



Natural Resource Conservation Field Technician

Description:

The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative is an Alma, Colorado based non-profit organization committed to conserving and enhancing our cultural, recreational and natural resources in the high country of the Mosquito Range. We identify, monitor and map the locations of rare plants in the Mosquito Range utilizing GPS technology. In addition to identifying the location of the plants, nearby hiking and mountain biking trails and 4X4/ATV roads, mining claims, historic sites, and private property may also be identified. We utilize results to develop and implement conservation plans to protect rare plant communities through conservation trail work by volunteers in coordination with USFS trail crews. We will also educate community residents and visitors on our rare alpine plants and methods to preserve and protect them.

This is a full-time position from mid-June 2020 through September 2020. Exact dates are plant and weather dependent. At times it could be physically demanding, requiring long days in the field working at altitudes from 12,000' to 14,000'. The candidate should be in excellent physical shape and confident working in a high alpine environment. This position requires a strong conservation ethic, team skills, and a desire to work in a challenging but beautiful backcountry area.

The Natural Resource Conservation Field Technician will be hired by the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative with work tasks assigned by MRHI's Project Director and/or the Project Coordinator. Project employees will be trained in rare plant identification by the South Park Ranger District's Natural Resource Specialist.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in the creation of a detailed botanical survey of rare alpine plant communities
- Educate community residents & visitors on our rare alpine plants and methods to preserve and protect them
- In field GPS data collection of plants and nearby trails and mining claims using GPS/mobile mapping devices such as a Cedar CT8 tablet using ESRI Collector
- Download field data to GIS maps and other computer programs for analysis
- Digital photography to document findings and link photos to GPS points
- Educate self and utilize knowledge of alpine ecology and Leave No Trace principles
- Daily and weekly compilation of field reports
- Participate in conservation field work including habitat restoration and illegal road closures
- Use Google Docs for all project documentation
- Record time accurately on the MRHI timesheet
- Ensure that equipment handoff occurs when necessary
- Other tasks as assigned

Required Skills:

- Strong organizational and planning skills
- Excellent outdoor skills
- Strong knowledge or interest in botany and excellent attention to detail
- Computer skills and knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and database software

- Comfortable with the use of a GPS unit
- Experience/ability in habitat restoration, trail building and maintenance
- Knowledge of rare plants in the Mosquito Range (can be gained through Rare Plant Monitor training)

Desired Qualifications

Technical/Physical

- Demonstrated experience with ArcGIS base package and ArcPad mobile mapping or the ability and willingness to learn the software
- Excellent physical condition; willingness and ability to hike at high altitude (12,000+ feet) and hike for multiple consecutive days
- Proficiency in travelling (hiking and navigating) and safety in mountain backcountry environments both on and off trail
- Hiking could involve up to 15 miles per day at altitude, carrying a heavy pack and working and contributing as part of a team
- Some botany/ecology background (through education and/or work experience)

Other desirable qualifications

- Trails Crew Leader training experience
- An interest in rare plants and trails of the Mosquito Range
- Passion about the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic
- CPR Certification
- Wilderness First Responder or Wilderness First Aid Certification (preferred) or current First Aid Certification
- Team spirit, sense of humor

All Applicants must have

- A reliable vehicle with **four-wheel drive** to get to the work sites,
- Outdoor equipment (pack, rain gear, etc.)
- Physical examination and clearance by a doctor
- Current health insurance
- Driver’s license and a clean driving record

Work Schedule and Salary

This position is expected to run from June through September 2020. The weekly work schedule will be variable (averaging 40 hours/week) with occasional evenings and weekends required. Travel with a personal vehicle is required. The work is physically demanding and is performed at high altitude in a backcountry environment. Position is expected to be 80% field and 20% office based during the field season. MRHI will reimburse mileage for use of your personal vehicle.

How to Apply

To apply for the position, applicants must complete and return an application which is available for download on the Mosquito Range website www.mrhi.org. Applicants are also required to submit a cover letter and resume with their application. Finalists may be required to complete a medical history and provide a physician’s release form. If you have any questions, please contact Cara Doyle at (719) 839-0351. Application deadline is: April 10, 2020 or until filled. Please email application materials to info@mrhi.org.

The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from people of all races, ages, sexual orientations, and ethnic and religious backgrounds.