Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Position Description

Applied Ecologist

Overview:

The Applied Ecologist is responsible for designing, conducting, and communicating fire and restoration ecology research and implementation at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The holder of this position will continue current restoration and research projects at the Garden and develop/fundraise for new projects. Current projects include restoration trials for ecosystem services in a fire scar, forbland restoration for rare plant-pollinator networks, developing an oak habitat creation model for the region, invasive plant control, and long-term live fuel moisture monitoring. Fundraising, education, and outreach activities are required to support the continuation of this position. This exempt position is full time. The Applied Ecologist reports to the Director of Conservation and Research.

Essential Duties:

- Design and conduct regional research on applied ecology topics to potentially include: fire ecology, recovery, and resilience; habitat restoration; and other fundable ecosystem ecology topics of interest;
- Implement restoration and resilience projects to apply the findings above and recover diverse native habitat;
- Lead volunteers and staff to aid in performing the above tasks as needed;
- Ensure completion of data collection and analysis and dissemination of results;
- Write progress and final reports for funders;
- Disseminate research results to a broad audience through the above venues as well as public lectures, and presentations at professional meetings;
- Fundraise for this program via grant and contract proposals, donor relations, and alternative funding sources such as crowdfunding;
- Work with other members of the Conservation & Research Team, which may include basic biodiversity inventory, rare plant conservation, community ecology, outreach and advocacy, to achieve departmental goals;
- Publish 1-3 papers in peer-reviewed journals per year;
- Represent the Garden’s conservation program in regional and state meetings, and build a strong relationship with conservation partners;
- Offer educational opportunities that may include lectures, workshops, tours, and field trips;
- Work with the Garden’s Communications Department to develop outreach materials, including periodic newsletter articles, brochures, web updates, videos, press releases, and social media;

Knowledge and Abilities:

- Broad botanical knowledge, including plant identification and vegetation survey/monitoring experience. Knowledge of and experience with the California flora preferred;
• Support of the Garden’s mission and goals and ability to provide vision and inspiration to others in support of this mission;
• Ability to conduct field work in a remote setting with rugged terrain under a variety of environmental conditions;
• Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
• Strong organizational skills; must be detail oriented;
• Excellent verbal and written communication and problem solving skills desired;
• Willingness to work occasional weekend hours and to travel for fieldwork, meetings, and symposia;
• Experience and comfort giving public presentations and performing other outreach to promote projects and engage the public;
• Ability to work successfully as part of a team and independently with minimal supervision is critical.

Qualifications & Experience:

• Academic background and applied experience in ecology, the biological sciences, or closely related area (PhD strongly preferred; minimum of Master’s degree);
• Experience with fire and restoration ecology preferred;
• Demonstrated proficiency in statistical analyses;
• Computer proficiency including ability to use Microsoft Access, Outlook, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, and to learn new computer programs as necessary;
• 4-wheel drive experience and training preferred;
• Proficiency with GPS and GIS technology including ArcGIS and the Collector app preferred;

Certificates and Licenses:

• Must have valid California Driver License and maintain an acceptable driving record
• Qualified Applicator’s License for pesticide application preferred

Physical Requirements:

Must be capable of occasional strenuous physical work including:

• Sitting for up to 2.0 hours at a time and using computer for lengthy periods
• Standing/walking for extended periods of time
• Bending, squatting, walking stairs, and hiking rugged trails
• Safely lifting and carrying 40 lbs.
• Tolerance of an outdoor work environment. Exposure to indoor and outdoor environmental conditions, including temperature fluctuations, rain, dust, allergens, poison oak, steep slopes, insects, wild animals, and sun exposure.

Compensation Range: $60,000 to $80,000

For more information, and to apply, please visit:

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN INC - Applied Ecologist (paylocity.com)