

SEASONAL BOTANISTS, University of Montana Natural Heritage Program (Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming)

Riparian Botanist, Summer 2020 – Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is currently recruiting RIPARIAN BOTANISTS I and II for the 2020 field season. We will again partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement their Aquatic Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) strategy, which is targeted at collecting standardized data from streams across BLM Districts in the western U.S. The Riparian Botanist works with a two-person Aquatic Team, collecting vegetation composition data along the stream greenline. Sites range from remote mountain streams rarely visited by people to well-used rangeland watercourses. Botanists should expect to encounter a wide diversity of species, and to gain experience in several different biophysical environments.

All positions are field-based and require primitive camping in isolated regions. Crews will typically work eight 10-hour days, from Wednesday to Wednesday, with a six-day break between hitches. We expect staff to commit to the entire field season, practice safety awareness (including vehicle safety), and contribute to building a healthy, productive and enjoyable work environment.

Work will focus on wadeable streams and rivers in Idaho (crews based in Pocatello and Missoula, MT), Nevada (crews based in Elko and Carson City) and Wyoming (crews based in Cody and Pocatello).

JOB LENGTH: June through September 2020, full-time

COMPENSATION: \$16- \$19 per hour based on experience+ \$30 per diem for field days

TO APPLY: Please submit letter of interest, CV and three (3) professional references to Dr. Linda Vance (Linda.Vance@mso.umt.edu). Please rank your location preference (ID, NV, WY). The subject line should read: MTNHP Aquatic AIM Application

DEADLINE: Application review begins immediately and continues until all positions are filled.

QUALIFICATIONS: BOTH POSITIONS REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

- Experience following established field protocols to conduct sampling and field data collection;
- Experience with data entry and management using electronic devices;
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access);
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record (DUI or other serious convictions need not apply);

- Demonstrated ability to work productively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals and to work independently as required;
- Experience in and willingness to spend multiple days camping in the field;
- Willingness to work irregular hours in harsh environments and challenging weather, and carry gear over uneven terrain;
- Wilderness First Aid a plus; CPR and First Aid Certification expected. Qualifications:

RIPARIAN BOTANIST I (\$16-17 an hour)

- A Bachelor's Degree in Botany, Ecology, Wetland Ecology or closely related subject. Coursework in Botany, Plant Taxonomy and/or Systematics. Herbarium experience may substitute for coursework;
- A minimum of one season of botany field work in wetland or riparian habitats;
- Ability to identify riparian graminoids, forbs, shrubs and trees to species using dichotomous keys;
- Good familiarity with commonly accepted plant nomenclature;

RIPARIAN BOTANIST II (\$18-19 per hour)

A Bachelor's Degree or higher in Botany, Ecology, Wetland Ecology or closely related subject. Coursework in Botany, Plant Taxonomy and/or Systematics with additional training in wetland/riparian plant identification. Herbarium experience may substitute for coursework;

- A minimum of two seasons of botany field work, preferably in wetland or riparian habitats;
- Ability to identify riparian graminoids, forbs, shrubs and trees to species using dichotomous keys;

- Familiarity with plants of the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain West or Intermountain West;
- Ability to identify riparian graminoids, forbs, shrubs and trees to species using dichotomous keys;
- Good familiarity with commonly accepted plant nomenclature;
- Ability to prepare herbarium and/or voucher specimens desired.

The work is physically demanding. Crews typically work in all kinds of weather, and frequently have to navigate poorly maintained roads or travel by foot across uneven terrain to access a site. The "wadeable streams" we sample range from a few inches deep to fast-flowing small rivers that require good balance, a stout stadia rod, and a willingness to wade as necessary.

Work will begin with paid training in Prineville, OR on June 1, and will continue until September, with the exact end date being flexible to accommodate those with academic commitments. However, it is difficult for us to work around school obligations that begin before September.