Greater prairie-chicken field technician-northwestern Minnesota

Agency
MN Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, University of Minnesota

Location
Field sites across northwestern Minnesota

Job Category
Temporary/Seasonal Positions

Website
http://mncoopunit.cfans.umn.edu/

Salary
$10-12 hourly depending on experience

Start Date
May- Flexible

Last Date to Apply
04/22/2016

Description

The Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Minnesota is looking for one field technician to join a graduate researcher for the 2016 spring-summer field season. The position duties will be to conduct vegetation surveys and verify land-cover classification.

Project description: The objective of this study is to provide a better understanding of the relationship between CRP enrollments (and the resulting landscape) and greater prairie-chicken populations to provide information necessary to plan and manage CRP enrollments to maximize the potential for greater prairie-chicken conservation. The focus of this field work will be to investigate aspects of the relationship between greater prairie-chickens in Minnesota and vegetation
structure and composition in privately and publically managed grasslands that have not been adequately evaluated and have high potential to impact greater prairie-chicken conservation in Minnesota.

The field season will begin mid-May and continue through Mid-August. Work is full-time (40 hours/week) and will be conducted in a variety of weather conditions. Salary will be $800-960/every 2 weeks depending on experience. Transportation and housing will be provided throughout the season, but facilities will vary based on survey location. This will be a 4-month, seasonal position and no other benefits are offered. Technician will be employed through the University of Minnesota.

Qualifications

Candidates for this position should have experience conducting vegetation sampling and identification, be physically fit enough to spend the work day outdoors hiking continuously and carrying equipment to sites, and experience using handheld GPS units. The candidate must possess a passion for natural resources, excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, maintain a positive attitude in a variety of working conditions, and a drive to complete daily projects in a timely manner. Another essential aspect of this position is the ability to conduct fieldwork respectfully and professionally as the technician will work on private property. Previous experience communicating with private landowners is preferred, but not necessary. Surveys may require driving on poorly maintained roads, so ability to operate 4-wheel drive vehicles, a valid and current driver’s license, and a clean driving record is necessary.

Interested applicants should send a brief letter detailing qualifications and interest, resume or CV, and contact information for 2-3 references to Kaly Adkins, adkin118@umn.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately.