

Title: Biologist (Student)

Position: Student Service Contractor

Organization: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

Location: La Crosse, WI (Primary duty station is University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN)

Hourly Rate of Pay: \$16.26 (GS Scale Equivalent GS-04)

Duration: <1 year (approx. 248 work days)

Application Deadline: April 2, 2021

Job Summary: Primary service provided by the student is to assist with field and laboratory activities for a study to evaluate a copper-based molluscicide for zebra mussel control in lakes.

Project Description: The student will provide support to a project to assess and refine the use of copper-based molluscicide for suppression of zebra mussels in a Minnesota lake. The development of data integration methods and tools. The project is a collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and will inform the use of low dose copper for management of dreissenid mussels in inland lakes. The project will be conducted in a lake in northern Minnesota and will include pre- and post-treatment sampling of biotic and abiotic parameters in the lake and a lake-side toxicity trial in a mobile laboratory.

The goal of the project is to determine minimal effective concentration of copper for veliger suppression and the expected effects on nontarget resident biota in the lake.

Services to be Provided: The student or recent graduate hire shall work closely with the University of Minnesota doctoral student and the USGS biologists that will be on-site. The student shall be expected to assist with collection and processing of field samples, set-up of the mobile laboratory, collection of data during toxicity trials, and record keeping of experimental procedures. Work shall be conducted outdoors, in a mobile laboratory, and in an indoor laboratory. Work shall be conducted at the study site from June through August and shall include field sampling and work inside a mobile laboratory trailer. The student shall be expected to perform or assist with the following: collection of plankton tows and benthic grab samples, collection of water samples, collection of native mussels, measurement and recording of water quality/chemistry parameters, accurate record keeping of experimental procedures, mortality assessments of test organisms, preservation of water and tissue samples for analysis, daily monitoring of test system components, data entry and proofing. Student may have to travel overnight 1-2 days.

Qualifications: Completion of two years of college coursework in biology, chemistry, and/or field biology. General knowledge of ecology and biological data is preferred. Experience with Microsoft Excel, Word and basic computer operations. Strong swimming ability. A combination of laboratory skills (use of microscopes, measurement of water chemistry parameters, use of pH and dissolved oxygen meters) and field skills is preferred. Knowledge of good laboratory practices. Knowledge of motorboat operations and safety. Previous training in CPR and/or first aid is desirable.

Required Documents: Cover Letter: brief letter describing interest in position. Resume: include contact information, as well as, relevant knowledge, skills, abilities, experience, and contact information for three references. Transcript: unofficial transcript; or letter from university registrar or academic advisor.

Eligibility: Students are eligible if they have 2 or more years of college course work graduated but received a college/university degree less than 12 months ago and are at least 18 years of age. Non-US citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. USGS employees, their spouses, and their children are not eligible to participate in this program.

Notice: Students are paid for each hour worked. Students will be working as independent contractors and do not receive a premium rate for work beyond 8 hours/day or 40 hours/week. Additionally, students are paid only for hours worked (with no holiday or personal leave benefits). Students do earn 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Pay Rates for students include cost of self-employment taxes for social security and Medicare. This announcement is to fill one vacancy.

How To Apply, send e-mail or mail to:

Diane Waller

U.S. Geological Survey

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