Supervisory botanist position with the University of Minnesota

Hello all -

We are hiring a supervisor-level botanist for research assessing burning vs. grazing as management of remnant prairie in western Minnesota for the spring/summer of 2017. Please see the information below for details the position, and for instructions on how to apply.

Best regards,

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Research Scientist
University of Minnesota Monarch Lab

May – September, 2017, with possible extension. Approximately 40 hours per week.

Pay rate - $19/hr (crew leader)
Education requirement: MS or BS + 2 field seasons’ experience in grassland vegetation sampling Initial application deadline: March 31, 2017

INTRODUCTION
Given the obligation to conserve the last remnants of tallgrass prairie, much is at stake when management is applied. The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of the implications of fire versus conservation grazing for managing tallgrass prairie remnants, both for the plant species that are favored, and for the butterflies and bees that these plants support.

Essential Qualifications
- Knowledge of methods, techniques, tools, and equipment used in botanical studies.
- Technical knowledge of plant identification, including the ability to identify many tallgrass prairie grasses and forbs in vegetative form by sight.
- Knowledge of methods for collecting and pressing plant specimens; ability to use botanical keys and herbarium specimens to identify prairie plant species.
- Ability to communicate well both orally and in writing.
- Ability to use geographic positioning systems to locate established points.
- A valid driver's license.
- Field work will require long hours walking and working in open country and frequent bending and occasional lifting and carrying weights up to 20 lbs.
- Work is performed outdoors under variable weather conditions and with
exposure to insects and domestic cattle.

Duties
The incumbent will perform a variety of tasks to gather floristic data necessary to meet the objectives of a retrospective study to determine differences between effects of burning and grazing on vegetation and insects on federal, state and privately-owned remnant prairie habitat. The incumbent will organize field equipment; coordinate and track field work and data collection; collect data according to standard operating procedures; confirm quality of data collected; and alert the supervisor to procedural, technical, and logistical problems. Major duties will include identifying plant species (mostly by sight, including vegetative forms) and recording their presence in plots within pre-determined transects; locating permanent plots with geographic positioning systems; recording data accurately on data sheets; and entering data into spreadsheet files. The incumbent will operate University-owned vehicles. While this position is based at the University of Minnesota, it will involve extensive travel to field sites. The incumbent will be reimbursed for all motel and meal costs while traveling, in addition to the pre-determined hourly salary.

Specific duties include:
1. Prepare for field season (15%). If needed, help project personnel choose sites, record site characteristics, and set up a site monitoring schedule.
2. Summer monitoring (70%). Responsible for supervising undergraduate researcher and surveying sites to assess plant presence and frequency in transects. Record data, help to organize travel between sites and coordinate with insect surveying team members.
3. Data entry and analysis (15%). Clean, compile, and analyze data from summer field collections.

To Apply:
https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs

click the "external faculty and staff applicants" button search for #315501 (researcher 2) We also would like to request a CV, 2 available references to contact, and a cover letter stating why the applicant is interested in the position.

Contact Jen Larson jllarson@umn.edu or Karen Oberhauser oberh001@umn.edu with questions.