Shallow Lake & Wetland Monitoring Seasonal Opportunity 2019

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section is seeking two summer monitoring assistants. Assistants will work with Iowa DNR biologists to identify, measure, collect, and record various types of biological, chemical and physical data from shallow lakes and wetlands located in Iowa. The objectives of this project are to assess the ecological condition of these systems related to statewide and federal initiatives to understand and improve water quality. Work will be performed primarily from May through August, with potentially flexible start / finish dates. This work will require extensive travel and overnight stays throughout Iowa most of the summer. Pay will be $12 per hour. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed per State of Iowa travel rules. Successful candidates will be based out of the Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines, Iowa. Start date is somewhat flexible, but is expected to begin in early May and continue through early October.

Duties will include the following related activities:

- Contacting landowners to gain permission to access sites on private land.
- Working in teams to perform rapid site evaluations of wetland and shallow lake sites in Iowa.
- Assisting with the collection and processing of water, sediment and biological samples.

Applicants must:

- Have a good understanding of basic wetland/shallow lake ecology
- Be willing to work as a team.
- Have a valid driver’s license and allow their driving record to be screened upon hiring.
- Be able to use, or learn to use, all equipment related to field sampling work including: 4WD trucks, trailers, ATV and boat operation, canoes, multi-parameter sampling probes, fish nets and any other related hand tools.
- Be able to interpret maps and navigate in a rural landscape.
- Be physically capable of, and willing to work long hours in the field under all types of weather conditions
- Be able to perform moderate physical work such as carrying sampling equipment while walking through marshy areas. Activities include stooping, bending and lifting up to 30 pounds.

Employees will gain valuable work experience in the following ways: 1) learn methods and techniques related to wetland/shallow lake sampling, 2) gain first-hand knowledge of wetlands/shallow lakes and the issues that face them, 3) gain valuable experience communicating with the public and working in teams, and 4) gain a working knowledge of numerous aquatic/upland wildlife and plants species, as well as wetland/shallow lake fish and invertebrates.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, February 1st, 2019

To apply, please send a resume that includes the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references, and a cover letter with available start and end dates, electronically or by mail to:

Brandon Harland – Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
brandon.harland@dnr.iowa.gov
For questions call: (515) 725-8378

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is an EEO/AA EMPLOYER.