

Iowa Dept of Natural Resources

Position title: Prairie Specialist Intern

Location: Prairie Resource Center, 2820 Brushy Creek Road, Lehigh IA

Length of position: WINTER BREAK: December 17, 2024 – January 17, 2025

Hourly Wage: \$15/hr

Job Description:

The DNR is seeking to hire a team of 3 Iowa State students to assist the DNR with cleaning and processing prairie seed to be used in prairie reconstructions on public land throughout Iowa. Seed will be cleaned primarily by using specialized equipment, requiring a high level of attention to detail. All training will be provided. Other duties include preparing seed for stratification, general facility and equipment maintenance.

Duties of the Prairie Specialist:

- Assist with processing and cleaning of over 100 species of prairie seed, by hand and by machine.
- Assist with distribution of plant materials to various DNR entities. Weighing, bagging and labeling seed for distribution.
- Assist with stratification and preparing seed for germination in spring.
- Perform general maintenance including snow removal, cleaning, small repairs, vehicle and equipment maintenance.

Qualifications:

- Current student, or recently graduated (December 2024) student from Iowa State University
- Pursing a college degree in animal ecology, environmental science, forestry, or other closely related natural resource field.
- Able to withstand physically demanding work, including lifting, bending or hauling.
- Work with minimal supervision, demonstrate responsible behavior and attention to detail
- Follow policy and cooperate with supervisors and co-workers.
- Exhibits honesty and integrity.
- Must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license and able to pass driver background check.
- Must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

Details:

All work will take place at Brushy Creek State Rec Area, and a university vehicle will be provided for students to travel from ISU to the job site. Travel time in university vehicle is included in paid hours. Breaks include a 30-minute unpaid lunch and two 15-minute paid rest breaks.

Normal schedule will be four, 10-hour days, 7:00am – 5:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Some adjustments may be made due to holidays and weather delays.

Anticipated schedule:

Optional Week 0 (as available) – Tuesday – Friday, December 17 - 20

Week 1 – Monday, Thursday and Friday, December 23, 26 and 27

Week 2 – Monday – Tuesday December 30-31, Thursday Friday January 2-3

Week 3 – Monday – Thursday January 6 – 10

Week 4 – Monday – Thursday January 13 – 17

These times account for travel to and from ISU.

Positions are open until filled. To apply, please email a copy of your resume and a cover letter to Chase Olsen, cmolsen@iastate.edu

Any questions related to the position please contact:

Laura Miner

Natural Resources Technician 2

Wildlife Bureau - Prairie Resource Unit

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