



Research Associate
Program



ESR (Post-Fire) Vegetation Monitoring Field Crew Lead

Great Basin Institute and BLM-Idaho, Boise

The vegetation/habitat monitoring program at GBI serves as an excellent professional development opportunity for burgeoning natural resource professionals. This program is a component of our well-established [Research Associate Program](#), which focuses on conservation and management of natural and cultural resources in the Intermountain West. As an element of our vegetation/habitat monitoring program, participants will work cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on post-wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) projects across the region. In accordance with this strategy and through a partnership with the BLM, GBI's vegetation monitoring program is dedicated to providing college graduates and emerging professionals with hands-on survey, inventory, monitoring, and reporting experience in natural resource management.

Description:

In cooperation with the BLM Idaho, Boise District Office, GBI is recruiting one ESR Vegetation Monitoring Field Crew Lead to work cooperatively with BLM ESR Resource Specialists and GBI ESR Monitoring Lead. The Field Crew Lead will direct, supervise, and participate as a field crew member, to gather monitoring data to determine post-fire recovery and effectiveness of post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation efforts. Duties include following established field protocols to conduct vegetation sampling and field data collection on new and existing monitoring sites within Idaho public lands.

Field work for this position includes maintaining safety awareness and practices, navigating off-trail to sampling sites, establishing sampling plots and transects, collecting core indicator data such as line-point intercept, canopy gap, and basal gap intercept as detailed in the Monitoring Manual for Grasslands, Shrubland, and Savanna Ecosystems, Volume 1, Herrick et al. 2015. Vegetation monitoring also includes photo-point monitoring, site assessment observations, native/non-native plant identification, aerial seeding shrub density monitoring, and shrub seedling survival monitoring. During periods of field work camping may be required.

The Field Crew Lead will be responsible for data entry, synthesis and analysis, organizing site assessments and photos on field and government computers, and supervising field technicians in same on field computers. The Field Crew Lead will be responsible for monitoring report preparation in cooperation with BLM ESR personnel and GBI Monitoring Lead.

Additional duties may include assisting BLM Weed Management Specialists with noxious weed inventory, treatment, and monitoring, and collecting and monitoring noxious weed biological control agents. The Field Crew Lead may also assist BLM ESR Resource Specialists and GBI Monitoring Lead with various ESR treatment implementation monitoring.

Location:

These positions are based in the BLM Boise District Office in Boise, ID and the monitoring will take place across public lands managed by the BLM Boise District Idaho. A majority of the field sampling will occur in areas undergoing post-fire recovery and restoration.



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Compensation:

- \$17.00/hour
- \$15.00 Camping per diem
- \$75/week housing stipend

Timeline:

- 25 April - 17 September 2016
- Full-time, 40 hours per week minimum

Qualifications:

Technical requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Life Sciences, such as: Botany, Wildlife Biology, Range Ecology, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Resources or related subject;
- Experience conducting ecological field work;
- Coursework in plant taxonomy and/or systematics (transcripts may be requested);
- Familiarity with native and invasive plants of the sampling area and associated natural resource issues preferred;
- Experience conducting vegetation surveys using various monitoring protocols, including standard rangeland monitoring protocols, photo plots, and site observations;
- Experience identifying plants in the field and using a dichotomous key;
- Experience with data entry and management;
- Ability to read, interpret and navigate using topographic maps;
- Experience creating maps and performing basic functions with GIS software (ArcMap); and
- Experience navigating and collecting coordinates with hand-held GPS units;
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access).

Additional requirements:

- Valid, state-issued driver's license and clean driving record;
- Ability to complete a Department of Interior (DOI) Background Investigation (BI) and submit paperwork to BLM human resources prior to beginning position indicating that an active and fully adjudicated BI has been started or completed;
- Experience operating 4WD trucks on paved and unpaved roads, often in narrow or rocky desert areas;
- Ability to work productively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals;
- Ability to work independently;
- Ability to communicate effectively with team members, agency staff, and a diverse public;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Familiarity with best practices for field safety and low impact principles;
- Experience in and willingness to spend multiple days camping in the field;
- Willingness to work irregular hours (e.g., early mornings, late nights); and
- Ability to work in harsh and rapidly changing environments, work in all types of weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 40 pounds in a backpack, and otherwise maintain good physical condition.



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How to Apply:

Qualified and interested applicants should forward a cover letter, a résumé, and a list of three professional references to RA Recruitment at RArecruitment@thegreatbasininstitute.org. Please write “BLM Idaho ESR Lead” in the email subject line and include where you found this position in your cover letter.

We conform to all the laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans to apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, age, disability status, Genetic Information & Testing, Family & Medical Leave, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit Retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.