Student Field Technician - Fall 2019

COVER IT UP! USING PLANTS TO CONTROL BUCKTHORN

Duties: We are hiring a technician 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 2017 following large scale buckthorn removals, ask how to use native plant species to improve restoration and recovery of buckthorn-invaded woodlands and forests. We will also establish a new experiment to test whether seeding native shrubs and trees can make an ecosystem resistant to re-invasion by buckthorn. Primary duties 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 discover how these plantings affect buckthorn regeneration; and also to lay out, fence, and seed the new shrub/tree seeding experiment. This work will mostly be done in a two-person team, supervised by post-doctoral researchers.

Dates: Start date September 3 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter; end date likely late October, depending how many hours are worked per week.

Hours: At least one full field day per week, preferably two (preferably 7-8 hour days, to allow 5-6 hours of work plus travel to and from field sites, though these could potentially start and end earlier or later than a typical work day to accommodate class schedules, and could also be on weekends, depending on availabilities of applicants.)

Pay Range: $12.00 - $15.00 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications.

Required qualifications:
- Available at least 1 full day per week during September-October 2019
- Willing to work with plants in a wide range of field conditions across the Twin Cities, including varied weather, steep terrain, and biting insects
- Interest in biology, ecology, forestry, or environmental science
- Dependable, motivated, with integrity and a strong work ethic
- Strong skills in communicating and working with other team members across differences
- Flexible team structure: technicians will mostly work as a pair, occasionally alone
- Attention to detail in repetitive work, and diligent adherence to standardized protocols
- Flexible work days and hours, including a few long day-trips or potentially an overnight trip (negotiable) to work in a related forest diversity experiment at Cloquet
- Strong organizational skills, and proficiency in Google Drive for data management
- Previous work experience

Preferred qualifications:
- Available 2 full days per week during September-October 2019
- Experience identifying woody plants in Twin Cities area woodlands
- Access to a reliable vehicle to reach field sites up to 34 miles from University of Minnesota St. Paul
- Relevant previous work experience

Contact Person/Email: Please send resume/CV and detailed availability (start and end dates, and the start and end times of your availability for field work leaving from St Paul campus each day of the week/weekend) directly to: Mike Schuster & Peter Wragg, Department of Forest Resources, Email: coveritup@umn.edu. Review of applications will continue until filled. Position posted August 29, 2019; feel free to ask whether the position remains open before applying.