Fall Field Technician

COVER IT UP! USING PLANTS TO CONTROL BUCKTHORN

**Duties:** We are hiring two technicians to measure buckthorn performance in a suite of field experiments funded through the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center. The experiments, established in spring 2016 and 2017 following large scale buckthorn removals, ask how to use native plant species to improve restoration and recovery of buckthorn-invaded woodlands and forests. The primary duties of the technicians will be to re-survey the abundance of buckthorn in permanent transects through large plots seeded with diverse native herbs, as well as survey and harvest flagged buckthorn seedlings in plantings of native herbs, shrubs and trees, to ask how these plantings affect buckthorn regeneration. This work will be in mainly in September 2017, under the supervision of post-doctoral researchers.

**Optional independent research and professional development opportunities:** The post-docs are willing to mentor a technician in an independent research project utilizing the existing experimental design, if the technician wishes. Project scope is limited by the duration and season of the appointment; we list one idea at the end, and are open to others. Applicants are welcome to participate in lab meetings of the Forest Ecology research group on the St. Paul campus.

**Dates:** (with some flexibility) September 1 – September 30, 2017. Please contact us if interested but available for only part of this time.

**Pay Range:** $11.00 - $15.00 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. Both non-students and students with low enough class loads to allow 30+ hours of field work per week are encouraged to apply.

**Hours:** 30-40 hours per week; negotiable work days & hours

**Minimum Qualifications:** Applicants must be willing to work with plants in a wide range of field conditions across the Twin Cities. This includes working under varied weather conditions and on steep terrain. Because work will be performed at multiple sites, up to 34 miles from the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, applicants must have access to reliable transportation or be willing to use public transportation to reach carpooling points. Applicants also need to be dependable, highly motivated, flexible, comfortable communicating verbally and in writing, skilled in working across differences in a team, and have a good work ethic. Proficiency in Microsoft Office / Google Docs is required for data management.

**Required Qualifications:**
- Interest in biology, ecology, forestry, or environmental science
- Great communication, team work, and organizational skills
- Attention to detail in repetitive work and diligent adherence to standardized protocols
- Previous work experience
- Plant identification skills (preferred but not required)

**Contact Person/Email:** If you are interested please send a cover letter and resume/CV to Peter Wragg, wragg@umn.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until filled. Feel free to ask whether the position remains open.

**ONE IDEA FOR AN INDEPENDENT ADD-ON PROJECT, SEPTEMBER 2017 (OPTIONAL)**

*How does buckthorn fruit production vary with plant size (do something like the top 20% largest individuals produce 80% of the seeds?) and light availability?* This could guide managers in which buckthorns to remove first to limit seed production.