

# HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Job Title:** *Plant Ecology Research Assistant*

**No of Openings:** 2

**Work Schedule:** Usually 10 hrs/day for 4 days a week Mon-Thurs (if agreed upon by employees) or 8 hrs/day for 5 days a week Mon-Fri

**Hours per Week:** 40 hours per week; potential for some part time employment later in the summer or during fall semester (but not required)

**Wage/Salary:** \$13.50 per hour

**Employment Start Date:** June 10, 2019

**Employment End Date:** on or near July 26

**Supervisor:** Dr. Kerry Byrne, Assistant Professor, and NR graduate student Allison Nunes

**Job Description:**

We seek two full time (40 hrs/week) research assistants to participate in two exciting research projects in southern Oregon. More information (and photos) are available on Dr. Byrne's website. Time will be split between two projects:

- (1) Collecting plant demographic data for a Federally Endangered plant species, Applegate's milkvetch that occurs locally in Klamath Falls, OR;
- (2) Collecting data on plant species composition, and above- and below- ground net primary production at sites near Gerber Reservoir, about 1.5 hours East of Klamath Falls.

Shared housing will be provided in Klamath Falls from mid-June through late July, although camping will be required for at least one week at a more remote (no light pollution, making for great for night time star gazing!) field site east of Klamath Falls. Research Assistants will work closely with one HSU graduate student for the entire employment period, along with Dr. Byrne and a Professor from Chico State University. Research Assistants will work on a variety of research tasks (see "Primary duties" below).

*Motivated students may also have the opportunity to participate in independent research projects (for course credit) related to the overall project goals.*

**Primary duties may include:**

- Locating seedlings and reproductive plants within permanently marked plots, and accurately measuring plant characteristics such as length, width, height, number of inflorescences, and reproductive status;
- Accurately identifying plant species in the field and lab;

- Accurately clipping vegetation within permanent monitoring plots;
- Maintenance and repair of field equipment as needed;
- Performing data entry and data QA/QC.

**Qualifications:**

ACADEMIC

- Completion or current student of plant taxonomy, plant ecology, applied natural history & ecology, or equivalent with a B or better, or satisfactory progress if currently taking one of these required courses.

SKILLS

- Attention to detail;
- Ability to work long hours (~10 /day) in hot (sometimes cold) and often uncomfortable field conditions;
- Ability to work as part of a team and independently;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Flexibility to change focus and work on multiple projects at once;
- Ability to use a dichotomous key to identify plants;
- Problem solving.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Basic personal camping equipment (tent, sleeping bag, flashlight) and ability to camp at a field site for 1 – 5 nights at a time.
- Personal vehicle for travel to and from Klamath Falls (mileage reimbursed at the Federal rate).
- Potential interest and availability to continue working on the project during future summers.

**Application Instructions:**

Please submit a resume and brief cover letter. In your cover letter please address the following: (1) career goals and why you are interested in the position; (2) your availability over the summer (and any potential conflicts between June 10 – July 26); (3) previous experience working/spending time outdoors in temperatures 80 -95 degrees; (4) previous experience working and living with a team; and (5) contact information for 2 professional references (one must be an HSU professor) to Dr. Kerry Byrne, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Management, at [Kerry.Byrne@humboldt.edu](mailto:Kerry.Byrne@humboldt.edu).

Applications will be reviewed in the order received.