

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 seasonal field crew members to conduct vegetation monitoring for the California State Parks Wildfire and Forest Resilience Program. Crew members are part of a 4-person team that travels to participating State Parks on multi-day visits 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.

Expected employment period and start date: ~ 1000 hours (5-6 months), starting April 15th.

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.
- As crew members become adept at protocol, they will be expected to help State Parks counterparts learn data collection techniques.

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:

- Familiarity with California flora & ability to identify plants to species-level with dichotomous key
- Experience in forest vegetation data collection methods
- Wildland Firefighter Type II/Red Card certification
- 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 terrain often without trails and/or 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 are provided with a vehicle but crew members are responsible for their own transportation to and from the duty station 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 \$21 - \$24/hr*; Crew lead \$24-27/hr* plus limited benefits

*Based on experience & credentials

Positions are for immediate consideration, and applications will be accepted until filled.

To Apply:

Send CV, cover letter and contact information for 3 references to Dr. John Williams at jnwill@ucdavis.edu