

March 7, 2016

Position Title:

Seasonal Field Crew Member in Forest, Vegetation, and Fire Ecology, University of California, Berkeley

Justification/Reason for position:

A seasonal field crew member is needed to assist the field crew leader in conducting vegetation inventory and monitoring projects in support of ecological research on public lands in the Sierra Nevada of California (primarily the Eldorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests). The field crew member will collect technical data on forest stand structure, tree mortality, species diversity, vegetation regeneration, and landscape characteristics at remote field sites, and will assist the crew leader in equipment and data management throughout the season. US Forest Service ecologists and UC Berkeley and UC Davis researchers will supervise the field crew member and leader.

Job Description:

The crew member is responsible for conducting field sampling primarily related to vegetation (e.g. forest stand structure, tree mortality, species diversity, and vegetation regeneration), but also related to forest fuels, soils, hydrology and other ecological parameters. The crew member will assist the crew leader in ensuring that equipment and data are managed properly. Data entry may be required.

The duty station will be in Clovis, CA. Field method, equipment, and safety training will be provided (May 19-21, South Lake Tahoe, CA, campsite provided). Housing will not be provided. During the work week, crews will usually be car camping, with campsites paid for by the employer. Campsites will change periodically depending on duration of work at each site. Some camping will be in unofficial "dispersed" campsites adjacent to remote roads, rather than in campgrounds. These sites lack running water and restrooms. In some limited cases crews may be required to backpack into remote areas for multi-day overnight stays. The crew will be provided with a vehicle but crew members are responsible for their own transportation to and from the duty station at the beginning and end of the work week. Some driving may be on remote and rugged roads.

Specific projects may include: field assessments of the effects of beetle-induced conifer mortality on wildfire severity; pre-treatment red fir stand structure and forest health monitoring; re-measuring fuels and vegetation after salvage logging on the 2013 Rim Fire; re-measuring plots examining conifer regeneration survival and soil temperature on the 2014 King Fire; installing new plots on the 2015 Rough Fire to examine conifer regeneration.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Field Sampling: conduct field sampling of vegetation (forest structure, tree mortality, species diversity, vegetation regeneration) and forest fuels, soils, hydrology, fire severity, and other ecological parameters; examples of possible protocols to be used include Common Stand Exams, Brown's fuel transects, modified point-center quarter methods (80%)

- Data and equipment management: upload and/or file collected data and photos on a daily or weekly basis; download soil temperature data from field sensors, compile and consolidate on USFS computers ; carefully check for missing data or data collection errors before leaving field sites; inventory field equipment on a regular basis and conduct maintenance as necessary; ensure all provided field equipment is accounted for; conduct data entry at an office location, likely using Microsoft Excel or Access (18%)
- Logistics and travel: assist the crew leader in locating remote field sites using topographic maps and handheld GPS units; assist the crew leader as necessary in coordinating logistics of field travel (2%)

Minimum qualifications:

- Upper division college level coursework or equivalent experience in ecology, forestry, range science, or related natural science field
- Experience in identifying trees and shrubs
- Experience in vegetation sampling techniques
- Knowledge of and experience with Microsoft Excel for data entry purposes

Preferred qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in ecology, forestry, range science, or related natural science field
- Excellent organizational skills for data and equipment management
- Experience with standard conifer forest vegetation data collection methods
- Ability to identify California plants to the species level using a dichotomous key
- Experience working with complex data recording equipment
- Experience in use of map, compass, and GPS units for location and travel
- CPR and Wilderness First Aid certified (certification may be accomplished after job offer is made, with registration cost paid by the employer)
- Experience with backcountry camping
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude in physically demanding and/or uncomfortable conditions
- Enthusiasm for the type of work to be conducted
- Valid driver's license
- Experience operating a vehicle on rough roads

Physical Demands:

- Must be in good physical condition
- Ability to hike 5+ miles per day with a heavy pack through difficult and steep terrain often without trails and often in areas burned by wildfire

- Willingness and ability to work in rugged/remote conditions, possibly with overnight stays away from vehicles.
- Ability to work in extremely hot and dry as well as cold and wet conditions
- Must have legible penmanship for recording data in the field

Dates:

Application deadline: March 17

Start date: May 18

End date: Mid-September to mid-October, TBD

Compensation:

\$15 - \$18 per hour depending on experience, plus options for health insurance

To Apply:

Send a cover letter, CV/resume (2 pages maximum), and three references (including name, organization, phone, email, and relationship to you) to Rebecca Wayman at rbwayman@ucdavis.edu, no later than March 17. Please combine all application materials into one pdf for submission and write "Seasonal field crew, UC Berkeley" in the subject line of your email. Thank you for your interest!