



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	WETLAND ECOLOGIST AND BOTANIST PROJECT LEAD
JOB LENGTH:	3-7 months
COMPENSATION:	\$14 per hour
JOB LOCATION:	Helena, MT

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 MTNHP seeks experienced project leads for summer field projects in wetland ecology and botany. All projects require field botany or field ecology skills. Knowledge of plant taxonomy, species identification, and experience in wetland ecology is required. Experience identifying Montana flora is preferred.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The project lead will: 1) aid the Principal Investigator with pre-field season logistics and planning, such as assisting with the random sample survey design, securing permission to access survey sites on private land, preparing field maps in ArcGIS 9.3, preparing field supplies, etc.; 2) work with field technicians to carry out the tasks listed below and will be the point of contact between the Principal Investigator and the field team during the field season; 3) manage field technicians, field equipment, and other project resources for successful completion of the fieldwork. The fieldwork involves extensive collection of vegetation, soil, and environmental data, identification of plant species, and completion of field survey forms. This position will require knowledge of Montana flora and ability to use GPS and GIS tools. Willingness to travel extensively during the field season, work unusual schedules, camp, and backpack into remote areas of Montana is expected. Project Lead will begin in May 2010.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in ecology, biology, botany, natural resources, or related field required. Minimum of three field seasons conducting field surveys and assessments, with at least one season working independently or as a crew leader, and demonstrated experience conducting ecological assessments.
- Knowledge of dichotomous botanical keys and field guides, and the major angiosperm plant families *required*.
- Willingness to travel extensively during field season, work unusual schedules (up to 10 consecutive days), backpack, car camp, and live in rustic conditions for extended periods in remote areas of Montana *required*.
- Good physical condition and ability to work long hours in the field *required*.
- Careful attention to detail *required*.
- Knowledge of Rocky Mountain flora *required*.
- Comfort and familiarity with the use of computers *required*.
- Experience or familiarity with the use of GPS *required*.
- Experience working in wetlands and knowledge of wetland ecology *required*.
- Experience with species identification and vegetation sampling techniques *required*.
- Knowledge of Montana flora *preferred*.

- Experience with aerial photograph and topographic map interpretation *preferred*.
- Experience with vegetation community classification or habitat typing *preferred*.
- Experience with soil sampling and soil taxonomy *preferred*.
- Demonstrated interest in, and enthusiasm for, conservation *preferred*.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL EFFORT:

- Ability to work in variable weather conditions, remote locations and often in physically demanding circumstances.
- Valid driver's license, safe driving record, and current insurance.
- Ability to hike long distances (5-8 miles) over rough terrain carrying equipment and gear.
- Willingness to work occasional long hours or extended periods in an isolated setting.
- Work may require extreme physical exertion and/or physical strain to the point of fatigue. Work environment involves exposure to job hazards (including but not limited to wild and domestic animals, poisonous plants, falling trees/ rocks, and loose or unstable ground) where there is a possibility of injury.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES SPECIFIC TO THE POSITION:

- Verify the accuracy of wetland maps and provide professional and technical support for wetland mapping;
- Perform office or field work as assigned relating to wetland assessment, inventory, mapping, and description.
- Organize field data and enter into appropriate spatial and tabular databases.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Send cover letter, resume, and 3 references with phone numbers to knewlon@mt.gov. Closing date is March 31, 2010. Contact Karen Newlon by email or telephone (406-444-0915) for any questions.