2024 Field crew positions in wildfire, forest resilience and prescribed fire monitoring at UC Davis

The lab of Dr. Hugh Safford at UC Davis is looking to hire crew members for a seasonal field crew to collect data on vegetation, forest fuels and prescribed fire monitoring. The work will support CAL FIRE's California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program. The people hired will be part of a 4-person team that travels mostly to forested ecosystems across the state of California to establish monitoring plots and collect pre- and post-treatment data on vegetation and biomass/fuels to quantify the effects of forest treatments including prescribed fire, thinning and mastication. Work may include participation in and observation of prescribed fires, depending on weather, availability, and partner organization invitations. Wildland and/or prescribed fire experience is a plus.

Expected employment period and start date: Up to 1000 hours (5-6 months), starting May 15th to June 1st. Please indicate your earliest start date and availability.

Job Description:
- Conduct vegetation sampling for the establishment and monitoring of forest plots across a range of habitat types. Assist in locating and visiting remote field sites, often in areas burned by wildfire or prescribed fire. Assist in the identification of plant species and carry out measurements of forest stand structure, including characterizing vegetation, tree density, basal area, canopy cover, etc., as well as measurements of landscape condition.
- Data entry and quality control (15% time): On a daily or weekly basis, enter & conduct QAQC on data collected. Data entry/cleaning may occur at office location using Microsoft Excel or Access.

Minimum qualifications:
- Knowledge/experience in ecology, forestry, botany, range science, or related natural sciences
- Experience in vegetation sampling techniques
- Experience in identifying trees and shrubs
- Experience in backcountry camping
- Experience in use of map, compass, and GPS units for location and travel
- Knowledge of and experience with Microsoft Excel for data entry purposes
- Wilderness First Aid certified (may be completed after job offer, with registration paid by UCD)
- Enthusiasm for the type of work to be conducted

Preferred qualifications:
- Wildland Firefighter Type II/Red Card certification
- Advanced knowledge with California flora(Botanist position) & ability to identify plants to species-level in the field with dichotomous key
- Experience in forest vegetation data collection methods
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude in physically demanding and/or uncomfortable conditions

Physical Demands:
- Ability to hike 5+ miles per day with a heavy pack through difficult and steep terrain often without trails and often in areas burned by wildfire
- Ability to work in hot and dry as well as cold and wet conditions

Work environment:
Field method, equipment, and safety training will be provided. Crews will usually be car camping, with campsites paid for by the employer. Some camping will be in unofficial, "dispersed" sites on public lands. Campsites will change periodically depending on duration of work at each site. In some limited cases crews may be required to backpack into remote areas for multi-day overnight stays. Depending on site access and availability, crews work 4-8 day tours with 3-6 days off. The crew is provided with a vehicle but crew members are responsible for their own transportation to and from the duty station (Davis) at the beginning and end of each tour. Some driving may be on remote and rugged roads. Working conditions may be remote and rugged, with possible multi-overnight stays in the backcountry.

Compensation:
Crew members earn $21 - $24/hr* plus limited benefits
*Based on experience & credentials

Apply by the priority deadline of February 16th for full consideration. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

To Apply:
Send CV, cover letter, and contact information for 3 references to Rut Domenech at rutdomenech@ucdavis.edu