

Plant Propagation Manager Job Description

Gila Watershed Partnership

Walton Family Foundation

Upper Gila Watershed Riparian Restoration Project

We are seeking a full-time Plant Propagation Manager who will plan, organize, and manage a new native plant greenhouse facility, shade houses, plantation fields, and coppice fields to be located at the Eastern Arizona College (EAC) Discovery Park Campus, and potentially other locations. The native plants propagated at this facility will be used for riparian restoration efforts in the Upper Gila Watershed. Duties are summarized below. This position works closely with the Project Coordinator and reports directly to the Gila Watershed Partnership (GWP) Executive Director.

Preferred Experience and Education

- Degree with Horticulture major or equivalent experience in botany, soil science, insect disease and weed management
- Prior experience with greenhouse and nursery production
- Familiarity with the native plants of the Upper Gila Watershed
- Expertise in Word and Excel
- Experience with the internet

Salary

Dependent upon experience and is an 18-month grant-funded position. The length of employment may be extended, but it is not guaranteed.

Facility Oversight

- Plan, organize, manage, and coordinate the growth and propagation of native plants in a greenhouse, shade garden, plantation field, and coppice fields.
- Coordinate division of the greenhouse with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and others who will share the greenhouse space.
- Manage and coordinate greenhouse and field crews, including student volunteers and employees from EAC and Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), as well as labor from the correctional institution and the Blake Foundation (developmentally disabled adults).
- Develop job descriptions for the volunteer and other staff and provide training and instruction for their positions.
- Maintain open communication with the parties involved in the construction of the greenhouse, including GWP, EAC, BLM, and the construction manager and crew, to ensure construction is progressing in a timely manner.
- Ensure proper maintenance, safety and function of the greenhouse and other facilities.

Plant Propagation

- Work with scientists, restoration leaders and specialists to identify the optimum plant species mix for propagation.
- Work with scientists, restoration leaders and specialists to optimize native plant production including traditional potted plants, container and bookflat production, longstem, and pole planting configuration.

- Identify local sources for native seeds and plant materials; work with necessary agencies to obtain permits to collect materials
- Identify supplemental outside sources for plant materials to insure optimal restoration practices are followed in a timely manner.
- Establish a seed bank of native species, including but not limited to cottonwood, desert willow, and native grasses.
- Propagate native species from seedling through maturity.
- Propagate tree species from pole cuttings.
- Maintain watering and fertilization schedule appropriate for each species.
- Maintain the plants free from weeds, pests and disease.
- Be accountable for the overall success of the nursery.
- Some heavy lifting and outdoor work under harsh conditions are possible.
- Aid in the transplanting and monitoring of riparian plants once restoration projects begin.

Administration

- Purchase and keep proper inventory of supplies and tools necessary for propagation, and maintain and store these items properly.
- Provide inventory reports and status reports on progress of project.
- Maintain seed collection and propagation records.
- Provide monthly status reports to the Gila Watershed Partnership Project Coordinator.
- Utilize the internet effectively to remain in communication with both the Project Coordinator and other Gila Watershed Partnership personnel.
- Participate in business planning with the Project Coordinator and GWP Executive Director to ensure that the plant material production will become a financially and physically sustainable operation.

Education and Outreach

- Attend periodic meetings, and prepare and present presentations about status and project.
- Direct public or educational tours of the facility as a form of public outreach.
- Serve on committees that may include: the Native Plant Propagation Committee, the Community Outreach Engagement and Education Committee, and the Sustainable Funding Committee.

Please email resume to gilawatershed@gmail.com