Field Technician – Aquatic Ecology

Agency - Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth
Location - Based out of Duluth, MN; multi-day travel required
Positions – 1-2 anticipated
Term – June 1st through October 31, 2020.
Application Deadline – May 8th, 2020. Email application materials to jddumke@d.umn.edu.

COVID-19 – At this time the University of Minnesota is under a hiring freeze and all University travel (including field work) is suspended. Travel into Canada is also suspended at this time. We do not know when/if normal operations will resume, but we are still preparing to fill our summer positions. Note that the actual dates of employment, descriptions of how field teams will be expected to interact, and where teams travel during the field season are subject to change at any time due to the University response to COVID-19 and recommended best practices by the Centers for Disease Control.

Research Overview – Researchers are investigating the condition of wetlands using fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates. Field technicians will work in crews of 2-4 individuals to conduct surveys, and access study sites by boat, canoe, or by hiking overland. Some of this work will require multiple 7-8 day trips, while other work will be done near Duluth. Crews can expect to travel anywhere from Green Bay, WI to the Keewenaw Peninsula, MI, to as far north as Thunder Bay, Ontario (a passport or passport card is required).

Job Duties – Document fish, aquatic macroinvertebrates, habitat, aquatic macrophytes, and water quality in Great Lakes coastal areas. Field technicians are required to possess boating and water-related safety skills, must be fit enough to hike all day in wadeable streams and through trail-less forested areas, and are expected to work cooperatively in small groups for extended overnight travel. Training will be provided but all crew must pass tests after training to be certified to work on field crews. Field sampling and travel will be about 75% of the job duties. Technicians will also be responsible for organizing field equipment and reporting on sample collection activities (10%), as well as processing invertebrate, sediment, and water quality samples in a laboratory (10%). Computer and GPS skills are desired to navigate to sampling sites and for data management (5%).

Coastal wetland field training will occur in mid-June, after which successful passage of a wetland fish identification exam by the end of June is required. Wetland field training will continue in Green Bay, WI at the end of June during a week-long field trip with all crew members. During training, field technicians will be required to demonstrate an aptitude for basic boat operation, boat trailering, water safety, handling and identifying fish, performing macroinvertebrate sampling, and collecting and processing water quality samples.

Field surveys will be conducted by crews of 3-4 individuals on 7-9 day trips during June, July and into August, 2020. Transportation, lodging, and a meal allowance will be provided during travel away from Duluth. When crews are working around Duluth on a standard work schedule (June training, and most of August), and on days off, crew are responsible for their own transportation, housing, and food. New employees will start orientation and complete online training modules between June 1st and 12th. Full-time training at NRRI will begin June 15th, 2020. This appointment will last until work is completed (typically into September), but will not exceed October 31st, 2020.

Salary: $13.00 – $14.50 per hour, depending on qualifications.

Required Qualifications:
• Ability to communicate and work closely with team members in both a laboratory and outdoor setting.
• Valid driver’s license and clean driving record (absolutely no moving violations; any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a motor vehicle background check)
• Physical ability to work long hours outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather, covering long distances over uneven terrain carrying gear.

**Desired Qualifications:**
• Experience sampling and identifying fish, invertebrates, and aquatic macrophytes.
• Boating and trailering experience with water safety knowledge.
• Computer skills performing data entry and spreadsheet management skills.
• GPS and orienteering experience, including forest hiking and stream walking.
• Mechanical aptitude: e.g. changing vehicle and trailer tires, troubleshooting boat motors, performing routine maintenance of vehicles, trailers, boats, and motors.

**To Apply:** Submit letter of interest addressing how you meet the required qualifications, a resume or curriculum vita, and contact information for three references as a single electronic file to Josh Dumke (jddumke@d.umn.edu). Applications will be reviewed as they are received beginning early May, 2020, and continuing until positions are filled.

Josh Dumke  
5013 Miller Trunk Hwy  
Duluth, MN 55811  
jddumke@d.umn.edu  
218-788-2634