

Job Vacancies: Desert Springs Hydrology and Desert Botany Field Crews

Love to explore new places and adventure in the great outdoors? Want to contribute your time and energy to benefit our treasured national parks in the most ecologically diverse desert in the world? If so, apply to be a part of one of the Chihuahuan Desert Network field crews. These positions involve working long days in challenging but beautiful field settings in southeastern New Mexico and west Texas.



The Chihuahuan Desert Network (CHDN) is one of 32 National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring networks nationwide that are implementing vital signs monitoring in order to assess the condition of park ecosystems and develop a stronger scientific basis for stewardship of natural resources across the National Park System. You may learn more about the CHDN and our vital signs monitoring by visiting:

<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/chdn/CHDN.cfm>

Biological Technician Positions:

- GS-0404-05/06 Desert Springs Crew (2 vacancies: 1 Leader, 1 Crew. Both Full Time – Temporary NTE 1039 hrs)
- GS-0404-06 Upland Vegetation and Soils Crew Leader (1 vacancy, Full Time – Term, Subject to Furlough)

Location/Agency: National Park Service, Inventory & Monitoring - Chihuahuan Desert Network.

Office and crews are based in Las Cruces, NM. Field work takes place in national park units located in southeastern New Mexico and west Texas.

Application Window: *Anticipated* to open Wednesday June 11 2014 until at least Tuesday June 17.

Complete position descriptions and requirements as well as application process will be available on www.USAJobs.gov on or around these dates. *Please read the requirements on the announcement carefully to ensure a complete application.*

Salary (2014 Values): Depending upon qualifications, the job grade and corresponding pay ranges are: GS-05 (\$15.15 to \$19.70/hour) and GS-06 (\$16.89 to \$21.96/hour). In addition, employees receive a daily backcountry travel per diem of \$20 for each work day while on travel status. Housing is not provided. Term employees are eligible for coverage under the Federal Employees Retirement System, Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program. Temporary employees are not eligible for coverage.

Anticipated Start Date for Positions: August 25, 2014.

Position Descriptions: *Please review vacancy announcement on www.USAJobs.gov for complete descriptions of position duties and qualifications as well as complete application requirements.*

All field positions work eight 10-hour days followed by six days off while in the field. While traveling for the 8 days, crews often camp in backcountry locations. Upon entrance on duty, individuals must have the ability to hike up to 10 miles a day, off trail, with heavy packs (up to 50 pounds), over extreme terrain, in extreme weather conditions with exposure to thorny plants, biting insects and wild animals all while having fun. All crew members are responsible for applying detailed protocols to collect and organize field data while adhering to quality control standards. Crew lead is additionally responsible for tour/daily logistics of the crew and basic reporting on field effort.



Desert Springs Monitoring involves: locating and documenting spring locations; collecting water quality and chemistry data; quantifying spring discharge and persistence; quantifying aquatic habitat along point-intercept transect; and collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates for external laboratory analysis.

Upland Vegetation and Soil Monitoring involves: establishing and documenting permanent 20m x 50m plots; identifying plants to species along point-line transects and as inventory of 10x20m subplots; identifying morphological classes of biological soil crusts in quadrats; and performing soil aggregate stability tests.

Contact: For more information, job announcement numbers, and how to apply, visit www.USAJobs.gov or contact Julie Christian (CHDN_Coordinator@nps.gov).