



SWxSW Corner CISMA Strike Team Crew Lead



POSITION SUMMARY

The SWxSW Corner CISMA Strike Team Crew Lead manages invasive species through the use of chemical and mechanical methods on public and private properties ranging from highly-invaded to high-quality areas. Primary responsibilities: lead 1-3 crew members in invasive species management using best management practices, survey/map sites, install and check spotted lanternfly sticky band traps, and assist with administrative duties (as assigned). The Crew Lead will aid the Strike Team Coordinator in implementing management plans and organizing treatment data. All training will be provided by the Strike Team Coordinator or CISMA Coordinator.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SWxSW Corner Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is a grant-funded 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 the threats of invasive species and manage them in our area. The CISMA is housed in the Van Buren Conservation District ("VBCD") office in Paw Paw, MI where the Strike Team is headquartered. A work truck, trailer, and UTV will be provided by the VBCD.

COMPENSATION

The Strike Team Crew Lead is a seasonal position, working up to 40 hours/week for up to 35 weeks (April-November). This position is not exempt from overtime requirements, with an hourly wage of \$16-\$18/hour, depending on experience. Seasonal positions are not eligible for benefits except those required by law.

POSITION DATES

Start date: April 26th, 2022 (preferred)

End date: November 15th, 2022 (flexible)

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Skills and Experience

- At least one season of field experience
- Background or education in Natural Resource Management, Biology, or Ecology
- Proficient in identifying invasive plant species of the Midwest
- Strong and proven team-player AND self-motivated worker
- Experience mixing and applying herbicide with a backpack sprayer
- Experience operating and maintaining a brush cutter
- Ability to complete fieldwork in all types of environments and conditions (wetlands, rivers/creeks, sand, mud, dense vegetation, rain, sun, hot, cold, etc.) while carrying equipment
- Work under little or no supervision
- Strong organizational, recordkeeping, and task prioritization skills
- Strong professional communication skills (written and verbal)
- Must be (or be able to become) a certified or registered Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator in Categories 2, 5, and 6 (paid for by employer, if needed)

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Skills

- Must be able to navigate off trail or in the backcountry, execute transect paths while managing invasive plants, and use a compass & map and/or GPS unit
- Proficient in use of Google Workspace
- Proficient knowledge of ArcMap, ArcOnline, FieldMaps, and/or Garmin handheld GPS for waypoint and path management
- Experience towing and maneuvering a hitched trailer
- Experience driving a UTV

This project is funded in part by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program through the DNR, EGLE, and MDARD, and by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Other

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

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- Help Strike Team Coordinator survey sites and decide treatment details
- Treat invasive species through chemical or mechanical means using backpack sprayers, herbicide daubers, brush cutters, etc.
- Install and check spotted lanternfly sticky band traps weekly
- Determine necessary supplies and equipment before visiting a site
- Independently lead 1-3 Strike Team Crew Member(s) in daily invasive species management
- Clean, maintain, and keep track of Strike Team equipment and supplies
- Follow protocols for decontamination, herbicide safety, and equipment safety
- Help Strike Team Coordinator communicate with partners and landowners
- Submit data to Strike Team Coordinator for grant reporting purposes
- Communicates with CISMA partners and the public on invasive species in the field and at events
- Create maps using ArcGIS/QGIS for field use or for depicting survey/treatment plans, priorities, completion, and/or current status of invasive species
- Drive UTV with Strike Team Crew Member and supplies/equipment through large sites
- Study for Pesticide Applicator exams for Core, and categories 2 - Forestry, 5 - Aquatic, and 6 - Right of Way (if applicable).
- Submit complete and accurate data to Strike Team Coordinator for grant reporting purposes
- Performs other assignments as required

WORKING CONDITIONS

The SWxSW Corner CISMA works primarily out of the VBCD office, located in Paw Paw, Michigan but will travel throughout Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Field work may involve traversing uneven, boggy, or steep terrain in a range of temperatures and conditions. This may require carrying equipment and materials of up to 50 pounds on strenuous hikes. The Strike Team Crew Lead must be ready and willing to work in a variety of conditions, as well as travel through the CISMA's entire service area. A truck, trailer, and UTV will be provided for navigating to/through sites. Due to COVID-19, applicants should be proactive in practicing social distancing and mask wearing, comply with VBCD requirements, and should be aware that they will share space with the Strike Team Coordinator and/or Strike Team Crew Lead and other Crew Member(s). Office work can be completed remotely, and remote office work may be required pending COVID-19 USDA Center restrictions.

TO APPLY

Using the subject line "[last name] 2022 Crew Lead Application", email a 1-2 page resume with references and a cover letter stating your suitability for the position based on required knowledge and skills to the Strike Team Coordinator, Abbie Bristol at: invasivesmgmt@vanburencd.org

No calls please.

Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. Applications must be received no later than 5 PM EST, Monday, 14 March 2022

Equal Opportunity Employer: The Van Buren Conservation District is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. VBCD programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. The VBCD collectively acknowledges that its offices and gatherings occupy the ancestral, traditional and contemporary Lands of the Council of the Three Fires – the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi, ceded in multiple historic treaties. Through this acknowledgement, we recognize, support and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, and for historic Indigenous communities and individuals. The VBCD is committed to our obligations to those communities. The process of knowing and acknowledging the land we stand on is a way of honoring and expressing gratitude for the ancestral people who stewarded this land before us and their descendants who steward this land today.