Title: Wetland Botany Technician/Crew Leader

Work Location: Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT

Pay Rate: $16-18/hour, plus $42 per diem when traveling overnight

Closing Date: Applications will be reviewed starting February 17

Employment Period: Mid-May through mid-November (approximately six months)

Position Description: The Utah Geological Survey seeks to hire a wetland botany technician to participate in wetland condition research. The incumbent will work on two main projects, wetland health surveys in the Central Basin and Range of Utah for about 70% of their time and a literature review to assign common wetland plants functional scores for their remaining time. For the wetland health surveys, the incumbent will be trained on a wetland assessment field protocol and then serve as a crew leader and lead botanist on a two-person crew conducting field surveys across the western half of Utah. The incumbent will be responsible for accurately identifying plant species in survey plots and for working with their teammate to evaluate hydrologic, physical, and other components of wetland health with a series of qualitative metrics. The employee will be expected to take a leadership role in the field and help facilitate decision-making and planning. Workdays will typically consist of four 10+ hour days per week and will include frequent overnight stays in the field. For the second project, the incumbent will conduct a literature review to assign common wetland plant species with functional attributes, such as grazing tolerance or sensitivity to water quality stressors, and contribute to analysis and a final report assessing the validity and practicality of using plant functional information to assess wetlands. The incumbent may also spend a small part of their time on data entry, identifying plant collections, and other asks as assigned. The position is based out of Salt Lake City and housing is not provided. This position is a great opportunity to visit seldom-seen parts of Utah and to develop expertise in a variety of wetland types across the state.

Qualifications:
1. Completion of a bachelor’s degree in botany, ecology, biology, wetland science, or other related field.
2. Two or more seasons of field experience in positions requiring identification of plant species; one season can be substituted by plant taxonomy coursework.

3. Ability to use dichotomous keys to identify species, including species in difficult groups such as Cyperaceae and Poaceae. Knowledge of Utah or western U.S. flora and of wetland flora preferred.

4. Ability to work independently, serve in a leadership role, and be responsible for data and project organization.

5. Knowledge of data collection procedures and ability to collect data with attention to detail.

6. Willingness and ability to work long hours and unusual schedules (including overnights), travel extensively, drive a State of Utah vehicle, hike moderate distances through occasionally rough terrain, and tolerate exposure to extreme heat, rain, biting insects, and other field nuisances.

7. Preference given to candidates with experience working in wetland or riparian systems.

This position as classified as an Intern position and does not include benefits. To apply, submit resume, cover letter, three references (with phone numbers) and earliest available start date to Miles McCoy-Sulentic at the Utah Geological Survey, mmccoy-sulentic@utah.gov. You may direct all questions to this email.