



COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM Position Announcement

TITLE:	Vegetation Ecology Field Technician - Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands
POSITION TYPE:	Full-time, temporary
NUMBER OF POSITIONS:	1 Technician
WORK LOCATIONS:	Based in Fort Collins, CO. Travel to Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.
PAY RATE:	Technicians \$18-21/hr. Depending on experience and education. ~\$60.00/day per diem when traveling beyond base location. Health insurance, retirement, and sick leave provided.
DURATION:	May 13–October 1, 2024. Dates are approximate.

Summary of Positions

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) is seeking a Vegetation Ecology Field Technician to collect botanical and ecological data throughout the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. Successful applicants will receive training in methods by Botanists and Ecologists from CNHP and will spend the summer applying protocols to gather data in upland and wetland areas on the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. Botanical and ecological data will be collected using standard quantitative methods for collecting vegetation plot data and may also include using NatureServe Core Methodology.

The field technician will work closely with other Botany/Vegetation Field Technicians and Botanist and Ecologists from CNHP over the summer and early fall. Duties include assisting in vegetation surveys, collecting plant specimens, identifying plant specimens, and entering and error-checking data.

The team will be stations in Fort Collins, CO. Field crews will spend 4-8 days in a row in the field, often camping on USFS land away from their base location. The typical hitch schedule during the field season is 8 days on with 6 days off. Teams will travel to Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands to collect data.

Qualifications for All Positions

1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants should be majors (or recent graduates) in biology, botany, wildlife, environmental science, or other related field be able to begin field work in June and work in hot, sometimes adverse conditions. A positive attitude and ability to work well with others is required Experience with plant identification and vegetation sampling preferred, but not required.
2. Coursework in botany, ecology, natural resources environmental science or related field is required. A completed B.S. degree in botany, ecology, natural resources or related field is *preferred*.
3. Field experience collecting scientific data and/or environmental data, specifically vegetation sampling, is preferred. Knowledge of natural plant communities native to Colorado and experience working in grassland ecosystems is a plus.
4. Experience using dichotomous keys and familiarity with the major plant families is required, and knowledge of western flora preferred.

5. Experience with aerial photography, navigating with a topographic map, and use of GPS preferred. Experience with ArcGIS preferred.
6. Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules, travel extensively during the field season, car camp, and hike long distances (up to 6+ miles/day) while carrying a heavy pack (up to 40 lbs) is required.
7. Willingness and ability to work with a positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, rugged terrain, hot or cold weather (30–115° F), mosquitos, and poisonous plants, all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety required.
8. Careful attention to detail and strong written and organizational skills to complete lengthy field forms is required.
9. Experience collecting data electronically using tablets or other devices preferred.
10. Strong oral communication skills for professional interactions with USFS staff and private landowners required.
11. A valid driver's license is required for all positions. Experience driving 4x4 vehicles on rough roads preferred.
12. Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training is preferred.

Reflecting departmental and institutional values, candidates are expected to have the ability to advance the Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

To apply email resume, cover letter, and three references to Brenda Wichmann at brenda.wichmann@colostate.edu.

First consideration of applicants will begin April 2, 2024. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct **background investigations** for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.

Colorado State University is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or pregnancy. Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. The Office of Equal Opportunity is located in 101 Student Services.

