

Job Posting for Iowa Department of Natural Resources: Prairie Specialist Temporary Worker (two vacancies)

Location: Prairie Resource Unit – Brushy Creek State Rec Area, 2820 Brushy Creek Rd, Lehigh, IA 50557

Hourly rate: \$14.25

Start Date: February 20, 2024

End Date: November 1, 2024

Application Deadline: December 18, 2023

Job Description:

The Iowa DNR is seeking to hire two temporary employees to be stationed at the Prairie Resource Unit. The primary responsibilities of the Temporary Worker at the Iowa DNR Prairie Resource Center are to assist the team with the production of local ecotype native grass and wildflower seed for Iowa's public lands. The person in this position must possess strong organization and communication skills and be able to express ideas orally and in writing. The candidate must possess identification skills of plants to lead others in the propagation, maintenance, and harvest of prairie species. Candidates must possess the ability to operate independently with indirect supervision under general coordination and program guidelines.

Job duties:

- Assist in the propagation of prairie species at greenhouse and plot areas.
- Assist in the planting and establishment of native grass and forb production fields.
- Assist in the direction of volunteers, college interns, and other staff in cleaning, planting, and harvest of prairie plant materials.
- Identify and harvest seed of specific prairie species from prairie remnants across the state.
- Assist with harvest and storage of prairie seed.
- Assist with distribution of plant materials to various DNR entities.
- Participate in personal and professional development training activities.
- Be a part of a prescribed fire team and participate in prairie burns. Employee will be required to have or take S-130/190.
- Control noxious weeds in seed production areas. Beneficial to have pesticide applicators license prior to employment.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Possessing or pursuing a college degree in wildlife biology, animal ecology, or another closely related natural resource field.
- Must be available for all interviews and training as required
- Must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license
- Must be a minimum of 18 years of age
- Able to work alone, with the public, in all conditions, on weekends, holidays, nights, and evenings as required
- 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
- Works and communicates with internal and external clients and customers to meet their needs in a polite, courteous and cooperative manner
- Displays a high level of initiative, effort and commitment towards completing assignments efficiently
- Aligns behavior with needs, priorities, and goals of the organization.

Applications due by December 18, 2023 for full consideration.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Laura Miner at laura.miner@dnr.iowa.gov. For more information contact Laura Miner, Prairie Resource Unit Tech II at 515-543-8319.