Summer Field Research Positions in Plant Ecology

Position Overview

- **Position location**: Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve in East Bethel, MN (rental housing available on-site)
- **Supervisor and lab group**: Sydney Hedberg, Forest Isbell; Isbell Biodiversity Lab
- **Start and end dates**: Early June through late August, with a possible extension into October
- **Rate of pay**: $7,200 = $15 per hour x 40 hours per week x 12 weeks
- **Research topic**: Terrestrial plant community and ecosystem ecology; plant and soil sampling in grassland communities
- **Required qualifications**: HS diploma; ability to work outdoors in hot conditions; interest in ecology or nature
- **Desired qualifications**: Experience working outdoors; considering graduate studies or a career in ecology or in a related discipline
- **Application materials**: cover letter; resume; and contact information for three references
- **To apply**: 1) Visit https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs; 2) Click on ‘External Candidate’, ‘Student’, or ‘U of M Employee’ 3) Search Job ID #345593
- **Application due date**: Review of applications will begin on March 1st and continue until positions are filled
- **Direct questions to**: Sydney Hedberg (hedbe068@umn.edu) and Forest Isbell (isbell@umn.edu)

The Isbell Biodiversity Lab at the University of Minnesota is hiring at least six undergraduate and post-baccalaureate researchers to assist with ecological field work at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. The researchers will work as a team to conduct research in multiple ongoing projects considering terrestrial plant community and ecosystem ecology in grasslands and forests. The Isbell lab has several ecological research projects that consider effects of global changes (habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss, drought, nutrient enrichment, and warming) on grassland plant communities and the effects of bison reintroduction on oak trees and savannas. We have recently established a new landscape-scale grassland experiment that manipulates dispersal by habitat fragmentation and seed addition treatments (top left picture). We are dedicated to creating a supportive work environment that fosters professional development, engagement in research, and carrying out rigorous, cutting-edge scientific work.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve has many large-scale experimental platforms and is one of the most active ecological research sites worldwide. This allows our researchers to build on an enormous amount of available data and establish robust networks of research collaborators. Cedar Creek is a member of NSF’s Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network and hosts the new ASCEND (Advancing Spectral Biology in Changing ENvironments to understand Diversity) NSF Biology Integration Institute. The Isbell lab contributes to both projects, making us part of larger collaborative teams.

The University of Minnesota is a global leader in ecological research. UMN is ranked second in the world in the area of ecology on the Shanghai Rankings. Furthermore, the University of Minnesota has more highly cited researchers in the Ecology/Environment category of the Web of Science than any other institution worldwide.

**Position Responsibilities:**
- Setting up and maintaining field experiments
- Learning and utilizing plant identification
- Collecting ecological samples and data, including aboveground biomass, root biomass, soil moisture, light measurements, and soil carbon and nitrogen
- Maintaining a network of wildlife trail cameras
- Assist with other research projects as needed
- Most of the work will be outdoors.

**Position Opportunities:**
- Opportunity to develop, carry out, and present an independent research project
- Interact with and receive mentoring from postdocs, graduate students, and professors.
- Learn about environmental career opportunities, graduate school, research projects, scientific writing, and data analyses through workshops, panels and seminars.

We value **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice**. We seek to recruit and engage a diverse team of undergraduate researchers to increase the representational diversity of our research teams and create a welcoming and inclusive climate. People from groups that have been marginalized throughout history and those who contribute to DEIJ efforts and embrace these values are particularly encouraged to apply. Our commitment is to be an inclusive place for research and community for people of all identities.