

Biological Crew Lead

Job title: Biological Science Technician
Series/Grade: GS-0404-05/06
Start Date: 6 June 2022 (with some flexibility)
Position Length: 10 months
Location: Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center
Number of Positions: one



Duties:

Crew lead will work with Ecologists and Range Technicians and oversee work done by Science Aides. Fieldwork is focused on ecological studies with emphasis on response to drought and plant-insect interactions in the sagebrush steppe. Topics of study include studying the long-term effects of grazing on soils and invertebrate communities, investigating the effects of seed predation on restoration success and plant community response to long-term drought. Crew lead will coordinate field and lab crews, collect biological and vegetation specimens and tabulate and quality control data. Twelve-hour days are typical in early summer. Use of 4-wheel drive and UTVs preferred. Crew lead will keep daily records of all work. Familiarity with sagebrush species and ecosystem preferred, as is experience with insect identification.

Requirements: Undergraduate studies in range, soils, wildlife, or other natural resource fields preferred; those with related experience or education will be considered. Must be able to lift objects that weigh up to 50 pounds and kneel/squat for extended periods of time for sample collection. Must have a valid state motor vehicle operator's license and be able to operate motor vehicles. Must be able to work in adverse weather conditions (both heat and cold). Must be able to hike over rugged and steep terrain. Must be at least 16 years of age. Must be a citizen of the United States of America. Good communication skills are a plus.

Specialized Experience is directly related to the work of this position and which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position.

GS-5: Qualifying experience includes one year of specialized experience comparable to GS-04. Specialized experience includes participating in ecological management activities by assisting with biological/plant surveys, identification, treatment of invasive species, management and inventory; weeding, and irrigation of past plantings, or nursery work. Experience in the collection of data, record-keeping, and compiling and summarizing data.

GS-6: Qualifying experience includes one year of specialized experience comparable to GS-05. Specialized experience is the full range of standardized technical assignments used in plant treatment, management, inventory, and monitoring. Use of topographic maps, GIS and/or compass in navigation. Field work for projects related to vegetation management and botany including taking measurements, recording observations, seeding, or planting, and fertilizer treatment. Organizing collections of seed and vegetative materials and insects. Identifying insects. Recording and compiling data for use in analysis and reporting.

Salary: \$17.31 to \$19.29 per hour depending on experience and/or education. Workweek is typically 40 hours but some longer weeks will be expected. Housing potentially provided.

To Apply: Send an email with "Biological Crew Lead" in the title to elsie.denton@usda.gov by 2 May 2022. Email should include: cover letter, ONE PAGE resume, references and college transcripts. List any pertinent classes in rangeland science, botany, soils, wildlife, natural resources, etc.

USDA-ARS is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



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