

**Seasonal Position Available – \*\*Contingent on funding and start/end dates approximate and subject to change.\*\***



**Position:** Pima County/National Park Service - Biological Field Technician (Vegetation Monitoring)

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

**Full time:** 40 hrs/week; 10 hour work days, 7 am-5 pm. Work schedule will vary depending on sites being visited.

In Backcountry or remote Parks: Wed-Wed, 8 days consecutive, then 6 days off;

Otherwise: usually Mon-Thurs.

**Position Term:** Temporary - 20 weeks, contingent on funding; possibility of extension

**Start Date:** July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**End Date:** December 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 (approximate date)

**Benefits:** Temporary Staff Benefits of Earned Sick Pay and Paid Holidays only. Not eligible for dental, medical, or retirement benefits. Although the incumbent will be working under NPS supervision, the position does not contribute towards time in federal service or accrue federal leave/benefits. **\*\*No housing is available\*\***

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Jonathan Lutz  
Executive Director

**Project Objectives:**

This project will take place across Tucson-area Pima County property holdings as well as multiple National Park units in southern Arizona, as part of ongoing vegetation monitoring efforts. The chosen incumbent will serve as a biological field technician assisting with conducting detailed quantitative vegetation sampling in support of a Pima County, Sonoran Desert Network (National Park Service), and Tucson Audubon Society (TAS) collaboration that addresses connecting people to parks. This position is a critical component to the completion of the second year of monitoring on Pima County lands and NPS units. The incumbent will work as part of a team that will sample over 70 permanent monitoring sites during the 2018 field season, collecting data that will contribute to land managers' knowledge of natural resource condition and trends.

The position will be based out of the Sonoran Desert Network (SODN) office in Tucson, AZ, and will work under the technical supervision of the SODN vegetation ecologist. Daily office/field supervision will be given by the NPS crew lead bio-technician and/or assistant NPS crew lead.

**Duties of the Position:**

In the field

- Serve as a biological field technician (GS-05 equivalent), assisting with field data collection.
- Conduct vegetation line-point intercept and frequency measures, and landscape/soil/biological crust assessments, according to specific protocols/procedures.
- Learn to 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 four person team, effectively communicating and sharing duties.

- Collect spatial data using tablets and/or GPS units.
- Hike extensively off-trail in the rugged backcountry of multiple southern AZ national parks, including Saguaro National Park, Chiricahua National Monument, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.
- Incumbent will work in extreme heat (up to 110° F/43° C), monsoonal storms, and very dry and/or cold situations.
- Carry a backpack weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Work for 10 hours per day, combining several hours driving and up to 10 kilometers of hiking per day.
- As part of a team, assist with organizing and executing multi-day backpacking trips, including packing personal/work gear and preparing gear for field data collection.

#### 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 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:**

- Demonstrable experience collecting scientific data in the field, with a strong interest in learning to identify plants and vegetative communities.
- Skill operating in a team environment and building effective working relationships with colleagues.
- Some experience conducting fieldwork in backcountry situations, with strong attention to safety.
- Willingness to learn to use a GPS Unit/tablet for backcountry off-trail navigation.
- Experience backcountry camping with few amenities, and some backpacking experience.
- Ability to hike several hours per day, for up to 8 days in a row, in extremely hot and rugged environs, while carrying a 25-35 lb pack.
- Willingness 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.
- Strong ability to be flexible and adaptable to changing plans and conditions.

#### **Work Environment/Physical Demands:**

This position is based out of the Sonoran Desert Network offices, located at the very eastern edge of Tucson, AZ (greater population 1 million +). Tucson has all the amenities typical of a large city, including a wide variety of supermarkets, restaurants and bars, museums, and other entertainment possibilities. Short term housing in Tucson can be readily available and affordable. Nearby outdoor recreational areas such as Coronado National Forest offer high altitude refuge from the summer heat.

The 2018 SODN vegetation crew field season will entail installing at least 20 monitoring plots in the vicinity of Tucson, as well as traveling to 7 national parks throughout southern AZ for plot revisits. Installing local Pima County plots will typically entail day trips, while traveling to parks will involve backcountry backpacking trips

(Saguaro National Park), front country camping (Chiricahua NM and Fort Bowie NHS), and staying in shared park housing (Organ Pipe cactus NM and Coronado NMem). Given the wide area covered, field work will take place over an elevational gradient ranging from valley bottom creosote flats (~1,500') to mixed coniferous forest (8,000'+). Field conditions can include excessive heat, monsoonal thunder and lightning storms, and very dry environs. Most hiking to and from plots is off-trail, and will oftentimes involve very steep and unstable terrain, no-shade environments, and bushwhacking through dense vegetation, all while carrying up to 30 lb backpacks. The Sonoran desert in general is home to an amazingly diverse variety of flora and fauna, which does include cacti and other armored plants, venomous snakes and reptiles, scorpions, tarantulas, and Africanized bees, which are all encountered with varying degrees of frequency.

Installing some Pima County plots, and trips to border parks (Organ Pipe, Chiricahua, Coronado National Memorial), will find the crew operating on or close to the US/Mexico border. Due to proximity of the international boundary, the possibility exists of encounters with unauthorized border crossers and/or law enforcement response personnel.

### **Contacts**

\*\*\*\*\*Submit resume and cover letter to:\*\*\*\*\*

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