HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Environmental Science and Management

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

No of Openings: 2

Work Schedule: Somewhat flexible, depending on a schedule decided upon by employees (either 4, 10 hr days per week, 5, 8 hr days per week, or 8, 10 hr days followed by 6 days off).

Hours per Week: 40 hours per week (or 80 hours each two week period) over the summer; potential for part time employment during fall semester for continuing HSU students.

Wage/Salary: $12 - $13 per hour, depending on experience.

Employment Start Date: Must be available to begin full time field work on June 18, but some lab work on campus may be available beginning June 11 (or before).

Employment End Date: On or near July 27 for full time field work, but additional part time work is possible during fall semester.

Supervisor: Dr. Kerry Byrne and a graduate student(s)

Job Description:

Dr. Kerry Byrne seeks 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 her 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.

Housing will be provided in Klamath Falls from mid-June through July, although camping will be required for at least one week at a more remote field site east of Klamath Falls. Research Assistants will work with Dr. Byrne, and 1 - 3 graduate students from HSU and Chico State University during the employment period and work on a variety of research tasks.

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

Primary duties 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 (experience with Microsoft Access a plus)

Qualifications:

ACADEMIC

Completion or current student of Botany, 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 and sometimes uncomfortable field conditions.
Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
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.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Camping equipment and ability to camp at field site for 2-4 nights.
Potential interest and availability to continue working on the project during future summers.

Application Instructions:

Please submit a resume and brief cover letter, with your availability over the summer, including any potential conflicts between June 18 - July 27 to Dr. Kerry Byrne, kb33@humboldt.edu

Applications will be reviewed in the order received, and candidates will be notified by 23 April.