

From: Amy Gladding
Subject: Positions on Ecological Field Monitoring Crews, BLM, Needles, CA

Ecological Field Monitoring Leads

<http://crcareers.thegreatbasininstitute.org/careers/careers.aspx?rf=ECOLOG&req=2016-RAP-133>

The ecological monitoring program at GBI serves as an excellent professional development opportunity for burgeoning natural resource professionals looking for experience in botanical, soil, and rangeland surveys. This program is a component of our well-established Research Associate Program, which focuses on the conservation of natural resources in the Intermountain West. As an element of this program, participants will implement the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) national Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) strategy, which is targeted at collecting standardized inventory and long-term ecological data at multiple scales across western public lands. In accordance with this strategy and through a partnership with the BLM, GBI's ecological monitoring program is dedicated to providing college graduates and emerging professionals with hands-on survey, inventory, monitoring, and reporting experience in natural resource management.

This video highlights the BLM AIM strategy for landscape-scale data capture across the western states.

Description:

In partnership with the BLM California Desert District, GBI is recruiting Field Leads to work with agency staff, GBI staff, and GBI Ecological Field Monitoring Technicians. Each Field Lead will coordinate a field crew (one Lead and two Technicians) to characterize vegetation using the AIM protocol.

Duties include following established field protocols to conduct vegetation sampling and field data collection on new and existing monitoring sites. Field data will be used by BLM Natural Resource Specialists to inform decisions regarding solar energy installations and other land management issues of the area. During periods of field work, camping for consecutive days will be required.

Field work will include:

- Maintaining safety awareness and practices;
- Navigating off-trail to sampling sites;
- Establishing sampling plots and transects;
- Identifying and describing soil horizons;
- Collecting vegetation data (including species inventory, foliar cover, canopy gap, and herbaceous and woody heights); and
- Taking photo-points.

Additional duties include:

- Regular communication with GBI support staff and agency staff;
- Participation in GBI and agency trainings;
- Entering data into and managing an Access-based database;
- Identifying plants to species using dichotomous keys;
- Employing extensive QA/QC data checks; and
- Leadership:

- o Supporting and managing a field crew;
- o Coordinating field logistics and scheduling; and
- o Report writing and completing administrative paperwork

Location:

The crew will be based out of the Needles, CA BLM field office. The sampling will take place on the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone (RESEZ) and the Chemehuevi areas within the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office and the Needles Field Office of the BLM California Desert District.

The jurisdiction of the Palm Springs/South Coast Field office includes BLM lands within four counties of southern CA – Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Diego, comprising a wide range of habitats and geography, and diverse plant and animal populations. The Needles Field Office oversees 3.6 million acres of public lands and 1.4 million acres of wilderness in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of southeastern California. There are 18 individual Wilderness Areas within the NFO, which represent more acres of wilderness than any other BLM field office (21% of all BLM wilderness acreage). There are numerous opportunities to recreate within the study region and surrounding areas (Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Red Rocks/Mount Charleston, and the southern Sierras).

Compensation:

- \$1,360 bi-weekly salary
- \$15 Camping per diem
- Paid holidays and personal leave
- Paid health insurance (medical, dental, and vision)
- Housing stipend

Timeline:

- 13 February – 21 April, 2017 (10 weeks) (Duration of position is contingent upon funding.)
- Possibility of extending to similar position in other BLM locations throughout the West (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, or Utah)
- Full-time, 40 hours per week minimum

Qualifications:

- Leadership experience, including supervising crews and managing projects simultaneously.

Technical requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Life Sciences, such as: Botany, Wildlife Biology, Range Ecology, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Resources or related subject;
- Coursework or equivalent experience in plant taxonomy and/or systematics;
- Experience identifying plants in the field and using a dichotomous key;
- Familiarity with native and invasive plants of the Mojave and Colorado Desert and associated natural resource issues preferred;
- Experience in describing and identifying soil horizons;
- Experience conducting plant surveys using various monitoring protocols, including standard rangeland monitoring protocols, photo plots, and site observations;
- Experience with data entry and management;
- Experience with technical writing and/or producing written project summary reports;
- Ability to read, interpret and navigate using topographic maps;
- Experience safely operating 4WD trucks on paved and unpaved roads, often in remote areas

on unimproved roads;

- Experience navigating and collecting coordinates with hand-held GPS units;
- Experience creating maps and performing basic functions with GIS software (ArcMap); and
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Access).

Additional requirements:

- Willingness and ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic setting, and to consistently enact high performance standards and a strong work and team ethic in support of the goals and objectives of the AIM program and the mission of GBI;
- Valid, state-issued driver's license and clean driving record;
- Ability to complete a Department of Interior (DOI) Background Investigation (BI) and submit paperwork to BLM human resources prior to beginning position indicating that an active and fully adjudicated BI has been started or completed;
- Ability to work productively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals;
- Ability to work independently;
- Ability to communicate effectively with team members, agency staff, and a diverse public;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Familiarity with best practices for field safety and Leave No Trace principles;
- Experience in and willingness to spend multiple days camping in the field;
- Willingness to work irregular hours (e.g., early mornings, late nights); and
- Ability to work in harsh and rapidly changing environments, work in all types of weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 40 pounds in a backpack, and otherwise maintain good physical condition.

