

**Title:** Ecology and Botany Field Technicians – Non-Student Hourly

**Number of Positions:** 6

**Work Location:** Kountze, TX

**Compensation:** \$15-17/hour; \$17.50 per diem; housing provided

**Duration:** ~4 months (approx. Late May through September)

### Summary of Position

Colorado Natural Heritage Program seeks 6 summer field technicians to use their knowledge of botany and ecology to conduct an accuracy assessment of a vegetation map at Big Thicket National Preserve along the gulf coast of Texas. This work entails traveling to remote locations and identifying plant communities based on dominant species using the US National Vegetation Classification system ([www.usnvc.org](http://www.usnvc.org)). Strong botanical skills are necessary. Travel to field sites include a combination of daytrips, short camping trips, and occasional overnight canoe trips.

This position provides an excellent opportunity for botanists/ecologists eager to explore a variety of different ecosystems and learn to use the US National Vegetation Classification standard. Big Thicket National Preserve (BITH) boasts one of the most diverse species assemblage in the world across its 110,000 acres. BITH encompass a variety of ecosystems including longleaf pine savannahs, wet pine flatwoods, embedded saline barrens, and cypress sloughs. These habitats host an abundance or rare and endangered species. The longleaf pine savannahs provide habitat for the federally listed red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Texas trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis*), and tinytim (*Geocarpon minimum*). Wet flatwoods of Eastern Texas provide the perfect ecosystem for an array of interesting species including 36 species of orchids (*Platanthera clavellata*, *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera cristata*, etc.) and carnivorous plants including pitcher plants (*Sarracenia alata*) and sundews (*Drosera capillaris*, *Drosera brevifolia*). After this summer, field technicians will have a deep understanding of mesic woodlands and forests, cypress swamps, and the US National Vegetation Classification standard.

### Duties

1. Work with a partner to navigate to plot locations and determine plant community. Requires ability to reliably identify plants and plant communities of the project area, identify dominant species and community structure, and document presence of exotic or rare species.
2. Reliably locate field plots, safely and efficiently access sites, complete field forms, operate and maintain field equipment, and effectively manage collected data.
3. Enter and maintain data in electronic formats (databases, spreadsheets, GPS, GIS).
4. Thoroughly document all fieldwork using field notebooks, survey forms, maps, GPS, digital tablets, and cameras.

### Minimum Qualifications

1. A bachelor's degree in botany, ecology, natural resources, range management, forestry, or related field. Three years of equivalent field work may be substituted for degree.
2. Knowledge of dichotomous botanical keys and field guides
3. Willingness to work unusual schedules (up to 8 consecutive days followed by 6 days off), possibly canoe multi-day trips, and live in an air conditioned multi-roomed bunkhouse with kitchen and internet in a remote area

4. Good physical condition and ability to work long hours in the field (~10 hours), travel by foot off-trail in rough terrain, work through inclement weather, and exposure to noxious plants and animals
5. Careful attention to detail in collecting data
6. Comfort and familiarity with the use of tablets
7. Experience or familiarity with the use of GPS

#### **Desired Qualifications**

1. Familiarity with flora of the eastern Texas
2. Experience collecting vegetation and environmental data in the field
3. Experience with US National Vegetation Classification
4. One year experience of species identification, community classification, or habitat typing
5. Experience using canoes on large rivers
6. Experience working in hot humid conditions

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

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**Applications will be accepted until all positions have been filled or through May 30, 2019, whichever comes first. To apply send resume, cover letter, and three references (with phone #'s), to Tom Baldvins at [Tom.Baldvins@colostate.edu](mailto:Tom.Baldvins@colostate.edu)**

References will not be contacted without prior notification of candidates.

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.

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