

A last-minute funding decision has opened a summer job opportunity for an undergraduate student or recent (within the last year) graduate. Please announce this opening to eligible students.

A description of the position and the instructions for application follow. Please contact me (information at end of this message) with any questions.

Student Position available with U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Discipline

1. Project Description

The USGS Status and Trends Program's National Park Monitoring Project supports research on priority topics identified by the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program. One priority topic is identifying thresholds, limits of acceptable variation, or management trigger points for ecological parameters being measured by multiple networks within the I&M program. I&M networks monitoring plant community composition in parks in the central U.S. will be using native plant species richness and the abundance of exotic plant species as indicators of ecosystem health. This project will compile information relevant to thresholds and variation in these parameters from published and unpublished sources.

2. Description of Student Services

The student working on this project will compile databases containing information on the richness of native species in the central U.S. grasslands through time and abundance and richness of exotic and native plants in grassland vegetation types similar to those being monitored by central U.S. I&M networks. The student will receive guidance from the project leader on sources of information and instructions on how to compile it, but the student will be responsible for acquiring the data through literature review (reading published papers), investigation of published datasets (usually available on the internet), and possibly direct contact with individual investigators. The student will also plot information in tables and graphs and may aid in the preparation of a proposal for further investigation on the topic. Project leader oversight will be commensurate with the student's experience and education.

3. Required Expertise/Skills

The student must have at least two years of academic experience in biology, with a preferred emphasis on botany or ecology. The student must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel, and experience performing a search and review of primary literature is preferred.

4. Description of Working Conditions:

All work will be performed in an office setting.

5. Principal Duty Station

Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Black Hills Station
Rapid City, South Dakota

Rapid City is a moderately sized city in western South Dakota on the edge of the Black Hills. The area offers opportunities for a variety of cultural and outdoor experiences, with five National Park Service units, the Black Hills National Forest, and the Buffalo Gap National Grassland less than 2 hours drive from the city.

6. Compensation

Compensation is commensurate with the level of education and experience, as follows:

\$13.29/hour for a student with 2-4 years academic experience.

\$14.88/hour for a student who has completed a bachelor's degree in a relevant topic (biology, botany, ecology).

The student is responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. The Government does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Travel away from the duty station is not expected.

7. Work Dates and Duration

Approximately 720 hours of work will be performed. Work dates are mid-May to early September, flexible.

To apply:

By **April 17, 2007**, send

(1) Resume and cover letter that together include the following information

- student's full legal name
- mailing address
- telephone number
- email address
- date of birth
- place of birth
- citizenship and, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status
- education, including descriptions of relevant classes
- work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field

and (2) a copy of the most recent transcript, listing courses taken and the student's overall GPA. In order to qualify at the higher compensation rate, a copy of the student's diploma or a letter from the registrar or advisor proving the award of the bachelor's degree is also required.

Send this information to:

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