

February 16, 2018

Position Titles:

Seasonal Field Crew Leaders and Seasonal Field Crew Members in Forest, Vegetation, and Fire Ecology

Employer:

University of California, Davis

Location:

Multiple duty stations in the Sierra Nevada, California. See below for more details.

Dates:

Application deadline: March 4, 2018

Start date: Mid-May 2018, negotiable

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

Compensation:

\$15.46 - \$21.25 per hour depending on experience, plus health insurance

Position Overview:

Up to three field crews (one crew leader and one to two crew members per crew) are needed to collect ecological data related to forests, vegetation, and wildfire for vegetation inventory and monitoring projects in support of ecological research on public lands. Work will be located in the Sierra Nevada of California, primarily on national forest lands but with some possible work in national parks. The field crew leaders and members will collect technical data on forest stand structure, tree mortality, species diversity, vegetation regeneration, and landscape characteristics at remote field sites. The crew leaders will each supervise a field crew and will be responsible for equipment and data management throughout the season. US Forest Service ecologists and/or UC Davis researchers from the lab of Dr. Hugh Safford will supervise the field crew leaders but will only occasionally accompany the crews during field sampling.

Job Description:

The crew leaders and crew members will conduct field sampling primarily related to vegetation (e.g. forest stand structure, tree mortality, species diversity, vegetation regeneration), but also related to forest fuels, soils, hydrology, forest insects and disease, and other ecological parameters. Data entry may be required. The crew leaders will also be responsible for leading the field sampling, ensuring that equipment and data are managed properly, coordinating scheduling and logistics with the supervisor, and communicating with the supervisor.

There are multiple duty stations for multiple crew leader and crew member positions, all in the Sierra Nevada, California. The anticipated projects assigned to each crew are outlined below, but some changes may be made.

Crew 1: (Crew lead only) Work will be conducted primarily in the southern and central Sierra Nevada. Crew time will be spent on two main projects at three locations. The first project will contribute to a study estimating historical forest conditions, with work in the Sierra de San Pedro Martír National Park in Baja, Mexico and in Yosemite National Park (approximately 3 weeks at each site). The second project (Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Monument) will assess the effects of wildfire on regeneration in giant sequoia groves. Spanish language skills preferred for this position, and applicant must have a valid passport. While housing will be provided at the Baja site and may be available at the other sites, applicants should be comfortable camping for several days at a time when required.

Crew 2: The Central Sierra Ecology Program crew will spend time on the four forests in the Central Sierra Province: the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Tahoe, Eldorado, and Stanislaus National Forests. The crew will conduct sampling to help evaluate management activities and needs. Projects can change throughout the season, however some of the primary projects currently scheduled include: 1) Monitoring effectiveness of conifer removal in high elevation meadows located near Lake Tahoe. Monitoring will involve visiting sites where conifers have been removed and re-measuring plots to evaluate conifer density and vegetation cover. 2) Monitoring pre-thinning mixed conifer stand conditions on the Eldorado National Forests using common stand exam. 3) Establishment of long term vegetation monitoring plots at Babbitt Peak Research Natural Area on the Tahoe National Forest. The RNA was established for Washoe pine and mountain mahogany. 4) Establishment of high elevation whitebark pine stands to inventory and monitor patterns of mortality, regeneration, and recruitment in whitebark pine populations. 5) Additional work may involve vegetation monitoring at red fir stands, and tracking regeneration in post fire landscapes in the King Fire. The duty station is negotiable between South Lake Tahoe and Placerville. Housing may be available, cost paid by employee. Some backpacking work may be available if interested.

Crew 3: The crew will spend about 10 weeks on the Sierra National Forest in the southern Sierra Nevada (North Fork, CA) and 6 weeks in the northern Sierra Nevada on the Plumas National Forest (Quincy, CA). While on the Sierra National Forest, crews will collect baseline data for forest treatments designed to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions (through reducing risk of catastrophic wildfires and other stressors). While on the Plumas National Forest, crew members will collect vegetation and fuels data in monitoring plots established as part of a spotted owl habitat restoration project. The crew will also work closely with tribal crews to identify and monitor rare plant species as part of a restoration project focused on rare plant habitat restoration and enhancement in areas affected by wildfire.

Field method, equipment, and safety training will be provided. Crews will report to their respective duty stations each Monday morning. During the work week, crews will usually be car camping, either in designated campsites (paid for by the employer) or in unofficial “dispersed” campsites adjacent to remote roads. These latter 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 field driving will be on remote and rugged roads.

Required qualifications:

- Crew lead education: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience in ecology, forestry, range science, or related natural science field
- Crew member education: upper division college coursework or equivalent experience in ecology, forestry, range science, or related natural science field
- Experience in conifer forest vegetation data collection methods
- Experience in identifying trees and shrubs
- Experience in backcountry camping
- Experience in use of map, compass, and GPS units for location and travel
- Knowledge of and experience with Microsoft Excel for data entry purposes
- CPR and Wilderness First Aid certified (certification may be accomplished after job offer is made, with registration cost paid by the employer)

Preferred qualifications:

- Experience conducting forestry or ecological field work, preferably in the Sierra Nevada.
- Excellent organizational skills and detail oriented for data management, equipment management, crew management (crew leader only), and planning (crew leader only)
- Ability to take a leadership role and make decisions without input from supervisor when needed (crew leader only)
- Ability to identify California plants to the species level using a dichotomous key (desired for some projects, not required)
- Experience in a variety of vegetation sampling techniques
- Experience working with complex data recording equipment
- 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:

- 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

To Apply (please follow these instructions exactly):

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 9, 2017. Your cover letter must clearly state whether you are applying for crew lead or crew member, which crew(s) you are applying for, and your order of crew preference, if any. Combine all application materials into a single attachment with your last name in the file name and write "Seasonal field crew, UC Davis" in the subject line of your email. Applications not following these instructions will not be considered. Thank you for your interest!