

Field Liaison – Vegetation Sampling of Invasive Species

We are recruiting for a dedicated individual, ideally at the graduate student level, to assist with an ongoing research project focused on measuring and mapping invasive species (with an emphasis on *ventenata*) on Crow Tribal Lands in southeastern Montana for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The selected applicant will help conduct vegetation field surveys and serve as a liaison among project collaborators, including Little Big Horn College (LBHC), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and private landowners. The position involves working closely with the project's Field Coordinator and reporting to the Spatial Analysis Lab project coordinator. If a qualified applicant is successfully recruited, this position also offers flexibility to conduct additional field work in support of independent thesis research.

In addition to conducting field work, responsibilities include:

- Assisting in the training of Little Big Horn College Field Technicians
- Providing local support to the Field Coordinator and LBHC Field Technicians
- Interfacing with other invasive species initiatives occurring in the project area (MSU, NRCS etc.) and synthesizing data collected by these initiatives, both current and historical
- Assisting with Little Big Horn College project objectives
- Seeking out and facilitating cross-training opportunities for Field Technicians

The Field Liaison will work with the Field Coordinator to ensure consistent data collection and contribute to the preparation of a final progress report for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Field Liaison 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 05/10/2021 - 08/26/2021. A total of 63 days is budgeted for vegetation sampling, field spectroscopy measurements, outreach, and coordination activities.

Compensation: \$16 per hour + in-state per-diem when applicable. Transportation provided from Crow Agency, 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 help develop and train technicians to follow 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

- Current enrollment in a graduate program in ecology or related natural resources field
- Previous field research experience, preferably in rangeland ecosystems and on private lands
- Previous supervisory experience
- Prior experience identifying rangeland 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 ArcGIS Collector software
- Experience interacting with private landowners and agency professionals
- 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.** The Field Liaison must be able to provide local support to field crews when the Field Coordinator is not present during all or part of a hitch. A strong work ethic, good physical condition, and sense of humor are a must. The position will involve driving a few hours each day in trucks over low maintenance roads and may require hiking up to several miles each day through sagebrush, over uneven terrain, and in very hot temperatures to reach some sampling sites; and

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 Liaison – BIA Invasive Species Mapping”.