COLORADO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Position Announcement

**TITLE:** Riparian botanist technician for stream monitoring fieldwork

**POSITION TYPE:** Full-time, temporary

**NUMBER OF POSITIONS:** 2 Riparian Botanists

**WORK LOCATIONS:** Multiple locations throughout Wyoming

**PAY RATE:** $16.00–$19.00, depending on experience and position. $42.50/day per diem when traveling beyond base location. Health insurance provided.

**DURATION:** June–September/early October 2021

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**Summary of Positions**

In partnership with the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) is seeking experienced Riparian Botanists to assist in the implementation of BLM’s Lotic Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) initiative as well as the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of stream channels and streamside vegetation. Successful applicants will be trained in the methods by ecologists from CNHP and BLM and will spend the summer applying those protocols in stream reaches in Wyoming to assess the riparian vegetation. **All Technicians must be available for the weeklong training (dates to be announced).**

Two riparian botanists will be hired. Each botanist will be part of a 3-person crew consisting of one botanist and two stream technicians that will work collectively to carry out aquatic and riparian sampling. The teams will work closely with Wyoming BLM Staff and CNHP Ecologists. Crews will spend 6-8 days in a row in the field, often camping remotely on BLM land. Data collection will include water quality sampling, stream habitat data, and benthic macroinvertebrates. Field protocols can be found here: [https://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lotic_FieldProtocolForWadeableSystems_TR1735-2.pdf](https://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lotic_FieldProtocolForWadeableSystems_TR1735-2.pdf)

**Riparian Botanist** positions will be responsible for vegetation sampling along streams. They will need to key all riparian vascular plants found along the streambank to the species level either in the field or in the office after sampling. They will collect vouchers of unknown species and track all unknowns from multiple sites over a sampling hitch. The riparian botanist will also be responsible for collecting data on the intensity of grazing impact to the streambank and riparian vegetation following defined protocols.

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**Qualifications for Riparian Botanists**

1. Coursework in botany, ecology, wetland science, natural resources, range management, or related field **required** for all positions. A completed B.S. degree is preferred.
2. Field experience collecting scientific data, specifically vegetation sampling, is **required**.
3. Ability to identify riparian graminoids, forbs, shrubs and trees to species using dichotomous keys is **required** for all positions. Good familiarity with riparian species and commonly accepted plant nomenclature in the Rocky Mountain West is preferred.
4. Experience with aerial photography (Google Earth), navigating with a topographic map, and use of GPS is preferred.

5. Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules, travel extensively during the field season, share living quarters, car camp, and potentially backpack and hike long distances (up to 10 miles / day) while carrying a heavy pack (up to 40 lbs) is required.

6. Willingness and ability to work with a positive attitude in field conditions that include exposure to inclement weather, rugged terrain, hot or cold weather (30–110° F), mosquitos, and poisonous plants, all while maintaining a strong commitment to team safety is required.

7. High degree of comfort wading in all types of streams including those with slick rocks, boulders, fast water, cold water, deep mud, and log jams is required.

8. Careful attention to detail and strong written and organizational skills to complete lengthy field forms is required for all positions. Experience collecting data electronically using tablets or other devices is preferred.

9. Strong oral communication skills for professional interactions with BLM staff and private landowners is required.

10. A valid driver’s license is required for all positions. Experience driving 4x4 vehicles on rough roads preferred.

11. Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training preferred for all positions.

Applicants from Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and other underrepresented groups in the field of conservation are strongly encouraged to apply. CNHP and CSU are committed to building diversity and inclusion in natural resources; applicants should be comfortable engaging in this work.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we at CNHP and CSU take it very seriously and continue to implement and adjust our COVID-19 safety plan to protect the health and safety of our employees and the communities in which we work.

To apply email resume, cover letter, and three references (with phone numbers) to Janet Miller at Janet.Miller@colostate.edu.

First consideration of applicants will begin January 4, 2021. Applications will continue to be accepted until all positions are filled or until April 30, 2021, whichever comes first.

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.