

Field Coordinator – Vegetation Sampling of Woodland Draw Habitats

We are recruiting for a dedicated individual to assist with a research project focused on sampling and mapping woodland draw habitats across Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Montana and the Dakotas. The selected applicant will be responsible for coordinating and executing fieldwork, directly supervising up to three Field Technicians, and ensuring quality handling and reporting of GPS surveys and vegetation sampling data. Specific responsibilities include:

- Prioritizing crew safety and mitigating risks associated with work in a harsh and remote environment
- Creating and loading forms for data collection using Survey123
- Managing, implementing and troubleshooting data collection
- Maintaining an inventory of all field equipment
- Coordinating logistics with BLM Field Office and Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL) personnel
- Synthesizing and cleaning field datasets and maintaining a geospatial database

The Field Coordinator will present data in progress reports and contribute to the preparation of a final progress report for the BLM. The Field Coordinator will interact with private landowners and other agency professionals during the regular course of field work and must be comfortable with this.

Job Length: Full-time seasonal support is available for the upcoming field season, which is weather dependent, but scheduled for 5/10/2021 - 8/26/2021. We anticipate six sampling hitches in all. Each sampling hitch is expected to be eight days long, including a travel day on either end. An additional three weeks is also budgeted for pre-field preparation and for data synthesis and report preparation after the field season, with space provided on campus at University of Montana. The project is anticipated to span several years and there is opportunity for follow-on work, both seasonal field coordination and geospatial analysis that relates field data to airborne and satellite information.

Compensation: \$18 per hour and per-diem as applicable. Transportation provided from Missoula, MT to field site locations.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in ecology or a related natural resources field
- 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

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous field research experience, preferably in rangeland ecosystems and on private lands
- Previous supervisory experience
- Prior experience identifying Great Plains vegetation species
- Prior experience with field techniques, including GPS operations, transect sampling and vegetation cover estimation
- Familiarity with GIS and/or remote sensing applications, and with Survey 123 for ArcGIS
- Experience interacting with private landowners and agency professionals
- Current first aid / CPR certification

The successful applicant must be able to work in remote locations and able to camp in a rustic setting while adhering to strict health and safety protocols meant to protect themselves and others during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.** A strong work ethic, good physical condition, and sense of humor are a must. The position will require hiking up to several miles each day through sagebrush, over uneven terrain, and in very hot temperatures to reach some sampling sites; and driving a few hours each day in trucks over low maintenance roads.

Applications are due March 15th, 2021. To apply, please send a current resume, 1-page cover letter, and names and contact information for three references to Melissa Hart (melissa.hart@mso.umt.edu) with the subject line “Field Coordinator – Vegetation Sampling of Woodland Draw Habitats”.