Research Technician

UNR-Natural Resources and Environmental Science-Swanson Lab
Spring-Summer 2016
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Pay rate: DOE

Project description:
This study analyzes grazing effects of livestock and wild horse grazing on sage-grouse late brood habitat. In Nevada, this habitat is commonly found in meadows, where study sites are located.

What to expect:
Methods include electronic data capture of grazing use in study sites via automatic cameras. Vegetation, hydrologic, and geomorphic data measurements will be collected over the course of the field season using primarily a laser level with surveying rod, line point intercept, and density frames. Plant identification skills are critical. Candidates should expect a rigorous schedule including travel, hiking, camping, and field work. Food will be provided for days in the field.

Employment dates:
- March 21-26 (potential, not firm). This trip is dedicated to preparing automatic cameras for the upcoming season. Accommodations will be camping on site, weather permitting.
- May 25 through August 24. 8 days in the field, 10 hours/day, followed by 6 days off. Expect to be camping in the field with in hiking distance to study sites.

Responsibilities:
Research assistant will assist in navigating to sites using a Garmin GPS and maps. Some sites will require hiking roughly 5 miles in; most sites will be much shorter. Technician will be carrying equipment, water, and lunch, in and out of remote sites, daily. Backpacks may weigh roughly 30lbs.

Lay out of sampling scheme and data collection will include, but is not limited to;

- Survey level measurements
- Digging 3 soil pits
- Transect layout
- Line-point intercept
- Plant identification
- Density counts
- Line intercept
- Photos
- GPS marking
- And other site characterization observations.