



Research Specialist II (Fire Ecologist)

Search Number: 07BI005A



Missouri State University Department of Biology seeks a Research Specialist II (Fire Ecologist) to research and monitor the effects of prescribed fire in National Park Service units in the central Great Plains. This is a cooperative research effort with the National Park Service's Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network involving close interaction with NPS scientist. The Fire Ecologist will analyze existing data and implement new monitoring so that managers have science-based information to assess the efficacy of their prescribed fire programs. This is a full-time position with current funding for three years. Annual salary is \$42,955. Springfield is the third largest city of the state, and offers numerous health, university and cultural amenities, and an inexpensive cost of living. Extensive travel and work in hot, humid weather is expected. For more information about Missouri State University and the Heartland Network see: <http://biology.missouristate.edu/> and <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln/index.htm>

The Fire Ecologist will work closely with National Park Service scientist towards:

- Documenting and archiving prescribed fire histories for use in analysis
- Researching the historic role of fire in the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, and the effect of fire on prairie vegetation community composition and structure
- Working with park managers to develop specific and quantifiable prescribed fire objectives
- Analyzing monitoring data to specifically examine the effects of prescribed fire
- Designing and implementing a pilot project for measuring fire fuels in grasslands
- Researching the interaction of fire frequency and the response of woody shrubs and thickets in prairies, and developing recommendations for their management

Qualifications:

MS or PhD in a natural resource related field. Knowledge and experience in fire ecology, particularly in grassland ecosystems. Familiarity of geographic information systems, specifically ArcGIS.

How to apply:

Application instructions are available at: <https://www.ws.missouristate.edu/employment>. In a cover letter, applicants must describe their knowledge of ecological principles of fire-maintained systems in general and the Great Plains ecosystem in particular; specific skills in analysis of complex data sets; and communication (written and oral) and teamwork abilities. Submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae (or resume), names and contact information for 3-5 professional references, and a Missouri State application for employment to: Office of Human Resources, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65897. Applications are being accepted now through March 23, 2007. Missouri State University is a Equal Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer.