



RESEARCH ASSISTANT

DEFINITION: Assist scientists and staff in research, monitoring, and related activities, and to coordinate with activities of seasonal and/or temporary research assistants

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES: Assist in research and monitoring activities related to vegetation, soil water, hydrology, and biologic surveys; collect and organize field and laboratory data which includes accessing remote areas using 4-wheel drive vehicles, carrying out field work according to standardized procedures, and interpreting aerial photography, maps and GIS layers; manage and interpret data using basic analytical techniques; assist in preparing technical reports; assist with training of seasonal and/or temporary field assistants and coordinate activities with these staff.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Education/Experience: An Associate's or Bachelor's degree in biology, botany, ecology, soil science, environmental science, or related environmental field with related field experience as a research assistant, field technician, or similar position.

Knowledge of: Principles of biology, botany, zoology, ecology, or soil science; basic scientific research principles and procedures; mathematics and statistics; scientific data collection practices and report preparation; Owens Valley and Inyo County geography, flora, fauna, ecology, and hydrology.

Ability to: Organize and carry out activities with minimal supervision; operate and maintain field and laboratory equipment; read and interpret aerial photographs, maps, and GIS layers; proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel; proficiency in Arc GIS desired; communicate well orally and in writing; work independently and cooperate with others; work outdoors all day in the Owens Valley throughout the year in conditions that may include sun, heat, wind, cold, insects, or dust; capable of walking safely 5-10 miles per day; carry up to 30 pounds of field and personal equipment; maintain a safe working environment at all times.

Special Requirements: Must possess or be able to obtain a valid California driver's license; must successfully complete pre-employment background check. The candidate upon hiring must pass radiation safety and neutron gauge operator's course.