

6-8 STUDENT FIELD & LAB ASSISTANT POSITIONS

Project: Vegetation Mapping of the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion

Faculty: Dr. Lucy Kerhoulas (Forestry), Dr. Rosemary Sherriff (Geography), & Dr. Erik Jules (Biology)

Duration: 14 weeks: May 13 – August 14, 2024

Hours:

Field Techs: 40 hours a week (full-time) generally worked in 10-hr shifts

Lab Techs: 20 hours a week (part-time)

Wage: \$18/hr; if work overtime in field as 10-hr shifts, totals to \$20/hr

Location: Based out of Arcata, CA with fieldwork throughout the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion

Bonus: Potential to work 10 hours per week through the Fall semester

Job Descriptions:

Field Techs (4): We are looking for four motivated research assistants to help graduate students with fieldwork and associated lab work this summer, and possibly through the Fall semester. This project is a collaboration with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and aims to extensively map vegetation in the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Fieldwork will entail navigating to plots, hiking through rugged terrain, identifying plants, collecting a variety of vegetation data and samples, and various other lab-related tasks (e.g., data entry, gear maintenance, plant identification, herbarium mount preparations). Field assistants will work closely with graduate student crew leaders who will coordinate and organize day-to-day activities. Rental vehicles and fuel expenses will be covered for all work-related travel. These positions will be based out of Arcata, CA, with overnight camping in the Klamath Mountains throughout the work week. We will provide training for specific data collection methods, though experience taking standard botanical surveys is preferred. This work will likely involve backpacking to remote locations.

Lab Techs (2-4): We are looking for two motivated research assistants to help scan field data sheets and enter vegetation data for ~6,000 EcoPlots that were surveyed in the 1980s and 1990s in the Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Mendocino National Forests. Each student will work 20 hours per week on this task. These students should be well organized, reliable, have a high attention to detail, and enjoy computer work. Additionally, we are looking for one to two research assistants to help enter vegetation data (e.g., species lists) and process herbarium voucher specimens as they are collected throughout the summer; this work will likely take up to 20 hours per week for one or two students.

Desired Qualifications:

General

- Attention to detail, strong work ethic, and ability to follow protocols
- Current student or recent graduate
- Grade point average of 3.0 or greater

Field

- Enthusiasm, ability to go with the flow (there are lots of unknowns with this work), and a positive attitude
- Ability to work well with others in remote field settings for extended periods of time
- Ability to hike long distances in rugged terrain with a heavy backpack (30-40 pounds)

- Ability to work long days under physically challenging conditions (e.g., heat, steep slopes)
- Ability to navigate using maps and GPS
- Prior field/research experience outside of the classroom (volunteer or paid)
- Experience identifying plants and ability to use a dichotomous key (i.e., The Jepson Manual)
- Experience camping and ideally backpacking
- Wilderness First Aid or other related medical training, or willingness to take a course this Spring
- Access to basic personal camping equipment (e.g., tent, sleeping bag, backpack, flashlight)
- Ability to camp multiple nights in a row (might work four days on / three days off or eight days on / six days off)
- Valid driver's license and agreement to complete Defensive Driver Training prior to job start
- Desired coursework: Plant Taxonomy, Plant Ecology, Applied Natural History & Ecology, Wildland Plant Communities, geospatial analysis (or equivalents)

To Apply: Email (as a single PDF or Word document): 1) a brief letter of interest (clearly state relevant education, experience, and interest in the position), 2) your resume (including GPA and complete contact information), and 3) the names and contact information of two references to Lucy Kerhoulas (lucy.kerhoulas@humboldt.edu) by **February 19th**. We are committed to hiring students that reflect the diversity of the residents of California and the students at Cal Poly Humboldt.