



Invasive Species Network Survey Technician

POSITION SUMMARY

The Invasive Species Survey Technicians works with the Coordinator to implement the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program-The Nature Conservancy subgrant, which funds the position. Primary responsibilities include working as a team with another technician or with volunteers to survey forests and trees in 2 counties for invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Other duties include creating maps, working with private land owners, assisting with trainings, and engaging volunteers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SWxSW Corner CISMA (CISMA) is a collaborative organization that works with regional partners to minimize the impact of invasive species in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. The CISMA works to help citizens, land owners, and land managers understand and manage the invasive species in our area. The CISMA strives to help municipalities and homeowners recognize and manage the invasive species threats.

COMPENSATION

The Invasive Species Seasonal Technician is a seasonal position, working up to 40 hours/week for up to 20 weeks. This position is not exempt from overtime requirements, with an hourly wage of \$13-15/hour depending on experience. Seasonal positions are not eligible for benefits except those required by law.

PREFERRED START DATE

16 December 2019 (flexible)

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Formal Education or Equivalent

- At least one year of field experience
- Some education in relevant Natural Resource field preferred

Related Work Experience

- Experience in northern forest plant identification
- Background in natural resource management, particularly in invasive species identification preferred
- Experience with data recording and handling

Skills

- Must be able to work efficiently outdoors in varying conditions and terrain
- Able to deal with physically demanding work in inclement weather
- Must be able to navigate off trail or in the backcountry, doing transects, using a compass & map and/or GPS unit
- Strong knowledge of plant identification and regional invasive species preferred
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong and proven team-player **AND** self-motivated worker
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in the English language, able to work with the public while completing field work, make phone calls, and send professional emails
- Proficient in use of Microsoft Office Suite
- Proficient knowledge of ArcMap and ArcOnline preferred
- Proficient knowledge of Garmin handheld GPS units preferred

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Other

- Able to work flexible hours
- Must maintain a valid driver's license and possess a (registered, insured) vehicle for use during work hours (approved mileage will be reimbursed)

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Program Implementation (90%)

- Works with other Technician and partners to survey for elongate hemlock scale and invasive HWA primarily in Berrien and Van Buren Counties, with possible work in Cass County
- Works with private property owners to get permission to survey their properties
- Follows HWA detection survey protocols
- Works with CISMA staff to submit suspected HWA samples to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Enters and edits surveying data in ArcMap and ArcOnline primarily using tablets for field data collection
- Creates maps in ArcMap for use in field and/or depicting survey plans, priorities & completion and current status of invasive species
- Communicates with partners and the public on invasive species, especially HWA, both in the field and at events

Services/Other (10%)

- Performs other assignments as required

WORKING CONDITIONS

The SWxSW Corner CISMA works primarily out of the Van Buren Conservation District office, located in Paw Paw Michigan. Technicians will primarily be in the field surveying in Berrien and Van Buren Counties. This will involve considerable driving in both company or personal vehicles. **Field work will involve traversing uneven, boggy, and snow-covered terrain in a wide range of temperatures and conditions, including snow and rain**, and may require strenuous hikes, wearing snow shoes, and lifting equipment and materials of up to 40 pounds. The field technician must be ready and willing to work in a variety of conditions, and willing to travel through the CISMA's entire service area. While field equipment such as snowshoes will be supplied, the successful applicants must have consistent access to appropriate cold-weather clothing. For decontamination purposes, technicians must launder or tumble dry clothing every night. Applicants should consider the availability of laundry facilities when applying.

TO APPLY

Please email completed application, 1-2 pg resume (including references), and cover letter stating your suitability for the position based on required knowledge and skills to the CISMA Coordinator Eleanor Serocki at

eleanor.serocki@macd.org

The application can be found on the Van Buren Conservation District website

<https://vanburencd.org/about/employment-opportunities/>

No calls please.

Applications must be received no later than **8 AM EST, Monday, 25 November 2019**

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