

Job Announcement

Position Type: Student Contractor, USGS Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center, Helena, Montana
Title: Science Technician
Job Function: Invertebrate taxonomist, field and laboratory assistant

Job Description: This position is to work full-time with a team of ecologists and hydrologists in the Studies Section of the USGS's Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center in Helena, MT. The focus of our work is on the effects of contaminants on aquatic and riparian organisms through field, laboratory, and mesocosm studies. Specific projects will include assessing the effect of legacy mine waste and active mining on the Clark Fork River Basin including investigations of metals accumulation into aquatic invertebrates and impacts to riparian birds through aquatic-terrestrial exchanges of prey, the effects of selenium moving through aquatic and aquatic-dependent food webs of Lake Kooconusa and the Kootenai River Basin, and the design and execution of mesocosm experiments to better understand the effects of contaminants on benthic communities in the absence of confounding factors. Project activities will involve enumeration and identification of aquatic insects, laboratory processing of insect samples for stable isotope and metal chemical analyses, maintaining and executing experiments in a mesocosm facility, and field work in mountain lakes and streams in remote areas of Montana and Wyoming. The position will report to one primary supervisor (Ashley Bussell) and the project leader (Travis Schmidt). The incumbent must have been enrolled at a University within the past twelve months. The position is funded for 2 full years.

Resume Receipt: Email – abussell@usgs.gov, tschmidt@usgs.gov

How to Apply: Send cover letter, resume and unofficial transcripts by email to Ashley Bussell and Dr. Travis Schmidt, US Geological Survey, 3162 Bozeman Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Posting Date: 04-14-2023

Expiration Date: 05-15-2023

Work Authorization: US

Desired Start Date: ASAP

Duration: Two years from start date

Approximate hours per week: 40

Qualifications: Must have been enrolled in college within the past 12 months. Also, the ideal candidate will have a Master's degree in ecology or environmental toxicology. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Preferred candidate will have experience identifying aquatic insect larvae and or terrestrial insects. Also required, a working understanding of the effects of contaminants on aquatic organisms, experience with statistics, and data interpretation. Other skills will include preparing samples for ICPMS and isotopic analysis and culturing of aquatic organisms. Excellent record keeping and fine motor skills are required as is the willingness to work in remote field settings

Pay Rate: Commensurate with experience, up to \$74k/year.

Location: Helena, MT USA