

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Research Assistant

Reports to: Amy Iler, Ph.D.

Year-Round or Seasonal: Seasonal

Full-time or Part-time or Resource: Full-time

Position Overview:

The Iler Lab is looking for students with fieldwork experience to be part of an experimental plant demography project at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) in Gothic, CO, USA (<https://www.rmbll.org/>). The project addresses how earlier life-cycle events, in response to climate change, will affect plant population dynamics in multiple plant species.

Two positions are available. The start date is somewhat flexible beginning in early- to mid-May and runs for up to 13 weeks depending on specific start date. The pay rate is \$18-20 per hour depending on experience, and 40 hours of work per week are expected. Fieldwork occurs during the typical work week (M-F); rarely some weekend work may be required if the weather is exceptionally stormy during the week, but this will be communicated ahead of time. The position includes housing and station fees associated with staying at the RMBL and travel (if coming via automobile, mileage will be reimbursed up to \$500). Students interested in climate change, population dynamics, and/or conservation ecology are especially encouraged to apply. The RMBL provides an exciting and supportive environment for ecological field research, including weekly seminars with outside speakers. Research Assistants will also have the opportunity to attend a variety of training opportunities at the RMBL (for example, workshops on data analysis in R, visual design, and science communication).

Undergraduate students, students with bachelor's or master's degrees, and students in between undergraduate and graduate programs are all encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants that have previous field experience with plant demography.

This position requires long periods outdoors and will include squatting, standing, bending, sitting on ground, speaking, and listening. The field site is within walking distance of RMBL cabins. There may also be some requirements for lifting, pushing, or pulling items less than 30 pounds. Finally, this position might require cross country skiing or snow shoeing ca. 3 miles to reach the field site early in the season; this would be for a maximum of ca. 2 weeks.

In this role you will be responsible for the following:

- Measuring demographic vital rates on individual plants (size, reproductive status, etc.).
- Tracking phenology (germination, leaf-out, and flowering)
- Recording data
- Conducting pollinator observations
- Other general ecological field tasks

Our ideal candidate will have the following:

- Experience conducting ecological fieldwork
- Experience with plant demography preferred

- An interest in a career in ecology, environmental science, or conservation (could be research, education, or outreach-based)

How to Apply

Please send the following, along with any questions about the position, to Amy Iler via email: ailer@chicagobotanic.org

(1) CV (including contact information for 2–3 references)

(2) One paragraph statement that includes (i) how the position helps you to achieve your career goals and (ii) why you are a good candidate for the position (no more than 1/2 page, standard font size).