Restoration Technician (Entomology) Position

The Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG) is a research group within the biology department of San Diego State University (SDSU) and administered by the San Diego State University Research Foundation. The research emphasis of SERG is on ecosystem dynamics of southern California.

We seek five (5) Restoration Field Technicians to assist with field research directed at the conservation of native species and the management of invasive Argentine ant, Linepithema humile, population on San Clemente Island, a Naval installation on the southern-most of California’s Channel Islands. This position requires a 6 month commitment, July to November.

Primary duties:
(i) utilizing a variety of sampling methods to collect and identify arthropods and (ii) measuring the efficacy and conservation gains of an invasive species management strategy (iii) implementing eradication protocols in wildland areas. This position requires extensive physical labor to conduct management activities, including working with pesticide around heavy equipment, ATVs and helicopters; hand deployment of pesticide over rugged terrain; bending and crouching to perform monitoring and control efforts; and hauling heavy, awkward materials and equipment. Technicians may also contribute to additional projects and duties as assigned.

Technicians need to enjoy working in remote field environments and be able to perform repetitive, labor intensive tasks with sustained accuracy. All work will be conducted on San Clemente Island, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Navy as a test and evaluation site, shore bombardment range, and warfare training grounds. The island is home to a large number of endemic and rare plant, animal and bird species, with an extensive community of biologists, archaeologists and researchers. Applicants should enjoy living as part of a small community and be able to maintain a professional, positive attitude at all times.

Position requirements:
• Ability to repeatedly lift loads of up to 50 lbs throughout the workday
• Experience performing strenuous labor with a high level of physical endurance under a variety of weather and work conditions
• Bachelor’s degree in biology or related field and/or significant relevant experience
• Valid driver’s license and ability to drive 4-wheel-drive-vehicles
• Experience safely operating and maintaining mechanical equipment, hand tools, herbicide/pesticide application equipment, and GPS units
• Ability to work independently or as part of a team
• Ability to safely navigate and work off-trail in steep, rocky, cactus-covered terrain

Compensations:
Salary will be $14.00/hour plus benefits. Room and board will be provided while on San Clemente Island. Work schedule will be 10 days on-island and 4 days off-island. Transportation to and from the island is provided by means of a twin engine 20-seater plane which departs from Naval Base Coronado.
To apply, compile your cover letter, resume and contact information for three (3) professional references in one pdf or Word document and email it to:

Steven Thielking Argentine Ant Project Manager sthielking@sdsu.edu