

**Position – 2 Rangeland Ecology Field Technician Positions (Colorado State University, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory)**

Colorado State University, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory In cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center Fort Collins, Colorado

**POSITION** – Biological Science Technician

**SALARY** – approx. \$12-15/hour (exact rate based on experience)

**TYPE OF APPT.** – Temporary, Not-to-Exceed 180 paid days during the year following the hire date. This position begins approximately May 21, 2014 and ends approximately August 30, 2014 (can be adjusted to academic schedule)

**LOCATIONS** – Billings, Montana and Fort Collins, Colorado

**CLOSING DATE** – April 3, 2015 (5 pm. MST), or when 2 positions are filled.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT** – This is a collaborative CSU-USGS project. The goal of this project is to examine natural and anthropogenic factors influencing the composition and condition of rangeland ecosystems within the Greater Yellowstone River watershed (south-central Montana). The focus of this project is development of tools and relationships that NPS (National Park Service) resource managers can use to evaluate the condition of NPS managed rangelands. The incumbents will sample managed, natural rangelands at the ecotone between sagebrush steppe and northern mixed-grass prairies across southern Montana. Familiarity with northern mixed-grass plant species is a plus. The incumbents will be trained in the use of existing sampling protocols.

Training and/or experience in plant identification, including scientific nomenclature and dichotomous keys, is an asset. Individuals with specific knowledge of plant species occurring in shrub-steppe and semi-arid grassland habitats are desired.

**DUTIES** – Technicians will locate and establish sampling sites and identify and measure vegetation across a variety of shrub-steppe habitats in southeastern Montana. This will require working long hours in the field, camping at remote, undeveloped sites for up to a week at a time, living and working closely with fellow employees, and tolerating potentially adverse environmental conditions.

**General duties may include** – (1) operating 4 wheel-drive vehicles on undeveloped roads and hauling a camping trailer; (2) navigating with maps, a compass, GPS technology, and GIS software; (3) hiking to and from vegetation sampling sites; (4) accurately surveying and delineating sample units using compass and GPS; (5) using plant taxonomic keys, field guides, and sampling protocols to accurately identify and measure native and invasive plants; and (6) entering data into Excel and Access databases.

Previous skills and experience doing one or more of the above tasks, especially experience identifying and measuring native and invasive plants using scientific nomenclature, plant taxonomic keys, field guides, and sampling protocols, will qualify for greater pay-grade.

**Additional skills that will benefit your application and pay-grade include** – (7) Assisting with the development and planning of work schedules; and (8) Maintaining data and protocol consistency. Experience to support the primary task of identifying and measuring native and invasive plants, especially those occurring in shrub-steppe ecosystems, is most vital among these skills.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS** – Field work will be strenuous at times. Position demands hiking moderate distances in varying temperature, carrying equipment, using sharp tools, and lifting objects weighing up to 40 pounds. Most work will be in the field where the incumbent may encounter hot, dry and windy conditions as well as sudden rain and snow storms, biting insects, and other potential hazards typical of eastern Montana.

**QUALIFICATIONS** – Experience or education beyond high school as described below is required:

6 months field experience OR 2 year's sub-professional experience OR 1 year college study related to biology. (Sub-professional experience is defined as technical work performed in support of field or laboratory investigation relating to the biological sciences which provided basic knowledge or skills in gathering, recording, and assembling scientific data; using scientific instruments; setting up and operating test apparatus; and manipulating quantitative data. Experience may include assisting professional employee in such duties.) Satisfactory completion of a field course in biology may be substituted for the 3 months of field and/or laboratory experience.

**All Grades** – A current driver's license is required. You will have to pass a USGS safe vehicle operations course to operate a Federally-owned vehicle.

**BASIS OF EVALUATION** – All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of education and experience (including unpaid or volunteer experience). Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of this announcement.

The U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado State University are an Equal Opportunity Employers. Selection for these positions will be based solely on merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, sex, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, sexual orientation, or any other non-merit factors

Applications must be received by email by the closing date on the announcement to be considered.

**APPLY** – Please refer to details requested at the end of this announcement. Submit the following items as your application: (a) resume, (b) submit college transcripts (unofficial is acceptable) specifying title of coursework, completion date, semester or quarter hours earned by course title,

and grade earned, and (c) a letter of interest highlighting your qualifications. If references are not included in your resume, please attach at least two (2) references (who are not family members).

Questions and Applications may be addressed to (digital attachments are encouraged):

**Steven Garman**

Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey  
Geoscience and Environmental Change  
Science Center,  
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 25,  
Denver, CO 80225  
Email: slgarman@usgs.gov

**Daniel Manier**

Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey  
Adjunct, Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability  
Fort Collins Science Center 2150 Center Ave., Bldg. C, Fort Collins, CO  
80526-8118  
Email: manierd@usgs.gov

**YOU MAY CALL WITH QUESTIONS.**

- Steve's phone: 303.236.1353
- Dan's Phone: 970.226.9466

Within your application materials, the following basic information should be included:

**JOB INFORMATION –**

- Cover letter and resume

**PERSONAL INFORMATION –**

- Full name, mailing address (with zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)
- Highest Federal civilian grade held (also give job series and dates held)

**EDUCATION –**

- High School (name, address, including zip code if known)
- Colleges and universities (address including zip code if known)
- **Majors**
  - Type and year of any degrees received (if no degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours)

- Send a copy of your college transcripts or list of college courses completed. Specify title of course, semester or quarter hours earned for each course, date completed, grade earned.

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE –**

- Give the following information on your paid and unpaid work experience related to the job:
- Job Title (include series and grade if Federal job)
- Duties and accomplishments
- Employer's name and address
- Supervisor's name and phone numbers
- Starting and ending dates (MONTH, DATE and YEAR)
- HOURS PER WEEK
- Salary
- Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor

#### **OTHER QUALIFICATIONS –**

- Job-related training courses (title, length, date taken)
- Job-related skills (i.e., other languages, computer software/hardware, tools, machinery, typing speed, first aid, etc.
- Job-related certificates and licenses (current only)
- Job-related honors, awards, and special accomplishments (i.e., publications, memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, and performance awards). Give details but do not send documents unless requested.