

The Nature Conservancy

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Fire Science Specialist
SUPERVISOR: Director of Conservation Programs
LOCATION: Santa Fe, New Mexico
DATE: August 4, 2003
JOB NUMBER/TITLE: 6016/Science Specialist I
FLSA STATUS: Exempt

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The Fire Science Specialist provides technical and scientific support in the development of fire management plans and conservation initiatives involving the restoration of fire to fire-adapted ecosystems. The Fire Science Specialist is responsible for:

- Assisting with research design, research and data analysis, and presentation of results related to fire ecology, fuels management, and fire effects.
- Synthesizing information from a variety of sources to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of using prescribed fire and/or other fuel management techniques to restore ecosystem processes and function
- Assisting in the planning and implementation of assessments of the impacts of fire suppression, other land management activities and wildfires on vegetation structure and composition
- Coordinating fieldwork, developing data sets including spatial data sets, summarizing and presenting results in support of collaborative, fire management planning at local and regional scales
- Assisting with the development of qualitative and quantitative ecological models in order to evaluate the impact of fire suppression, prescribed burning and alternative fuel management scenarios on vegetation structure/composition and fire risk.
- Assisting in the planning and implementation of ecological restoration projects in northern New Mexico in collaboration with federal agency and Nature Conservancy staff.

Professional position exempt from the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This is a full-time, limited term position that is funded by a federal government award. Funding for this position is available for a 1-year period although the position may be extended beyond this period if additional funding is received.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS:

- Bachelors degree in natural science or related field and 2 to 3 years related experience or equivalent combination; M.S. degree with field experience preferred.
- Knowledge of species, natural communities, ecosystems, and ecosystem processes including fire. Familiarity with the native and non-native flora of the southwestern US preferred.
- Ability to express ideas clearly and concisely in oral, written and graphic form. Able to assemble, organize and manipulate scientific data, to conduct analyses, and to report findings cogently on complex technical issues.
- Experienced in MS Office, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Geographic Information Systems technology (ArcView 3+) or willingness to learn technology and incorporate into daily work. Possess database management skills with ability to produce reports. Ability to use advanced computer functions including navigating the Internet. Familiarity or willingness to learn/use statistical analysis and vegetation modeling software.
- Ability to work collaboratively with federal and state agency partners or a related skill set.
- Ability to organize time, manage diverse activities, and meet deadlines.

COMPLEXITY/PROBLEM SOLVING:

- Analyze situations, evaluate alternatives and implement solutions.
- Interpret guidelines and analyze factual information to adapt or modify processes in response to changing circumstances.

DISCRETION/LATITUDE/DECISION-MAKING:

- Exercise independent judgement. Work affords significant opportunity to act independently on assigned tasks.
- Duties are performed under minimal supervision.

RESPONSIBILITY/OVERSIGHT –FINANCIAL & SUPERVISORY:

- Supervises no staff but may plan and direct the work of volunteers or interns.

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERPERSONAL CONTACTS:

- Communication and presentation skills; ability to persuasively convey the mission of TNC to diverse groups including the public, agency personnel, and others.
- Ability to make alliances and gain support of others over whom there is no supervisory authority.
- Ability and willingness to work in a team setting.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL EFFORT:

- Frequent travel, adverse working conditions in remote locations, long hours and possible weekend work.
- Capacity to handle complex tasks under pressure and under stringent time constraints.
- Ability to work in variable weather conditions, remote locations and often in physically demanding circumstances. Valid driver's license and safe driving record.

Please send cover letter and resume to:

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