

Lead Technician – Vegetation Sampling of Invasive Species

The Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL) at the University of Montana is recruiting lead technicians to assist with the first field season of a three-year research project measuring and mapping invasive species (with an emphasis on *Ventenata dubia*). Selected applicants report to the SAL Field Coordinator and are responsible for coordination and execution of fieldwork, directly supervising other field technicians and ensuring quality handling and reporting of GPS surveys and vegetation sampling data.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Leading a team of up to 2 other field technicians
- Managing, implementing, and troubleshooting data collection using ArcCollector
- Maintaining an inventory of all field equipment
- Coordinating logistics with partners and SAL staff
- Interacting with private landowners and other agency professionals
- Synthesizing and cleaning field datasets, including photo documentation, and maintaining a geospatial database
- Summarizing data in progress reports

Job Length: Full-time seasonal support is available for the upcoming field season, which is weather dependent. Ideal job length is from **late May 2024**, to continue through early August. Start and end dates are flexible to accommodate student schedules. Budgeted time includes pre-field preparation, and data synthesis and report preparation after the field season. Potential for additional work beyond August on other projects.

Compensation: \$19 per hour + up to \$30.50 per-diem while in the field. Lead technicians will be based out of multiple locations in Montana (Missoula, Polson, Bozeman, or Eastern MT), with transportation to field sites. No lodging is provided. Work schedule will consist of 8-day hitches.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent experience) in botany, ecology, or a related natural resources field
- Previous field experience identifying rangeland grass, forb, and shrub species
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Attention to detail and ability to follow a detailed protocol
- Ability to carry up to 50 lbs across uneven ground
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Professionalism, flexibility, and a positive attitude
- Willingness and ability to maintain that positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, hot or cold weather (20°F–110°F), rugged terrain, mosquitoes, poisonous snakes, bears, lightning, wildfire, etc., all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety and data integrity
- Current first aid/CPR certification

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with ArcCollector/Field Maps
- Previous supervisory experience
- Prior experience identifying rangeland vegetation species
- Prior experience with field techniques, including GPS, transect sampling, and vegetation cover estimation
- Experience interacting with private landowners and agency professionals



The successful applicant must be able to work in remote locations and be comfortable camping for up to 8 days at a time. 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**. The position will require driving a few hours each day in trucks over low maintenance roads and hiking up to several miles each day through open, uneven terrain to reach some sampling sites.

If you do not fully meet the required qualifications for this position but are interested, we encourage you to still apply. If you have a good attitude, strong work ethic and are passionate about conservation we want to talk to you. Training will be provided for the right candidate.

Positions open until filled; applications will be reviewed as they come in, with priority given to applications received by May 1st 2024. To apply, please send a letter of interest, current resume, and names and contact information for three references to Rebekah Brassfield (rebekah.brassfield@mso.umt.edu) with the subject line "Lead Field Technician – Invasive Species".