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Lab Manager, Isbell Biodiversity Lab

Position Overview

Institution: University of Minnesota, Minnesota USA
Position location during the summer field season: Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve
Position location outside the field season: Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
Faculty supervisor and lab group: Forest Isbell, Isbell Biodiversity Lab
Preferred start date: spring or early summer 2023
Required qualifications: BA/BA and at least 5 years of experience or a combination of related education and work experience equal to 9 years or advanced degree plus 3 years of experience; experience conducting field research and identifying plant species; and supervisory experience
Desired qualifications: PhD in ecology or related discipline; experience designing and conducting field experiments; sampling plants and soils; supervising teams of field researchers; managing and analyzing data; and writing scientific publications, grant proposals, or both
Duration: This is a full-time regular position, not a seasonal temporary position
Application materials: cover letter; CV; one-page research statement addressing your interests, experiences, and future goals; contact information for three references; and one of your publications
To apply: 1) Visit https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs; 2) Click on the tab in the center of the page that corresponds to your situation; 3) Search Job ID# 353753- Lab Manager. Applications must be submitted online. To be considered for this position, please submit the following items: (1) a cover letter, (2) your CV, and (3) contact information for three references.
Review of applications will begin on February 15, 2023 (not Feb. 1, as stated online, due to a delay in posting this ad) and will continue until the position is filled.
Direct questions to: Forest Isbell at isbell@umn.edu

The Isbell Biodiversity Lab invites applications for a full-time lab manager to coordinate research activities at the University of Minnesota. Our group investigates how changes in biodiversity alter ecosystem functioning, stability, and services. We also study how global environmental changes (e.g., habitat loss and fragmentation, nutrient enrichment, climate change, exotic species invasions) are driving changes in biodiversity and ecosystems. Most of our studies consider plant diversity in grasslands and forests. We have also reintroduced bison to an oak savanna.

Our studies include, among others, a large habitat fragmentation experiment in grasslands (the RESCUE experiment), a tree diversity experiment replicated in several forests (the BetaDIV experiment), and a project considering how bison reintroduction is affecting oak trees in a savanna. Common measurements include plant biomass production, plant diversity, tree seedling survival and growth, soil moisture and temperature, and light availability. We also use drones to collect remote sensing data. This position will not be required to fly the drones, but will be responsible for processing

and archiving the data collected, following existing protocols. The successful candidate will have the following skills and abilities: strong organizational skills; ability to solve practical problems; ability to work independently and lead a team; project management skills; and the ability to multitask.

During the summer field season, the position will be based at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and will include establishing new field experiments, maintaining treatments for existing experiments, supervising a team of undergraduate researchers, sampling plants and soils in existing field experiments, and maintaining a network of trail cameras. Before and after the field season, the position will be based on the St. Paul campus, with occasional travel to Cedar Creek, and will include processing and archiving plant and soil samples, writing and revising sampling protocols, processing remote sensing data, developing and updating a lab safety plan, ordering research supplies and equipment, managing and archiving data and metadata, assisting with hiring, assisting with grant reporting, and other special projects that support the lab group.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve has many large-scale experimental platforms (some pictured above) and is one of the most active ecological research sites worldwide. This allows early-career researchers to build on an enormous amount of available data and establish robust networks of research collaborators. Cedar Creek and the team of PIs are members of NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network, offering many opportunities for collaborations with other research groups at the University of Minnesota and beyond.

The University of Minnesota is a global leader in ecological research. It is ranked second in the world for Ecology by the Shanghai Rankings and has more Clarivate highly cited researchers in the Environment and Ecology category than any other institution worldwide. This is truly an exceptional place to advance your career in ecological research.

The Isbell Biodiversity Lab seeks to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at Cedar Creek and beyond. Our vision is a future where biodiversity and the full diversity of people thrive. Our commitment is to be an inclusive place for research and community for people of all identities. We seek a lab manager who will contribute to these efforts and who embraces these commitments.

There is some flexibility in the start date, but the position will ideally begin by June 2023. Please indicate your preferred start date in your cover letter.