Field Technicians for Summer 2018 – Elk Habitat Study

Job Description:
We are seeking 3 highly motivated individuals to work mid-May through late August on a project looking at the influence of habitat treatments on elk nutrition and elk presence in northern Idaho and western Montana. Technicians will collect data pertaining to the development of a large, landscape-level elk landscape nutrition model on Forest Service and BLM land. Responsibilities will include navigating to pre-determined locations to conduct forest stand and habitat measurements, and to collect and identify plants to species. In addition, technicians will deploy and check remote cameras to document both elk and other mammal species presence in our study sites.

Due to the large study area, technicians need to be comfortable driving 4WD vehicles on both maintained and unmaintained roads. Our sites range in condition from dense forest stands and understory, to dry mixed forest-sage stands. Sites will also range from gentle, relatively flat slopes to steeper, more rugged terrain. Technicians need to be able to handle the changing environmental and weather conditions while carrying upwards of 30lb of gear and hiking 2-10 miles a day.

During time on, technicians will camp (tents provided) at central locations near study sites with occasional access to bunk houses. In all instances, techs will return to basecamp every day. Camp sites will be at remote locations with limited cellphone/internet access, and almost no access to running water or indoor plumbing during days on. A successful applicant will be comfortable camping in remote settings. Preference will be given to applicants with documented field plant identification experience, especially in western Montana or northern Idaho.

Requirements:
- Possessing or pursuing a BS in Wildlife, Forestry, Natural Resources, Botany, Rangeland, or related field.
- Coursework or equivalent experience in plant taxonomy or botany.
- Valid driver’s license with a clean record.
- Personal vehicle for days off.
- Experience safely operating 4WD trucks on both paved and unpaved roads.
- Ability to navigate using a handheld GPS, topographic and other maps.
- Able to hike 3-10 miles a day in varying conditions while carrying upwards of 30lbs.
- Willingness to communicate clearly with interested public and various agency personnel about work activities.
- Able to cooperatively work in teams and independently.
- Willingness to work varying and irregular hour work days.
- Flexible to allow for changes in schedules due to working conditions.
- Documented remote camera work (optional).
- Experience with Microsoft Office (optional).
- First Aid/CPR or Wilderness First Aid Training (optional).

Tentative Start Date: 5/16/2018
Pay Rate: $400/week

To Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, and 3 references (contact names, emails, and phone numbers) in one document to Stephanie Berry at stephanie.berry@umconnect.umt.edu

Applicants will be reviewed as they are received and positions will be filled as soon as we identify qualified candidates. Final date to apply is April 1st, 2018.