



## JOB DESCRIPTION

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<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>Seasonal Field Botanist</b>
<b>JOB LENGTH:</b>	Full-time, summer 2018: beginning late May/early June, ending in September.
<b>COMPENSATION:</b>	\$16-18 per hour plus per diem for days in field
<b>JOB LOCATION:</b>	Helena, but most of the work will be field-based throughout MT

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### **SUMMARY OF POSITION:**

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) serves as the state's principle source of information on species, habitats and landscapes of conservation concern. The Seasonal Field Botanist will be working as part of a small field crew to assess wetland ecological conditions throughout Montana. The fieldwork involves extensive collection of vegetation, soil, and environmental data, identification of plant species, and completion of field survey forms. Willingness to travel extensively during the field season, work unusual schedules, camp, and backpack into remote areas of Montana is expected. Some office work in Helena may be required.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

Principle duties include 1) leading a vegetation sampling and identification team in wetlands in both the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains of Montana; 2) assisting in various duties related to wetland assessment using standard protocols. The Seasonal Field Botanist must be able to accurately identify wetland and riparian plants to species, and assess their areal cover at the sampled sites.

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### **KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS:**

- Bachelor's degree or experience in botany or a closely related subject.
- Minimum of three field seasons identifying wetland and riparian plants to species as a principal botanist or crew leader.
- Proven knowledge of Rocky Mountain and/or Great Plains flora.
- Ability to use dichotomous keys accurately.
- Proven experience working with complex protocols and data collection.
- Good physical condition and ability to work long hours in the field.
- Familiarity with GPS and digital cameras.
- Valid driver's license, safe driving record, and current insurance.

### **COMPLEXITY/PROBLEM SOLVING:**

- Ability to collect and organize scientific data with attention to detail.
- Duties require non-routine analysis and follow-through.

### **DISCRETION/LATITUDE/DECISION-MAKING:**

- Considerable opportunity to act independently.
- Makes sound decisions based on analysis, experience and personal judgment.

### **RESPONSIBILITY/OVERSIGHT –FINANCIAL & SUPERVISORY:**

- May need to gain cooperation from individuals over whom there is no direct authority in order to accomplish assigned work.

**COMMUNICATIONS/INTERPERSONAL CONTACTS:**

- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated experience working in a team setting.
- Ability to work in variable conditions with team members for extended time periods.
- Ability to effectively describe projects and activities to agency staff, private landowners and others.

**WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL EFFORT:**

- Ability to work, hike, navigate, eat, and sleep in remote locations in variable weather conditions, often in physically demanding circumstances.
- Willingness to work occasional long hours or extended periods in isolated settings with limited communications.
- Ability to hike long distances (5-8 miles) over rough terrain carrying equipment and gear. Work can require extreme physical exertion and/or physical strain to the point of fatigue.
- Work environment involves exposure to job hazards, including moving water, wild animals and backcountry locations, where there is a possibility of injury.
- Due to the relatively remote location of most field sites, the individual will need to camp for extended periods (up to 7 nights/8 days at a time). In rare cases, shared motel rooms will be provided. There is no housing available for non-working days.

**ADDITIONAL DUTIES SPECIFIC TO THE POSITION:**

- Work with an assessment crew locating preselected sampling locations, establishing plots, recording data, and other tasks involved in vegetation assessment and monitoring.
- Depending on qualifications, the individual may also identify areas of high ecological significance or perform other related field tasks.
- Perform office or field work as assigned relating to data entry or other tasks.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION:**

Send cover letter, resume, and 3 references with phone numbers electronically to [jchutz@mt.gov](mailto:jchutz@mt.gov). Position is open until filled, but review will begin on Friday, April 13, 2018. Contact Jennifer Chutz (Ecologist/Project Manager) by email ([jchutz@mt.gov](mailto:jchutz@mt.gov)) for any questions.