Field Technicians (2) Great Basin Pinyon-Juniper Plant Ecology

Two field technicians are needed for a field investigation of tree mortality and understory vegetation in central Nevada’s pinyon-juniper woodlands of central Nevada, May – August, as part of ongoing research in the Great Basin Landscape Ecology Lab at the University of Nevada, Reno. Field technicians will get an opportunity to explore this rugged, remote landscape while learning about the ecology of pinyon-juniper woodlands.

LOCATION: Scenic mountains in central Nevada, near Austin and Eureka. Temperatures range from the 30's to the 90's. Field sites are remote, requiring long drives down primitive roads and hiking several miles across rugged topography. Crew will be based out of Reno, NV. Field schedule is flexible, but planned to be 10 days on, 4 days off, leaving Reno early on Tuesdays and returning Thursday evenings.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Assist in the collection of ecological field data across 11 mountain ranges in central Nevada, as part of a resampling study of permanent plots. Study goals are to determine how pinyon-juniper woodland stands develop over time, how they are affected by natural disturbance and drought, and how the understory vegetation responds to overstory tree mortality. Field data collection duties will include identifying plants to species, quantifying stand structure, collecting and processing increment cores, accurately recording field data, entering field data into a database or spreadsheet, driving on rough and narrow roads, estimating overstory and understory plant cover, taking soil measurements, and identifying mortality agents associated with pinyon and juniper trees. Training for all tasks will be provided.

ABILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS:
Required: Valid driver’s license. Three semesters of college-level coursework. Good physical condition and ability to carry 25-30 lbs of field equipment on uneven terrain. Ability to collect and record detailed field data and comfortably work with others in remote field sites. Passion for working outdoors for long periods of time under rugged conditions and aptitude to learn plant and pathogen identification.

Desired: Experience driving 4WD vehicles on primitive roads. Previous field experience, especially with camping for long stretches. College coursework in ecology, botany, forestry, etc.

PAY: $13.36/hour, 40 hours/week.

START/END: Job begins approximately May 18, 2015, and ends in mid-late August, 2015

For more information, please contact Sam Flake (sflake@gmail.com) or Dr. Peter Weisberg (pweisberg@cabnr.unr.edu).

TO APPLY: For full consideration, please apply by March 20th. Send a brief letter of introduction, resume, and a list of three references by email to:

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