

**Part-time Position Available – Contingent on Funding and start/end date approximate and subject to change.**

**Position:** Sonoran Desert Network vegetation mapping technician

**Salary Rate:** \$15.00/hr.

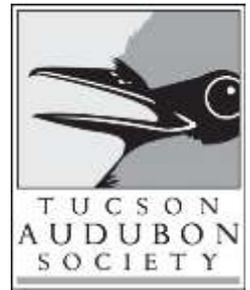
**Full time:** 40 hrs./week as 8 x 10hr days followed by 6 days off. Often on a Wed-Wed schedule (flexible)

**Position Term:** 22 weeks contingent on funding

**Start Date:** March, 2018

**End Date:** August, 2018 (approximate date)

**Benefits:** Temporary Staff Benefits of Earned Sick Pay and Paid Holidays. No other benefits available



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Patti Caldwell  
Interim Executive Director

**Project Objectives:**

This project will take place at Saguaro National Park, Rincon Mountain District as part of a NPS vegetation inventory effort. The chosen incumbent will serve as a biological field technician conducting community-level vegetation surveys in support of the National Park Service (NPS) and Tucson Audubon Society (TAS) collaboration that addresses connecting people to parks. This position is critical to the completion of the final map accuracy assessment phase of the project. The incumbent will work as part of a team to complete an intensive park-wide survey during the 2018 field season. The incumbent will collect data that will contribute to Saguaro NP's knowledge about their natural resources.

The position will be stationed at the Sonoran Desert Network (SODN) office in Tucson, AZ and will be required to work under the technical supervision of the SODN vegetation ecologist.

**Duties of the Position:**

In the field

- Collect species-level plant data, on all common and uncommon perennial Sonoran Desert plants.
- Identify plants to species by sight using existing knowledge of the local flora.
- Identify plants to species using technical floras, plant keys and other resources.
- Record data using scientific (latin) names and codes.
- Work as part of a two-person team, effectively communicating and sharing duties.
- Conduct vegetation and landscape assessments according to strict written operating procedures.
- Be familiar with and apply plant community concepts such as lifeform diversity, dominance, relative abundance, characteristic species or indicator species to areas being surveyed.
- Perform ocular estimates of species canopy cover within the survey area.
- Collect spatial data using tablets and/or GPS units following specific protocols.
- Navigate extensively off-trail in the rugged backcountry of Saguaro NP. Incumbent will work in extreme heat, dryness and/or cold situations.

- Work in the backcountry for up to 8 days at a time, with 6 days off between trips. Camping is required during these 8-day periods.
- Some campsites will require hauling water from nearby water bodies (springs and pools) then filtering it before using to drink or cook with.
- Carry a backpack weighing up to 50lbs.
- Work for 10 hours per day, combining up to several kilometers of hiking per day.
- As part of a team, organize and successfully execute 8-day backpacking trips, including packing work equipment, making meal plans, packaging food, dropping gear to the mule packer (as needed) and office preparations for data collection (readying GPS, datasheets, tape, camera's etc.).

#### In the office

- Perform basic data management activities such as scanning data sheets, downloading and renaming photos, filing data, data entry into an Access database, cleaning and organizing equipment, vehicle safety/maintenance checks.
- Reports salient summaries of completed work using verbal and/or written communications to the SODN ecologist and lead bio-tech.
- Prepares gear for upcoming backcountry trips

#### Basic Qualifications:

- Experience conducting fieldwork in backcountry situations. Proven record of safe and efficient work that ensures data meet professional standards.
- Some experience collecting cover data using either quantitative or qualitative plant cover estimates.
- Some experience recording data using scientific names and utilizing technical references to assist in plant identification.
- Strong plant identification skills with *an existing knowledge* of plants common to the desert southwest USA (AZ, NM, CA, UT). Local (Southern AZ) plant identification experience is a plus.
- Camping experience and some backpacking experience.
- Ability to hike for up to 8 hours per day, for several days in a row, in extremely hot and rugged environs, while carrying a 25-35lb pack.
- Ability to be away from home on travel for up to 8 consecutive days.
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Basic computer skills in MS office.
- Detail oriented and well organized
- Skill in working in a team environment and building successful relationships with colleagues.

#### Physical Demands/Work Environment:

Saguaro NP Rincon Mountain District covers over 66,947 acres of primarily rugged wilderness. Elevation ranges from ~3,000' up to 8,666' over around 10 miles distance. The park is a complex desert environment that is comprised of diverse plant and animals including many species of cacti, snakes, bees, scorpions, lizards and tarantulas. Temperatures range from 30 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit across elevations and times of the

year. The park is located at the eastern edge of the city of Tucson, Arizona. As such, the park is adjacent to all the services afforded by a large city. Nearby national forests and other NPS units offer many recreational opportunities.

**Term**

This will be 22 week position, contingent on funding, with start date anticipated for March 2018 and end date will be August 2018.

**Compensation**

Salary: Full time (40 hrs./week); \$15.00/hour through the Term above.

Status: Temporary employee contingent on funding

Benefits: This temporary position is not eligible for medical or dental benefits.

Leave: This position is not eligible for PTO (paid time off.)

Holidays: This position is eligible for Holiday pay

Retirement: This position is not eligible for retirement benefits

Sick Pay: This position is eligible for accrued sick pay

**Reporting/Contacts**

Data analysis and reports should be submitted to (These are also your contacts at each organization):

Sarah Studd - Sarah\_studd@nps.gov

National Park Service

Jennie MacFarland – [jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org)

Jennie is overseeing Survey projects and is administrative contact for Tucson Audubon Society and will co-approve timesheets and check requests submitted.

Please send resume and cover letter to [jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org](mailto:jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org)