

**Title:** Resource Science Aide

**Department:** Missouri Department of Conservation

**Branch:** Science (Terrestrial Habitat and Social Science Unit)

**Location:** Ozark Regional Office, West Plains, MO

**Pay rate:** \$15.00 per hour

**Closing date:** 15 July 2022 (or until position is filled)

**Position term:** 9 months (possible extension based on available funding)

### **Introductory Info**

The position incumbent will support a statewide forest research program and will be responsible for field research activities and office data entry on multiple applied forest ecology and silvicultural research projects maintained by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The position will last for at least nine months, with the possibility of extension based on performance and available funding. This position will require significant overnight travel. Housing and a work vehicle will be provided.

Interested applicants should email a statement of interest, resume or CV, contact information for at least three references, and unofficial transcripts to:

Brad Graham, Research Forester

[Brad.Graham@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Brad.Graham@mdc.mo.gov)

### **Summary/Objective**

The successful candidate will have opportunities to work on multiple ongoing research projects throughout Missouri. Collectively, these projects will cover a wide range of terrestrial ecosystems in Missouri (e.g., mesic upland hardwood forest, bottomland hardwood forest, xeric pine-oak forest) and address a variety of research questions related to the adaptive management and conservation of forest and woodland plant communities. Larger projects include the evaluation of silvicultural options and their impact on multiple forest ecosystem components ([Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project](#)), investigating the influence of uneven-aged management practices on white oak dynamics, enhancing oak regeneration and recruitment on bottomland hardwood sites in southern and northern Missouri, and the development of modeling tools from high quality LiDAR datasets to support forest management. The successful candidate will also have opportunities to assist with several small-scale case studies evaluating silvicultural options to meet a variety of management objectives. The position provides a great opportunity for gaining professional field research experience and networking with natural resource managers and scientists from state, federal, and academic partners.

### **Essential Job Duties**

- Work 40 hours per week, indoors and outdoors, often in rugged terrain and inclement weather
- Collect forest inventory data on a variety of forest attributes in a range of forested systems
- Enter forest inventory data into Excel while maintaining high standards of quality and accuracy
- Prepare and submit bi-monthly timesheets and monthly expense reports

### **Ancillary Job Duties**

- Other duties as assigned

### **Education and Experience**

- Bachelor's degree in forestry, ecology, environmental science, natural resource science and management, or a related field; or an Associate's degree in a forestry-related field
- At least one year of experience collecting field-based forest inventory data
- Possession of a valid driver's license

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

- Required: demonstrated qualities of self-motivation, organization, and critical thinking
- Desired: experience identifying common woody and herbaceous plant species in Missouri or other areas of the Central Hardwood Region
- Desired: knowledge of and experience using traditional and innovative forest measurement tools and techniques
- Desired: an understanding of forest ecology concepts and silvicultural systems
- Desired: experience with GPS technology, ArcGIS, and Microsoft Office software

### **Work Environment**

- Mixture of indoor and outdoor activities, often in rugged terrain and inclement weather
- Frequent overnight travel (lodging and vehicle provided)

### **Physical Abilities**

- Traverse flat to rugged terrain, both on and off trails
- Regularly carry up to a 20-pound backpack and other field gear

### **Disclaimer**

This job description is not intended to be all-inclusive; an employee will also perform other reasonably related job responsibilities as assigned by immediate supervisor and other management as required. The Missouri Department of Conservation reserves the right to revise or change job duties as the need arises. This job description does not constitute a written or implied contract of employment. Management reserves the right to change job descriptions, job duties, functions, and requirements.

### **Exemption Status/Special Notes**

- This position has been determined to be non-exempt according to the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Employees must agree to accept compensatory time in lieu of cash payments in accordance with the Department's Compensatory Time Off and Overtime Policy.
- Smoking is Prohibited in all owned, rented, or leased Department of Conservation offices, buildings, and similar facilities in department aircraft and in vehicles.
- Hourly employees are expected to use a mobile device-cellular phone for Department business, as needed.
- The department of Conservation will only hire United States citizens and aliens authorized to work in the United States.
- All new employees will be required to complete an "Employment Eligibility Verification" (Form I-9) and produce requested documentation after employment.
- Candidates seeking initial employment or re-employment must submit to a drug screen following offer of employment.
- All persons employed with the state of Missouri shall file all state income tax forms and pay all state income taxes owed.