions, paying \$14.72/hr. To qualify for a GG-6 you need 1 year and 9 months of field survey party experience OR 4 years of subprofessional work experience OR 4 years of college with courses related to the work of the position to be filled (equivalent to 120 semester/180 quarter hrs) plus 3 months of lab or field work experience. Subprofessional experience consists of working as a technician or aid in the field or in a laboratory or similar environment. Equivalent combinations of successfully completed education and experience are qualifying.

Jobs will involve traveling and camping from 0 to 20 days/month; working long hours in cold, hot, wet, windy, and dry weather; driving on faint, rough, poorly marked, rocky, dusty, and muddy roads; navigating with GPS units and poor maps; staying safe in remote areas by using caution and good judgment; accurately collecting and recording large amounts of data; identifying plants in all stages of growth from seedlings to senescent stalks; installing and emptying insect traps; and taking many digital photos.

These jobs will also involve working in remote and beautiful areas, camping under the stars, seeing the sunset and the moon rise, experiencing dawn over the arid West each day, hearing coyotes sing at dusk, and seeing pronghorn antelope race and Harrier hawks dance over the Sagebrush Sea.

Work hours will vary during employment. The incumbent may work long hours, beginning early in the morning and ending late at night. S/he may also be periodically becalmed due to inclement weather, plant phenology, vehicle maintenance, or programmatic reasons. The work will involve long hours spent standing, bending, walking, and a great amount of physical exertion. The incumbent may be required to lift containers weighing up to 35 pounds.

The preferred candidate will have knowledge of wildlife / habitat relationships in the Great Basin, and experience conducting field research, using dichotomous keys and reading vegetation transects. Equally important are the ability to work independently with a minimum of supervision, make sensible decisions, play well with others, appreciate the beauty of the Sagebrush Sea, treat the field vehicles and equipment gently, and work and travel safely.

The USGS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, sex, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, sexual orientation, or any other non-merit

factors. This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. The USGS is a fine place to work.

You must apply for this job through the Idaho Commerce and Labor web site (<http://cl.idaho.gov/portal/>). You will need to register on the web site, then apply for job # ID 1140882 and submit letter of interest, CV/resume (including starting and ending dates of each job and number of hours worked per week for each job -- this is VERY important), plus names and contact information of people familiar with your talents and abilities by email, fax, or snail mail. College transcript must also be included with applications; unofficial transcripts are acceptable. Question? contact either Cindy Salo or Rhonda Dart:

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