

Field Technician – Woodland Draw Vegetation Sampling

The Spatial Analysis Lab at University of Montana is recruiting individuals to assist in a field data collection effort to validate and categorize woodland draw habitat on BLM lands in eastern Montana and parts of the Dakotas. The selected applicants will be responsible for validating, classifying and measuring health of woodland draw habitat and survey areas for green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Results will be synthesized for check-ins with SAL staff and contribute to a final progress report prepared for the BLM. Field technicians may interact with private landowners or other agency professionals during the regular course of field work and must be comfortable with this.

Crews of two-four people work eight-day hitches: 10-hours/day, with a six-day break between hitches. All positions are field-based and require working and camping in isolated regions. We ask seasonal staff to commit to the entire field season, practice safety awareness (including vehicle and COVID-19 safety procedures), and contribute to building a healthy, productive, and enjoyable work environment.

Job Length: Full-time seasonal support is available for the upcoming field season, which is weather dependent, but scheduled for late May through August.

Compensation: \$14-16 per hour, plus \$41 per diem. *Lodging is not provided during the field season*. Transportation is provided from either Missoula or Bozeman, MT to field site locations.

Required Qualifications

- Be currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in botany, ecology or a related natural resources field
- Willingness and ability to maintain a positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, hot or cold weather (20°F–110°F), rugged terrain, mosquitos, poisonous snakes, bears, lightning, wildfire, etc., all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Attention to detail and ability to accurately identify vegetation
- Ability to carry up to 50 lbs across uneven ground
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Current first aid / CPR certification

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous field research or outdoor experience, preferably in rangeland ecosystems
- Prior experience identifying rangeland vegetation
- Prior experience with field techniques, including GPS operations, transect sampling, vegetation cover estimation, and ESRI Survey123/Field Maps/Collector/AGOL
- Prior experience with remote sensing, GIS, and programming with Python or R may be helpful

If you do not have current First Aid/CPR certification, you must become certified before arriving to begin work. The work schedule is subject to the weather, which may cause unpredictable days off—**applicants must be willing to work when needed and take days off when the opportunity arises**. Applicants must enjoy working and living in a remote rural area with a diverse group of people including private landowners and livestock producers. The rewards include the endless vistas of Eastern Montana, abundant recreation opportunities within a short (1-2 hour) drive, phenomenal wildlife viewing, and field research experience. A strong work ethic, good physical condition, and sense of humor are a must. The position will require hiking up to several miles each day through sagebrush, over uneven terrain, and in very hot temperatures to reach some sampling sites; and driving a few hours each day in trucks over low maintenance roads.

Applications are due May 20th, 2022. To apply, please send a current resume and names and contact information for three references to Rebekah Brassfield (rebekah.brassfield@mso.umt.edu) with the subject line "Field Technician – Woody Draws".