How to Apply:

Please visit our employment web page to apply directly through our online portal:

<http://crcareers.thegreatbasininstitute.org/careers/careers.aspx?rf=ECOLOG&req=2016-RAP-133>

We conform to all the laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans to apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, age, disability status, Genetic Information & Testing, Family & Medical Leave, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit Retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.

AmeriCorps Ecological Field Monitoring Technicians

<http://crcareers.thegreatbasininstitute.org/careers/careers.aspx?rf=ECOLOG&req=2016-ACI-033>

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Land Management (BLM) national Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) strategy, which is targeted at collecting standardized inventory and long-term ecological data at multiple scales across western public lands. In accordance with this strategy and through a partnership with the BLM, GBI's ecological monitoring program is dedicated to providing college graduates and emerging professionals with hands-on survey, inventory, monitoring, and reporting experience in natural resource management.

This video highlights the BLM AIM strategy for landscape-scale data capture across the western states.

Description:

In partnership with the BLM California Desert District, GBI is recruiting four field technicians to work with agency staff, GBI staff, and GBI Ecological Field Monitoring Leads. Each Field Technician will work in a field crew (one Lead and two Technicians) to characterize vegetation using the AIM protocol.

Duties include following established field protocols to conduct vegetation sampling and field data collection on new and existing monitoring sites. Field data will be used by BLM Natural Resource Specialists to inform decisions regarding solar energy installations and other land management issues of the area. During periods of field work, camping for consecutive days will be required.

Field work will include:

- Maintaining safety awareness and practices;
- Navigating off-trail to sampling sites;
- Establishing sampling plots and transects;
- Identifying and describing soil horizons;
- Collecting vegetation data (including species inventory, foliar cover, canopy gap, and herbaceous and woody heights); and
- Taking photo-points.

Additional duties include:

- Regular communication with GBI support staff and agency staff;
- Participation in GBI and agency trainings;
- Entering data into and managing an Access-based database;
- Identifying plants to species using dichotomous keys; and
- Helping to employ extensive QA/QC data checks;

Location:

The crew will be based out of the Needles, CA BLM field office. The sampling will take place on the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone (RESEZ) and the Chemehuevi areas within the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office and the Needles Field Office of the BLM California Desert District.

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office (21% of all BLM wilderness acreage). There are numerous opportunities to recreate within the study region and surrounding areas (Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Red Rocks/Mount Charleston, and the southern Sierras).

Compensation:

- \$3,820 Living Allowance
- \$1,221.96 AmeriCorps Education Award*
- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual
- \$15 Camping per diem
- Paid holidays
- Paid health insurance (medical, dental and vision)
- Housing stipend

*AmeriCorps Education Award may be used for past, present or future education experiences, including payment of qualifying federal student loans. Loan forbearance and accrued interest payment on qualifying student loans is also available.

Timeline:

- 21 February – 14 April 2017 (8 weeks) (Duration of position is contingent upon funding.)
- Possibility of extending to similar position in other BLM locations throughout the West (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, or Utah)
- Full-time, 40 hours per week minimum

Qualifications:

Technical requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Life Sciences, such as: Botany, Wildlife Biology, Range Ecology, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Resources or related subject;
- Coursework or equivalent experience in plant taxonomy and/or systematics;
- Experience identifying plants in the field and using a dichotomous key;
- Familiarity with native and invasive plants of the Mojave and Colorado Desert and associated natural resource issues preferred;
- Experience in describing and identifying soil horizons;
- Experience conducting plant surveys using various monitoring protocols, including standard rangeland monitoring protocols, photo plots, and site observations;
- Experience with data entry and management;
- Experience with technical writing and/or producing written project summary reports;
- Ability to read, interpret and navigate using topographic maps;
- Experience safely operating 4WD trucks on paved and unpaved roads, often in remote areas on unimproved roads;
- Experience navigating and collecting coordinates with hand-held GPS units;
- Experience (preferred) creating maps and performing basic functions with GIS software (ArcMap); and
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Access).

Additional requirements:

- Willingness and ability to work in a fast-paced, dynamic setting, and to consistently enact high performance standards and a strong work and team ethic in support of the goals and objectives of the AIM program and the mission of GBI;
- Valid, state-issued driver's license and clean driving record;
- Ability to complete a Department of Interior (DOI) Background Investigation (BI) and

submit paperwork to BLM human resources prior to beginning position indicating that an active and fully adjudicated BI has been started or completed;

- Ability to work productively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals;
- Ability to work independently;
- Ability to communicate effectively with team members, agency staff, and a diverse public;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Familiarity with best practices for field safety and Leave No Trace principles;
- Experience in and willingness to spend multiple days camping in the field;
- Willingness to work irregular hours (e.g., early mornings, late nights);
- Ability to work in harsh and rapidly changing environments, work in all types of weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 40 pounds in a backpack, and otherwise maintain good physical condition; and
- Meet AmeriCorps eligibility requirements: (1) U.S. citizenship or legal resident alien status, (2) eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award (limit of four in a lifetime or the equivalent of two full-time education awards), (3) pass National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) and federal criminal background checks, (4) adhere to the rules, regulations and code of conduct as specified in the Member Service Agreement; and (5) not engage in any prohibited activities as listed in the Member Service Agreement.

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