

Wildlife Vegetation Technicians (4)

Agency University of Montana, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit

Location Noxon, Montana (Northwest Montana)

Job Category Temporary/Seasonal Positions

Salary \$14/hr

Start Date 05/01/2023

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

Website <https://www.umt.edu/mcwru/>

Description

The University of Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is hiring up to 4 vegetation technicians at \$14/hr as part of a collaborative research project with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. This research will be used to develop a landscape-scale elk summer nutrition model and results will be used to better understand the factors influencing elk population dynamics in NW Montana.

Technicians will conduct mountain vegetation surveys to assess forage quality and quantity using ground based transects and quadrats. The purpose of this sampling is to identify variation in forage quality and quantity across landcover types. Technician duties will include accurately identifying plant species, recording visual cover estimates, and collecting plant clippings and elk fecal pellets. In an average day, technicians should expect to hike between 6 and 15 miles, gain up to 5000 feet in elevation, experience harsh environmental conditions, and plan for off-trail travel across steep and rugged terrain. Technicians should be able to carry up to 50 lbs. of equipment to survey sites and work extended or irregular hours when necessary.

All technicians will be required to live at a remote basecamp during the work week. The closest town to basecamp is Noxon, MT which is 2.5 hours west of Missoula, MT or 2.5 hours east of Spokane, WA. Housing will be provided in the form of project camp trailers or tents. Technicians will have access to an on-site cabin for cooking, food storage, and internet access.

Duration: May 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023.

Qualifications

Interested applicants must have taken at least one academic course focused on plant identification. Preferred if applicants also have previous field experience conducting vegetation surveys. Interested applicants must have experience safely operating 4WD vehicles in rough, mountainous terrain. Applicants must be able to regularly carry heavy weight and be physically fit as most travel is off-trail and very challenging. Additionally, qualified candidates should be confident with off-trail navigation in unfamiliar terrain using a map, compass, and/or GPS. Field crews must work and live cooperatively at remote field basecamps-- must have strong communication skills with the ability to interact well with coworkers, and be able to work independently or as a team in remote settings. Applicants should be organized, able to follow a rigid protocol, and record

detailed data in a field setting. Preferred candidates will have prior experience identifying Montana or western US vegetation, working in bear country, and experience traveling and navigating off-trail. Qualified candidates will also have a background in botany, wildlife biology, ecology, or other related science.

To Apply

Submit a cover letter detailing relevant experience, a resume, three professional or academic references, and college transcripts highlighting any botany/vegetation identification courses in a single PDF document. Send all applications to: Andi Stewart at andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu with the subject line “Vegetation Technician”. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and applications will be accepted until all four positions are filled.

Contact Person Andi Stewart

Contact Email andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu