

JOB POSTING

Invasive Species Strike Team Crew (2 positions available)

Do you want to explore and directly protect some of the Desert Southwest's most biologically diverse and ecologically important areas? How about protecting habitat for threatened and endangered species and a wide-variety of cavity-nesting birds that depend on majestic saguaro cacti? KEEP READING!

OVERVIEW

Tucson Audubon, founded in 1949, is an organization with a mission to “inspire people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend.” We work throughout Southeast Arizona to identify threats to birds and wildlife and their habitats, research the most effective approaches to reducing or eliminating those threats, and finally we take action to implement solutions – whether those be ecosystem restoration, species-specific habitat restoration, litigation, or civic engagement. We educate our members and community on the problems and empower them to make an impact by providing concrete actions that they can take in response. Tucson Audubon is a fully independent chapter within the larger Audubon network.

We recently formalized a 5-year partnership to employ an invasive species strike team that will be responsible for invasive plant management (identification, assessment, treatment, monitoring) at a variety of ecologically sensitive and high-priority areas on federal lands managed by agencies initially funding the strike team (US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service – Southwest Invasive Plant Management Team; Saguaro National Park). The team will be utilized by each of the agencies, as well as for outreach and public engagement. As funding and licensing become available, the Crew will also work on Tucson Audubon habitat + ecosystem restoration or conservation research projects unrelated to the Federal Lands funding.

POSITION SUMMARY

Tucson Audubon seeks two members to join our Invasive Species Strike Team. Team members will work under the supervision of the Crew Lead to accomplish invasive species threat assessment, control, and monitoring as directed by Agency partners in some of the most ecologically sensitive areas of the region. Inventory and threat assessment and post-treatment monitoring will involve substantial hiking and use of GPS or app-based data collection. Treatment will include a variety of mechanisms through an IPM approach and will include use of herbicide (primarily backpack sprayers for spot spraying), manual removal, and other means as determined appropriate. Team members will receive training in safe application methods and all applicable laws and regulations and in the use of personal protective gear.

Work will occur in a variety of settings from near urban areas to remote backcountry, will usually consist of 4 10-hour workdays in a week, and will sometimes occur as multi-day hitches to sites further removed from the Tucson base of operations. Work will occur primarily in the field and the applicant must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs while walking up to 5 miles in rugged conditions including extreme heat and freezing winter conditions. Driving in low-light conditions on 4wd and backcountry roads will occur regularly. Additionally this position will work with our Restoration Crew on a variety of projects from urban to rural including habitat creation, stormwater and rainwater harvesting, habitat management, erosion control, species surveys, riparian restoration, and species-specific habitat restoration projects.

Required qualifications

- Proficient in using maps and GPS units
- Experience with computer software including Access/Excel/Word
- Must be well organized, disciplined, and able to multi-task
- Strong social skills and a track record of working positively with people at all levels
- Understanding of and commitment to the organization's mission, goals, and values
- An interest in birds, natural history, and wildlife conservation
- Flexible approach to work and work schedule
- Valid Arizona Driver's License (or ability to secure upon hire)

Preferred qualifications

- Certified Applicator license for herbicides or experience working with pesticides
- Strong knowledge of the biota of the Desert Southwest and northern Mexico
- Experience operating vehicles towing a trailer, tractors, skid-loaders, and other heavy equipment
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency with GIS
- Advanced mechanical skills; small engine repair, computer hardware, etc
- Training/permit-holding/or experience with T&E species surveys
- Experience operating and maintaining chain saws, brush cutters, herbicide spray equipment, mowers, and other power tools
- Experience managing invasive species, preferably those common to southwest arid landscapes

Anticipated Start Date: January 15, 2020

Application Review Begins: December 20, 2019

2 Full Time/Permanent Positions, open until filled.

Compensation \$16.50/hour. Tucson Audubon provides a competitive benefits and PTO package.

To apply, please send a resume/CV with cover letter or any other materials demonstrating what you will bring to Tucson Audubon's Invasive Species Strike Team to both: jhorst@tucsonaudubon.org and to tfigueroa@tucsonaudubon.org.