

Soil/Plant Technician (Research Assistant)

Compensation: \$25,000 - \$28,000 per year

Benefits: health insurance, annual leave, sick leave, holidays, retirement plan

Full time: 12 months, extension contingent upon funding

Start date: December 1st, 2006

Project Description:

Our projects include both a regional-scale analysis of plant-soil-climate relationships and a monitoring project exploring the spatial ecology of regime shifts in desert systems. For the inventory project, we will have a large number of sampling sites distributed across the Chihuahuan Desert region of southwest New Mexico and west Texas, primarily on public, Bureau of Land Management Lands in which we characterize the soils and the vegetation. For the monitoring project, we will have several intensive study areas in southwest New Mexico in which we measure fine-scale changes in vegetation and soil in several small plots distributed across patch types and landscape positions.

Job Duties:

Field duties will include working as a team member under the direction of a range technician sampling plant communities, digging soil pits, and characterizing soils in areas across southern New Mexico and west Texas. Office duties will include data entry, error-checking, and other tasks as assigned. Laboratory duties will likely include determining gravimetric moisture, particle size analysis for soil texture (hydrometer method), and calcimetry analysis.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Science in Soil Science, Ecology, Natural Resources, or Range Ecology preferred.

Incumbent must be able to carry out soil and vegetation measurements accurately and according to written/verbal instructions. The ability to work long days outside under inclement weather (hot days in the full sun or cold windy winter weather) is required. A quick learner with strong observational skills, the ability to pay attention to details, and solid critical thinking skills is highly desirable. The incumbent must be willing to work as a team member under the direction of a team leader, as well as independently. Must have a valid U.S. driver's license.

To Apply:

Send letter of application, resume and contact information for three references to: Laura Burkett, Jornada Experimental Range, Box 30003, MSC 3JER, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003 or lburkett@jornada.nmsu.edu by November 15th.