



Institute for Applied Ecology

Dedicated to native ecosystem conservation, research, and education

100 La Salle Circle, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Botany Technician (Seed Crew Lead)

The Southwest Program at the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE SW) (www.appliedeco.org) will be hiring a botany technician during summer-fall 2018 to oversee native seed collection fieldwork in southern New Mexico as part of the Southwest Seed Partnership (<https://southwestseedpartnership.org/>). This is an exciting opportunity to apply leadership skills to help develop a seed collection program in a new area, while coordinating with a network of seed collectors to improve the supply of native seed for restoration projects in New Mexico and Arizona.

The technician/crew lead will work closely with IAE staff and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) botanists and also coordinate with the SW Region Forest Service staff to collect seed from native plants for production and restoration efforts in the Southwest. This position will be based out of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Most of the work will occur in the Lincoln and Gila National Forests and BLM sites in the area. This position will be for 10 or 11 weeks with the possibility of extension depending on funding, weather, and plant phenology. The work week will be four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday. Mondays will be spent in the office and the rest of the week will be spent in the field, with frequent overnight camping required. The crew will meet at BLM Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) and travel to field sites together in an IAE SW vehicle.

Specific Responsibilities of Botany Technician:

- Supervise and work alongside 2 field technicians
- Collaborate closely with Southwest Seed Partnership coordinator and team in Santa Fe to meet collection targets
- Oversee the following fieldwork: plan and schedule fieldwork, monitor phenology of target species, collect botanical voucher specimens, assess seed quality and collect native seeds, record site data, prepare documentation, and help to ship seed
- Manage data and ensure quality control
- Prioritize safety; adhere to check-in/check-out procedures and communications via cell phone or SPOT device to ensure crew safety
- Plan overnight camping for field work when necessary

Minimum Qualifications:

- Between the ages of 18-25 years at the time of hire (grant-funding requirement)
- Three years of coursework in biology, botany, or a related field
- Interest in botany, conservation biology, and/or restoration ecology

- Outgoing, energetic, and flexible
- Excellent communication skills and experience working on a team
- Leadership experience or enthusiasm for acquiring leadership experience
- Highly organized and able to manage complex objectives and take initiative

Preferred Skills:

- Bachelor's degree in biology, botany, or a related field
- Plant identification skills and experience using technical keys (familiarity with Southwest flora is a plus)
- Pre-existing knowledge of the BLM Seeds of Success (SOS) protocol or prior seed collection experience
- Plant voucher collection experience
- Experience using GPS
- Ability to drive a 4WD truck on rugged, off-highway gravel or dirt roads
- Data management experience; experience with Excel
- Comfortable in a backcountry setting: ability to work long hours in adverse weather conditions while maintaining attention to the task and crew safety (First aid training a plus)
- Ability to work in bent-over, kneeling, or standing positions for significant periods of time
- Ability to lift at least 40 lbs. and hike up to 6 miles per day

Compensation and Start Date:

\$16.00/hr. plus per diem expenses (overnight food/ lodging as needed). The botany technician position also provides a \$250.00/month housing stipend for up to 3 months, as well as a \$150 training stipend that can be applied to professional development, including conference registration or skill building workshops. Paid leave available for holidays; and unpaid leave permitted for cultural events. This is a full-time temporary position with no additional benefits.

Ideal start date is July 16, 2018 (i.e., employment term July 16th - Sept 28st). If school schedules do not permit, alternative start date is June 11, 2018 (i.e., employment term June 11-August 24th, flexible).

How to Apply:

To apply for this position, please submit (in a single PDF):

- Letter of interest (please indicate your earliest start date and latest end date)
- Resume
- Names and contact information for three references
- College transcripts (unofficial transcripts are fine)
- Email applications to: maggie@appliedeco.org by **4/9/18**; use subject line "**Botany Technician**"; applications will be considered on a rolling basis.
- Please direct any questions about the position to maggie@appliedeco.org