

Position Announcement: Vegetation Crew Lead(s) - Summer 2024

The U.S. Geological Survey, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center is seeking up to 2 crew leads to conduct vegetation, bumble bee, and environmental DNA surveys in Central Montana. Specific duties include leading a team of 1-2 technicians in navigating to field sites, catching and photographing bumble bees, identifying vegetation (especially flowers) in the field, and using sterile techniques to collect flower samples for environmental DNA. The crew lead(s) will be supervised and directed by a USGS Biologist and/or Research Ecologist but will carry out most fieldwork independently, in teams of 2-3. These will be temporary positions from approximately May through August 2023, with substantial travel throughout the state of Montana.

These will be GG-06/07 positions with an hourly rate of \$21.14 - \$30.54, commensurate on experience. The following minimum requirements must be met by the closing date of the official announcement:

Required Skills and Experience:

1 year and 9 months of field experience (outdoor field work making and recording field measurements for biological science investigations)

OR

4 years experience (work performed in support of field investigations related to the biological sciences that provided knowledge and skills in gathering, recording and assembling scientific data)

OR

4 year of undergraduate level coursework plus 3 months of lab or field work experience. Satisfactory completion of a field course may be substituted for the 3 months of lab or field work experience.

Required Skills and Experience:

- U.S. Citizen or National (including residents of American Samoa or Swains Island)
- Comfortable catching and handling stinging insects
- No known allergies to bees
- Able to hike up to 15 miles per day on uneven or steep terrain with an up to 40 lb backpack
- Comfortable and able to backpack and camp in remote grizzly bear country with unpredictable and/or extreme weather for up to 10 days at a time
- Able to drive long distances (up to several hours at a time), including on unmaintained two-track roads
- Able to work and live in close quarters with little privacy
- Valid U.S. driver's license and safe driving record

Preferred Skills and Experience:

- Successful history of independently leading a team
- Previous experience with and training in identification of flowering vegetation, especially local to Central Montana Rangelands
- Experience netting and/or identifying insects
- Wilderness first aid experience
- Experience driving 4WD vehicles on slick, muddy, and unmaintained two-track roads
- Experience using maps and GPS to navigate to remote field locations
- Interest in plant and/or pollinator biology and/or conservation
- Excellent communication, organization, critical thinking, and troubleshooting skills
- Detail-oriented

Please contact Dr. Erica Gustilo at egustilo@usgs.gov with questions. To express your interest, please send (1) your resume, (2) a cover letter that highlights the required and relevant skills for the position, and (3) the names and contact information for three references to egustilo@usgs.gov no later than **Monday, January 22, 2024**. Please format the subject line of the email as: "*YourLastName* – Crew Lead Interest".