

Biological Science Technicians (Student Service Contractor)

Project: The USDA has recently supported a \$3.2M project, led by Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Geological Survey, to examine the impact of wetland restoration under the Conservation Reserve Program on soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas exchange to quantify the climate-mitigating potential of restored wetlands.

Position Description: The USGS is hiring up to four biological science technicians (student service contractors) that will work as a group at wetland sites throughout the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States (North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota). The main tasks of the positions will include collecting soil cores and vegetation samples from wetlands, and mapping wetland boundaries with GPS. Work will include walking in waders and carrying sampling equipment up to 40 pounds for distances up to 1 mile. Sample collection may be highly physical at times working during hot summer conditions and conducting physical labor up to 8 hours a day.

Start/stop dates 2022: Technicians will begin June 1st and work for an approximate 13-week field season into August. Exact starting and ending dates are to be determined.

Location and travel: Technicians will be based at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research (NPWRC) in Jamestown, ND. Training will be at NPWRC before deploying to field sites. Field sites will be dispersed across North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota, and are often in remote locations. Technicians will travel back to Jamestown on most weekends. Candidates should be prepared to move weekly over the course of the field season.

Housing: Housing will be provided in bunk houses at NPWRC when in Jamestown, and in hotels, campers, or dorms while at field sites. Technicians will receive a per diem to cover basic costs while traveling.

Qualifications: Candidates should have education or work experience with ecology based fieldwork. Candidates will need to work well in small groups and independently. Experience working in wetlands is preferred. Knowledge of wetland vegetation and experience driving large trucks are a plus.

Requirements: Candidates must be current students (high school diploma or higher) or within 12 months following graduation. Candidates will be required to have a government background check and to submit documentation of COVID-19 vaccination. *Must be U.S citizen or Green Card holder with valid driver's license.*

Pay: Ranging from approximately \$16-\$23/hour depending on education and experience.

Application Process: Please submit 1) resume, 2) cover letter describing how experiences apply to qualifications, 3) most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable), and 4) contact information of at least one reference. Send application material to Jacob Meier via email jmeier@usgs.gov or mail to 8711 37th St SE, Jamestown, ND 58401. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.

Disclosure: Contractors are paid for each hour worked and will be working as independent contractors and do not receive a premium rate for work beyond 40 hours/week. Additionally, contractors are paid only for hours worked (with no holiday, personal leave or health benefits). Contractors earn 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Pay Rates for contractors include cost of self-employment taxes for social security and Medicare, as well as for privately acquired health insurance.